

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

1. Name of Property

historic name Bradfordsville Christian Church

other name/site number Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center/MN-926

2. Location

street & town: 101 E. Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Bradfordsville N/A Vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Marion code 155 zip code 40009

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark Dennen SHPO Date _____

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Bradfordsville Christian Church
Name of Property

Marion County, KY
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter only categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Function
(Enter only categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter only categories from instructions)

Mid-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter only categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls SYNTHETICS
roof METAL
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Bradfordsville Christian Church
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8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
 B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
 D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 B removed from its original location.
 C a birthplace or grave.
 D a cemetery.
 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 F a commemorative property.
 G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1896-1959

Significant Dates

1896

Significant Person (only if Criterion B selected)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder (use last names first for individuals)

Burke, Dewitt

Burke, Matt

Burke, Will

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other Name of repository:

300 Washington Street Frankfort, KY 40601

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Bradfordsville Christian Church
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(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/6 6/6/3/3/0/0 4/1/5/1/0/0/0
Zone Easting Northing2 1/6 ////// //////
Zone Easting Northing3 1/6 ////// //////
Zone Easting Northing4 1/6 ////// //////
Zone Easting NorthingUSGS Topographic Quad name: Bradfordsville**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

See attached.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See attached.

 See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Donna G. Logsdon, Architectorganization Donna G. Logsdon, Architect date 6-27-09street & number P.O. Box 10 telephone 270-528-4697city or town Hardyville state KY zip code 42746email address donnalogsdon@scrtc.com**Additional Documentation****The National Register requires each nomination consist of the following beyond this 4-page cover form:**

- Continuation Sheets for narrative
- A **USGS topographic quad map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts or properties having large acreage or numerous resources
- A **Photo identification map** for districts; one map can serve both as sketch and photo ID map.
- black and white photographs** of the property. See policy statement for acceptable use of digital photographs

The Kentucky Heritage Council requires the following for all nominations:

- An **additional set of black and white photographs** that remains at the KHC
- Floor plans** of properties whose significance is based on their plans
- Color slides** or **PowerPoint images** and presentation of the property to the Kentucky State Review Board

Property Ownername/title David Edelen/Mayorstreet & number 202 W. Main Street, P.O. Box 11 telephone 270-337-3796city or town Bradfordsville state KY zip code 40009

email address (if available) _____

7. Narrative Description

Site Characteristics

The Bradfordsville Christian Church (MN-926), now known as the Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center, is located in Marion County, Kentucky on the northeast corner of Main Street, also known as State Route 49/337, and Sixth Street, also known as State Route 49, just south of North Rolling Fork River. Access to the property is off State Route 49/337. A two-story church, a small wood shed, a stone sign, and memorial stone marker are situated on the property that consists of .287 acres and is surrounded by tall shade trees.

Built in 1896, a baptistery was installed in 1913 and a basement was dug out from underneath the building to construct Sunday School classrooms, a kitchen, dining hall and storage rooms in 1954. At this time, restrooms were installed on the first floor adjacent to the sanctuary. When the church closed in 1999 due to a dwindling membership, the buildings and property were given to the City of Bradfordsville. The city decided to rename the building and utilize it as the Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center. Restrictions on the use of the building were outlined in the Regular Board meeting minutes. Currently, the building serves as a community enrichment center where plays, readings, funerals, weddings and musical performances are held. The basement serves as a storm shelter in emergencies and features exhibits from the Bradfordsville Historical Committee. This building is an excellent example of a historic religious facility that has been well maintained and has been adapted to support community activities in rural Marion County.

List of Resources

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
1.	Bradfordsville Christian Church	1896	Contributing
2.	Wood shed	1940s	Contributing

Building Characteristics

1. The Bradfordsville Christian Church, located on a grassy 105' by 115' lot in downtown Bradfordsville, is situated on the northeast corner of Main Street, also known as State Route 49/337, and Sixth Street, also known as State Route 49, in Marion County. Dewitt Burke, Matt Burke and Will Burke were the architects and builders of the church in 1896. Parking is available across the street in a small lot where the post office once stood until it was torn down in 1995. Adjacent to the parking lot is a parsonage that was built c. 1950 for the church. It was given to the Pleasant Valley Christian Church when the church closed in 1999.

