

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

MAR 29 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Bracken Baptist Church

and/or common Old Minerva Church

2. Location

street & number County ^{CR}Road 1235 ___ not for publication

city, town Minerva ___ vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Mason code

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" 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 | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage |

4. Owner of Property

name Bracken Association of Baptists

street & number Route #5, Box 375, Hinton Drive

city, town Maysville ___ vicinity of state Kentucky 41056

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mason County Courthouse

street & number West Third Street

city, town Maysville state Kentucky 41056

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title KY Historic Resources Inventory (MS-14)
has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date July 1970 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky 40601

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bracken Baptist Church is located in the small rural community of Minerva, five miles from the Ohio River and nine miles from Maysville, the county seat of Mason County. The church occupies a prominent site in an open field on the west side of Kentucky Route 1235. The historic core of Minerva is less than 500 feet to the south and contains many important early nineteenth century historic resources.

The church, a 50' X 36' masonry structure of prostyle Greek Revival design, was built circa 1840-1842.¹ The portico consists of four, 24" Tuscan columns constructed of brick with a concrete and plaster facing. At the top of the columns are abacus and echinus capitals, both of which are milled from wooden blocks. Surmounting the columns is a plain weather-boarded pediment. The pediment sill plate is pinned to the rafter plate, clearly indicating it is an original feature.

To the rear of the portico is a symmetrical two-bay front facade that is distinguished by double entrances and original paneled doors. Both entrances feature paneled soffits and mitered joinery. The cast-iron butt hinges were manufactured by the Greenwood Foundry in Cincinnati. Directly above the entrances are two window bays with the original paneled shutters.

The exterior walls are constructed of hand-made brick laid in common bond. Tooled limestone blocks are employed on the front portion of the rubble foundation. All of the exterior walls have symmetrical fenestration, the rear or west wall being almost a mirror image of the front facade. The side elevations exhibit four evenly spaced window bays, but unfortunately many of the original twelve-over-twelve lights have been removed. At present the bays are covered with protective metal sheeting.

The interior space can simply be described as a large single cell absent of columns or load bearing walls. A balcony situated at the rear of the congregation is reached by a pair of steep corner staircases (see floor plan). In order to provide a clear space four king posts were constructed as center members of the triangular trusses. At the ridge, the king posts are mortised, tenoned, and pinned to the principal rafters. It appears that all of the walls and ceiling were plastered; however, only a few sections of the plaster work remain. Most of the woodwork, including the chairrail, stairs, and flooring, are intact, and have been yellow grained. Although the original choir and congregational pews have been removed, the elevated pulpit and pew benches remain. Ghosts from the pews provide sufficient evidence for an accurate reconstruction.

After its discontinuance as a community center in 1923, the church was used for the next forty years as a tobacco barn. Consequently, considerable deterioration has occurred. Plaster has fallen from the Tuscan columns while lintel collapse is apparent above the window bays. Most of the sash is irretrievable, and little of the interior plaster remains. In an effort to prevent further weathering, tar paper has been applied over the pediment and plywood underneath the soffit.

¹Church records and a preliminary fabric analysis suggest this date of construction. It is consistent with the period of the Greek Revival style in Mason County.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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BRACKEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Continuation sheet Mason County, Kentucky

