

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received APR 25 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic KEAS Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 101 South Queen Street not for publication

city, town Mount Sterling vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Montgomery code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Trustees, KEAS Tabernacle C.M.E. Church

street & number 101 South Queen Street

city, town Mount Sterling vicinity of state Kentucky 40353

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Mount Sterling state Kentucky 40353

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Supplement - 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

KEAS Tabernacle C.M.E. Church is located at a prominent intersection near the center of the city of Mount Sterling. Mount Sterling is located in the Outer Bluegrass region approximately 35 miles east of Lexington. Like most communities in the Outer Bluegrass, Mount Sterling and Montgomery County had a black population in the 19th century of 15 - 25 percent of the total population. After the Civil War, many former slaves moved from the farms of the area into the county seats, particularly in communities like Mount Sterling with jobs connected with the building and operation of the railroads.

KEAS Tabernacle Church is Romanesque Revival in form. A late vernacular example of the style, it exhibits the characteristic semi-circular arched windows on the two main facades and square towers at either corner of the main facade. The two double door entries are crowned with semi-circular stone arches as is the tri-part stained-glass window which is the central feature of the main facade. The gable above as well as the main tower to the left utilize small Gothic arches which sets them off and subordinates them to the larger openings on the first level.

The interior is a nave plan which further utilizes the semi-circular arch to focus on the altar area. The original stained-glass windows, the pews, and the woodwork have been retained.

The rear of the main block contains a two-story education/office section that is set off from the sanctuary by its fenestration although the main lines of the structure are retained. On the south side a more recent educational building has been added.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	
					Black History

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**Specific dates**    1878 - 1893                      **Builder/Architect**    Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

KEAS Tabernacle C.M.E. Church is significant in the history of the formation and growth of an important denomination and as an architectural reflection of that demonination and its minority members efforts to achieve social recognition. Although not designed by an architect, KEAS Tabernacle Church is also an excellent vernacular interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style which was popular throughout the region in the late 19th century.

The KEAS Tabernacle C.M.E. Church was formed in 1878 as part of the post Civil War effort to organize the former slave members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South into a new denomination with close ties to its old mentor denomination. The Mount Sterling church was formed by Bishop Miles of Louisville and took the name of its first minister, Samuel Keas.

Initially, the church met in a small frame building on the site of the present building. During the 1880s the congregation embarked on an effort to build a larger, permanent sanctuary. The plan called for the construction of a new building around the smaller frame building which was removed when the new structure was completed. The membership contributed the labor and funds for the project which was halted a number of times until additional funds could be raised. The church was completed in 1893 and has served as an important religious and cultural institution in Mount Sterling ever since.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre approximately

Quadrangle name Mt. Sterling

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	2	4	2	1	6	0	4	2	1	5	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

A rectangular lot approximately 60' X 120' including the church building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date February, 1983

street & number 9th Fl., Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Cronan Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 14, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Alous Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/26/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior  
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Keas Tabernacle C.M.E. Church

Continuation sheet Montgomery County, Kentucky Item number 9 Page 1

Botts, Emma; Clark Rash, Sr.; and Florence Higgins, Souvenir Program, 100th Anniversary, 1878-1978, Keas Tabernacle, C.M.E. Church.

Encyclopedia of World Methodism, Volumes I & II, Multiple References.

Freeman, The Reverend Ozell, Personal Communication.

Larkin, W. C., "Panoramic View of the C.M.E. Church and its Heritage," Remarks delivered at Youth Meeting of the Kentucky Annual Conference, C.M.E. Church, November, 1974.

Montgomery County Historical Society, Montgomery County, Kentucky, Bicentennial, 1774-1974.

Trueblood, Roy W., "Union Negotiations Between Black Methodists in America."