The Bradfordsville Christian Church is situated on the top of a hill on the eastern edge of the downtown commercial district that is dotted with single and multi-family residential buildings. Adjacent to the church on the north is a telephone exchange building that was originally constructed as a single family residence. A residential neighborhood surrounds the church to the east, north and south.

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This two-story, wood-frame, Gothic Revival style church is three bays wide, four piles deep and is supported by a continuous stone and mortar foundation. The main entry to the church is diagonally situated on this prominent corner lot and is accessed by stone steps that accessed the original log cabin that once occupied the site as the first church. Fish scale wood shingles accent the bell tower that is highlighted by a spire. The double clapper bell from Cincinnati, Ohio that was cast in 1862, remains in good condition and can be heard all over Bradfordsville.

On the interior, the sanctuary is in a cruciform plan. A series of wooden pews in two rows are situated on the floor that slopes towards the east where the pulpit once stood. Another small group of wooden pews that face west are located on the east side of the two rows of pews. Wood wainscoting enhances the interior walls while wood knee braces visually support the sloping tongue and groove wood ceiling. A cross gable metal roof now replaces the original slate shingle roof. Large rose windows appear in the east and west gabled ends. Tall, narrow, pointed gothic arched stained glass windows that pierce the façade are accented with exterior louvered wood shutters. The Bradfordsville Christian Church, dating from 1896, is contributing.

2. A one-story wood-frame shed is located on the north east corner of the church. Supported by stone piers and covered with weatherboard siding, it has a metal roof and two door openings. It is used as storage shed for building maintenance. Built in the 1940s (Edelen interview), it is contributing.

Alterations

Alterations include a baptistery that was added in 1913 on the first floor near the pulpit. In 1954, a basement was dugout underneath the church for Sunday School rooms, kitchen, storage and dining hall. At that same time, two restrooms were added on the first floor with interior stairs to access the basement. A rear addition was also constructed behind the pulpit to the north. These additions express a need for expansion that was based on a growing congregation and community use.

A stone framed sign stating the name of the facility was placed in front of the church on the corner. In 1984, a poured concrete handicap accessible ramp with pipe railing was added on the east side of the building on the exterior. While the ramp has slightly modified the exterior appearance it was necessary to bring the public facility up to current building code requirements. Vinyl siding covered the building exterior in 1993. This new siding is the same size, profile and finish, which reduces the change in appearance. It has been installed without obscuring the original character-defining features, and can be removed without irreversible damage. A stone marker inscribed with the name "Bradfordsville Christian Church circa 1830 1998" is located flat on the ground adjacent to the main entry. In 2007, three large trees and some shrubs and hedges were blown away in a storm.

In retrospect, the addition of a baptistery, basement, restrooms, rear addition and handicap ramp show the church's progression and growth over the years as well as providing for the community's needs. Overall, these alterations have made a minor impact on the structure while the majority of its character defining features remain intact.

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Evaluation of Integrity

The Bradfordsville Christian Church is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A for its significance within the area of Social History because it played a significant role in promoting the welfare of Bradfordsville in rural Marion County, Kentucky.

The Bradfordsville Christian Church possesses the integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling and association from the date of its construction, 1896, and has made a significant impact on the lives of many individuals in rural Marion County.

The Bradfordsville Christian Church retains a high level of integrity of **location** because it has remained on its original rectangular lot on the corner of S.R. 49/337 and S.R. 49 situated on the eastern edge of the Bradfordsville commercial district in Marion County, Kentucky since it was constructed in 1896.

Its **setting**, on .287 acres of land, is enhanced by a several tall shade trees on the west side of the property. During a storm in October 2007, three trees and most of the shrubs were destroyed. A wood shed covered in weatherboard siding built in the 1940s still remains intact. A small asphalt parking lot, located across Main Street, or S.R. 49, on the south, provides off street parking. Limited on-street parking can be found to the west on Sixth Street. A residential neighborhood surrounds the property on the east, north and south.

The level of **design** integrity is high since the majority of its character defining features remain integral with the structure such as the original building footprint, the cruciform plan, the angled main entry doors that address the corner, the pointed arched windows with louvered shutters, stained glass rose windows, the two-story bell tower spire and a cross gabled metal roof.