Item number

7

Page

2

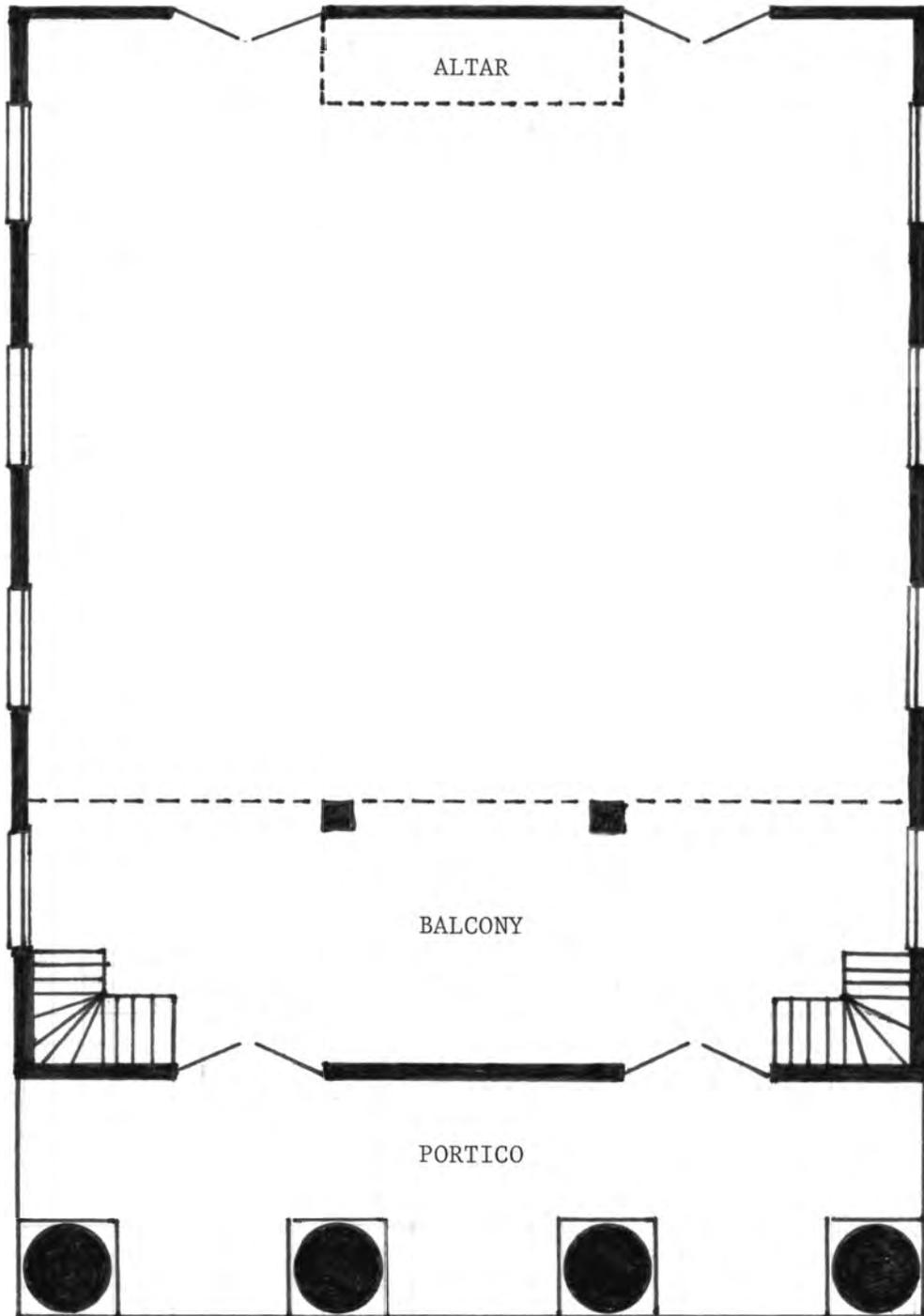


FIG. 1. FLOOR PLAN OF BRACKEN BAPTIST CHURCH

(NOT TO SCALE)

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <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/ humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | |

Specific dates circa 1840-1842 **Builder/Architect** —

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bracken Baptist Church, built circa 1840-1842, is significant as a rare example of prostyle Greek Revival church architecture in Kentucky and for its historical association with Baptist worship in Mason and Bracken Counties. Established in 1793 by the Reverend Lewis Craig (1737-1825), the Bracken County Church is the oldest constituted Baptist church in northeastern Kentucky and one of six churches included in the Bracken Association. Craig was among the most important religious figures of the pioneer period, having organized Kentucky's first church on South Elkhorn Creek in 1783. As pastor of the Bracken Church, Craig played an instrumental role in establishing the Bracken Association, the fifth Baptist Association constituted in Kentucky. The present Greek Revival church is one of Kentucky's most significant expression of the style; very few churches in the state are known to have built in the prostyle design.

In 1792 the Baptist preacher Lewis Craig moved from South Elkhorn Association and organized the Bracken Baptist Church at Minerva. By 1799 the influx of settlers was so great that Craig partitioned six churches from the Elkhorn Association and constituted the Bracken Association. The Bracken Church became the focal point of worship for the Association. At its height in 1805 the Bracken Association included 19 churches and 1,865 members.¹

During the period from 1805 to 1830 the Bracken Baptist Church experienced a turbulent history. Around 1805 the congregation split over the issue of slavery, with both congregations still sharing the same log church. Despite the schism, a period of steady growth followed, culminating in the Great Awakening of the late 1820s. The stability of the church was again shaken, however, by the rapid acceptance of Campbellism in 1829-1830. Under the pastorship of Reverend James Holton, over 200 of the 251 members of the Bracken Church followed the reform movement. Nevertheless, both the Campbellites and non-reformed Baptists continued to worship in the Minerva Church on alternate Sundays.

After 1850 the church experienced a period of decline; and by 1886 it had only 60 members. Subsequently, from 1900 to 1923, the church was used as a community center and baccalaureate services for Minerva High School were held there. In 1928 the church was sold for \$280.00, with the proceeds being used to fence the grave of Lewis Craig. The church was subsequently used for the next forty years as a tobacco barn.

In 1981, through the leadership of Reverend Ken Forman and his congregation, the Bracken Association re-acquired the deteriorating church. The Association plans on restoring the church and developing the property into a regional center for Baptist worship and recreation.

¹J.H. Spencer, A History of Kentucky Baptists From 1769-1885. (By the author, 1886) II:105.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Germantown

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

B

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

C

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

D

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point, northeast corner Dover-Minerva Road and Elmer Gibbs, proceed south approximately 210 feet along the west side of said road to corner of land owned by Mrs. Eugene O'Neil, then proceed west approximately 210 feet along north boundary of Neil property, then proceed north approximately 210 feet along O'Neil

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 Stephen C. Gordon, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date January, 1983

street & number 9th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 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 Cummins Opper*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 22, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

Allored Byers
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/28/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
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date entered

Bracken Baptist Church

Continuation sheet Mason County, Kentucky

Item number 9

Page 1

Goins, E.C. "History of Bracken Baptist Church." The Kentucky Baptist Heritage
Vol. 8 (July 1981).

Griffing, B.N., Comp. An Illustrated Atlas of Mason County, Ky. Philadelphia: Lake,
Griffing and Stevenson, 1876.

Lexington Herald, 26 October 1982.

Minutes of the Bracken Association of Baptists.

Spencer, John H., A History of Kentucky Baptists, From 1769 - 1885. 2 Vols. Cincinnati,
1886.

Thompson, Lewis N. Lewis Craig, the Pioneer Baptist Preacher, His Life, Labors, and
Character. Louisville: Baptist World Publishing Co., 1910.

Continuation Sheet

Item Number 10

Page 1

Geographical Data

property until reaching property owned by Elmer Gibbs, then proceed east approximately
210' to the point of origin.

Nomination includes the entire one acre tract owned by the Bracken Association of Baptists.

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY SUPPLEMENT
BOUNDARY AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Historic Property Name Bracken Baptist Church Site # MS-14

Multiple Resource/Thematic Nomination Title _____

U.T.M. Coordinates - List multiple UTMs if property is ten or more acres.