The integrity of exterior **materials** is low-to-moderate. The building's exterior does retain the fish scale shingles in the bell tower, the stone steps at the main entry, louvered wood shutters, and the stone and mortar foundation. The primary interior materials, such as the tongue and groove wood ceiling with knee braces, wood wainscoting, wood pews, raised altar and the decorative metal hanging light fixtures, have been well maintained.

The integrity level of **workmanship** displayed is extremely high as seen in the detailed stained glass windows, louvered wood shutters, wood wainscoting, tongue and groove wood ceiling, wood pews, fish scale shingles, stone steps and foundation and intricate metal light fixtures.

The integrity of **feeling** is expressed in the buildings overall plan including a large open sanctuary with rows of pews facing a raised altar. Tall, narrow, Gothic arched stained glass windows that pierce the exterior walls allow sunlight to penetrate the space. Two intricate stained glass rose windows situated high up in the gabled ends of the church accent the building's interior ambiance. The bell tower holds a historic bell that is rung on special occasions. Tongue and groove wood covers the sloping ceiling that is visually supported by wood knee braces. Wood wainscoting accents the walls and decorative metal light fixtures are suspended from the ceiling. Since all of the original character defining features remain intact and visible except for the exterior wood siding, the building continues to express the feeling of what it was like to attend a religious facility that was instrumental in the lives of those who resided Bradfordsville and the surrounding area for over 100 years.

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The level of **association** is relatively high because the Bradfordsville Christian Church has served the surrounding community as a social gathering place, where marriages were celebrated and funerals were mourned. The Bradfordsville Christian Church has been the only Christian Church in Bradfordsville since it was constructed in 1896. This church has been and continues to be the center of community activities and was instrumental in the continued growth and development of Bradfordsville. It closed in 1999 because of declining membership and was given to the City of Bradfordsville. At that time it was renamed the Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center. Since that time, the building has been well maintained by committee members who oversee the building that has been important to the community and will continue to be used as a central meeting place for the town's activities.

8. Statement of Significance

The Bradfordsville Christian Church (MN-926) meets National Register Criterion A and is locally significant in the area of Social History because it played a significant role in the continued growth and development of Bradfordsville in rural Marion County, Kentucky. In order to understand the significance of the Bradfordsville Christian Church, we must decide what factors were influential in making this religious facility the social center of this community. Therefore, various aspects of Bradfordville's social history will be examined, including identifying where early settlers came from, what drew them to this area, the role of the church and its relationship to the social history of Bradfordsville.

The Growth of the Christian Church in Marion County, KY

The earliest settlers in Marion County emigrated from Virginia and Maryland and settled in small colonies along creeks. Those from Virginia were mostly Presbyterian, and those from Maryland were predominantly Catholic. Most of them came for religious or economic reasons (Marion, 2001:1). Religious development in Marion County began with the Methodists in 1776 followed by Methodist Episcopal in 1780, Catholic in 1785, Presbyterian in 1789, Christian in 1804 and Baptist in 1819. In the early years, members met in private homes then in log or wood-frame structures. As time progressed, large stone or brick edifices, that **better served** the needs of the growing congregation were constructed.

The Christian Church had its beginnings at Caney Ridge, Kentucky in 1804. The First Christian Church in Lebanon was organized in 1867. In 1869, the church began construction and was dedicated in 1870. The front of the church was remodeled in 1900 and the auditorium was enlarged in 1919. Six Sunday school rooms and a full basement were added in 1938. An Educational Building which expanded the fellowship hall and added classrooms was completed in 1975 (Marion, 2001: 90).

The Bradfordsville Christian Church was established in 1840 and the present building was dedicated in 1896. A basement was dug in 1955 for Sunday school classrooms and dedicated in 1957. It closed in 1999 due to a decline in membership. The buildings and property were given to the City of Bradfordsville and it is now known as the Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center (Marion, 2001: 99).

Pleasant Valley Christian Church, just six miles south of Bradfordsville, was built in 1864 of logs on the site of the present church. In 1865, there were 128 black and white members. In 1869, 24 people withdrew from the original group and formed a Christian Church at Pleasant Valley. In order to reunite the community, they built a new church that was dedicated in 1900. Four classrooms were added in 1948. The building has been flooded several times because it is located on Whippoorwill Creek that empties into the South Fork River (Marion, 2001: 89).