A. 16 246180 4288020 D. _____

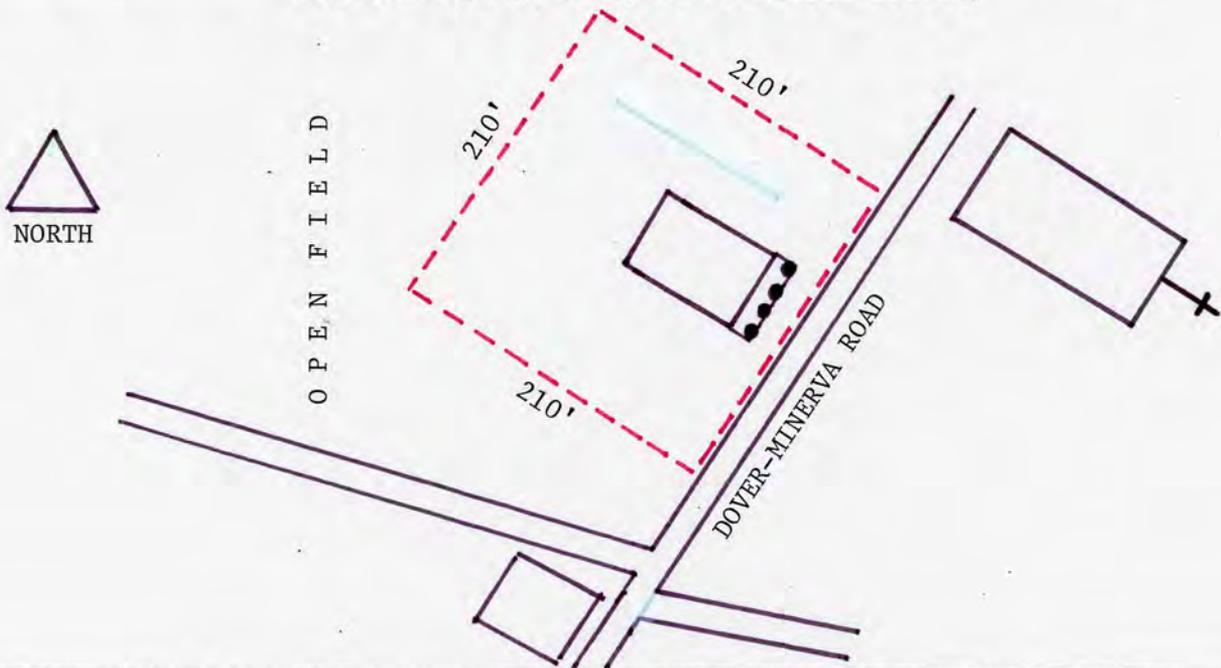
B. _____ E. _____

C. _____ F. _____

Verbal Boundary Description Acreage 1 Acre

Beginning at a point, northeast corner Dover-Minerva Road and Elmer Gibbs, proceed south approximately 210 feet along the west side of said road to corner of land owned by Mrs. Eugene O'Neil, then proceed west approximately 210 feet along north boundary of Neil property, then proceed north approximately 210 feet along O'Neil property until reaching property owned by Elmer Gibbs, then proceed east approximately 210' to the point of origin.

Sketch of Site Plan (Showing outbuildings, structures, landscape features and the site boundary as described above.)



Official Courthouse Property Reference:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Bracken Baptist Church
Mason County
KENTUCKY

Working No. MAR 29 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4/28/83 5/13/83

Action: ACCEPT 4/28/83

Entered in the RETURN _____

National Register REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| | Public Acquisition | Accessible | |

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT Reference _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3500

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

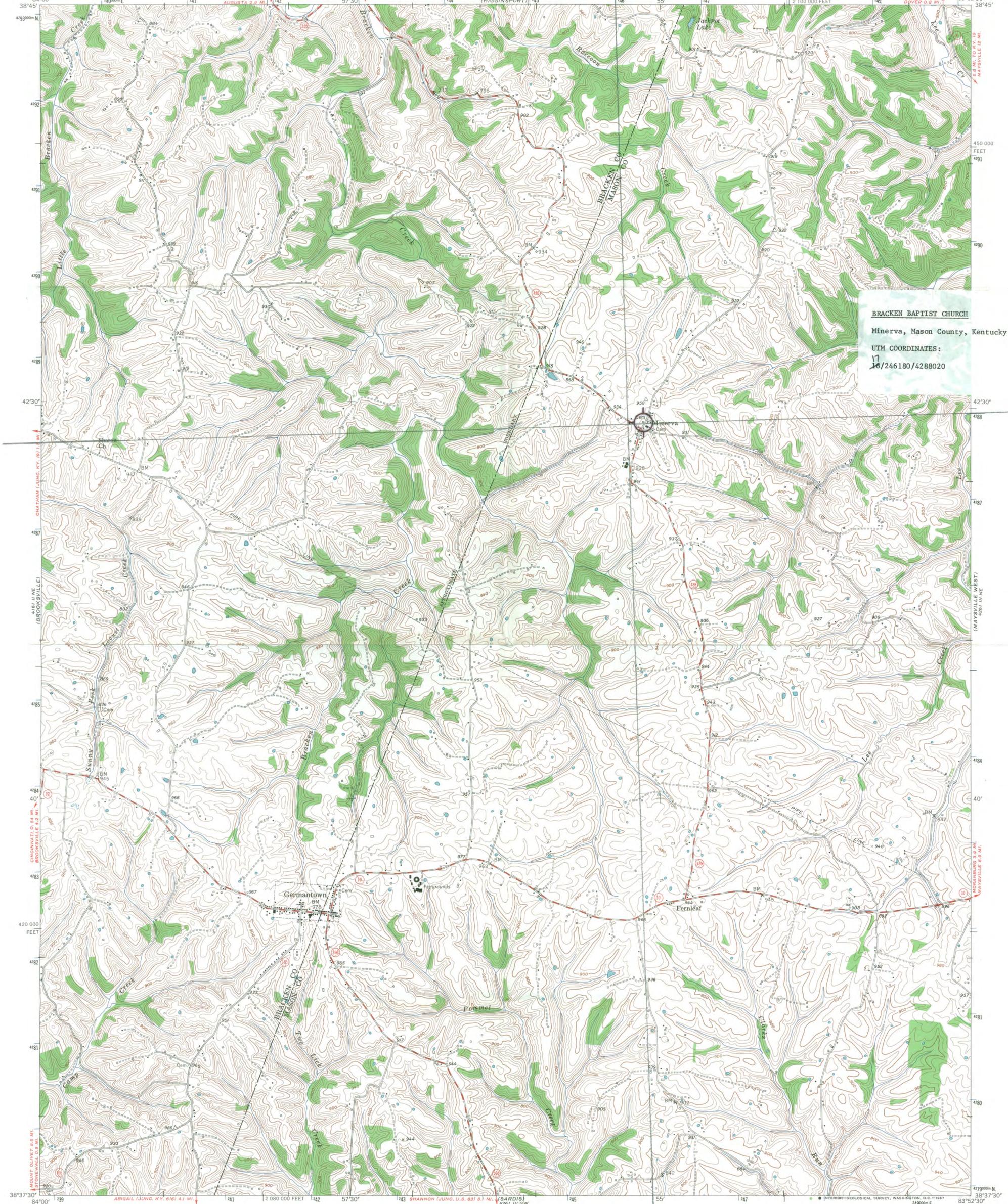






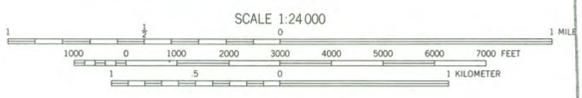






BRACKEN BAPTIST CHURCH
Minerva, Mason County, Kentucky
UTM COORDINATES:
17
16/246180/4288020

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1952
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system,
north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Heavy-duty | 4 LANE 2 LANE | Light-duty | 2 LANE 2 LANE |
| Medium-duty | 4 LANE 2 LANE | Unimproved dirt | ----- |
| U.S. Route | □ | State Route | ○ |



GERMANTOWN, KY.
NW/4 MAYSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3837.5-W8352.5/7.5

1952

AMS 4261 III NW-SERIES V853

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



HERITAGE

March 21, 1983



Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places were approved at the state level by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on March 1, 1983. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend they be entered in the National Register.

Name & Location of Site

Amos Shinkle Summer Residence, U.S. Route 25,
Dixie Highway, So.Ft. Mitchell, Kenton County

✓ Bracken Baptist Church, County Road 1235,
Minerva, Mason County, Kentucky

Your early consideration of these nominations will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary Cronan Oppel, Director
Kentucky Heritage Council and
State Historic Preservation Officer

MCO:bsc

Enclosures (see attached lists)

BRACKEN BAPTIST CHURCH
MASON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| <u>1</u> | National Register Form |
| <u>3</u> | Continuation Sheets |
| <u>5</u> | Photographs |
| <u>1</u> | Maps |
| <u> </u> | Letters of Support |
| <u> </u> | Correspondence |
| 1 | Inventory supplement |