Social History of Bradfordsville Christian Church

Bradfordsville lies in southeastern Marion County between the North **Branch of the** Rolling Fork and the South **Branch**. The two come together to form the Rolling Fork River (Marion, 2001: 52) at the intersection of KY 49 and Sixth Street, just six-and-one-half miles southeast of Lebanon (Rennick, 1984: 34).

In the late-1700s, the earliest settlement was a fort built that was constructed on the North Fork by settlers who came mainly from Virginia and Maryland. Descendants of these early pioneers live in present day Bradfordsville.

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In the early-1800s, Adam Bradford came to the Bradfordsville area with his two sons, Peter and James, and built a log cabin and grist mill on the riverbank for waterpower. By 1812, a prospering settlement **had emerged, known** as Bradford's Mill. A petition was **circulated, to give an official** name the community: Centerville; **that name was not adopted** (Marion, 2001: 52). The first post office, established in 1834 (Rennick, 1984: 34), was the second system in the state to offer rural free delivery.

On January 29, 1836, the Kentucky Legislature approved the incorporation of the town was **under the name** Bradfordsville. Two members of the board of trustees, Dr. Joseph Rose and Micajah Malone, laid off the town in its perfect symmetrical alignment (Marion, 2001: 52).

By 1856, a road from Lebanon, **the Marion County seat**, to Bradfordsville was built. The following year, roads connecting Perryville, Danville and Harrodsburg were constructed. These roads increased trade and travel and gave businesses a new impetus. **The roads were profit making endeavors, as they were chartered, built, and maintained by companies charging tolls, a situation that lasted until the end of the nineteenth century** (Marion, 2001: 2).

In the early-1900s, the town **appeared to be having** its most prosperous era. The town consisted of a school, several doctors, dentists, a hotel, movie theatre, an overall factory and several stores (Marion, 2001: 52). Around 1911, Don V. Drye opened the largest store known as the Lewis & Drye Department Store. Their motto was: "We sell everything from the cradle to the grave and everything in between" (Marion, 2001: 52). The basement had a glass ceiling and was called the "kooloff" **during the era** before air conditioning. It was located on the corner where Drye Memorial Park is currently located (Edelen interview).

In the early-1900s, an independent school was built on the hill in Bradfordsville. An addition for high school **students** was constructed in 1912. There were two teachers for the high school: all four grades were taught in the same room. The school became a county public school in 1924. By 1936, the town had outgrown its grade school and high school. That year a lot was purchased and work began on a new modern school building, with help from the WPA and town fundraisers. The two-story building had twelve classrooms, a gymnasium, offices, a basement cafeteria, restrooms, a teacher's lounge, showers, kitchen and storage. This school brought in students from southeastern Marion County and northern Casey County who were not able to go to **their county's** High School due to the **travel barrier posed by** large hills on the way to **the county seat**, Liberty. The elementary students came in January 1937 and twelve grades continued until the high school was closed in 1954 followed by the elementary school in 1984 (Edelen interview).

The prosperity **of this era** was **challenged** in 1928 **when fire once again struck Bradfordsville**. **This** started in the Powell Building, a two-story structure that stood on the north side of Main Street, opposite the Lewis & Drye Department Store. A major portion of the business district was destroyed in this fire (Marion, 2001: 52) including the three-story Opera House, Bradfordsville Mill and the post office. The post office moved to the corner of Sixth and Main and in 1965, a new post office was built on Sixth Street to serve **parts of** three counties – Marion, Casey, and Taylor (Edelen interview).

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Although the **Great Depression prevented** community **from rebounding into an** era of prosperity equal to that of the early-1900s, progress was certainly evident in Bradfordsville (Marion, 2001: 52) with the Mullins Grocery Store, a two-story restaurant, and another restaurant on a corner lot (Edelen interview).

In 1962, the Peoples Bank of Gravel Switch opened up the **deactivated** North Rolling Fork Bank, **renaming it** the People's Bank of Bradfordsville. The Bradfordsville Masonic Lodge, organized in 1844 (Marion, 2001: 54), burned in the 1970s along with the Rakes Brothers' Garage and the Earl Hancock Grocery. The Masons removed the second floor of their building and renovated the first floor into two spaces (Edelen interview) where senior citizens meet every Tuesday for dinner and recreation (Marion, 2001: 53). Wayne Hancock built a grocery store in the location of his father's grocery. Bill Rakes rebuilt the garage which now houses the Bradfordsville Library and Police Station. In 1972, a new bank building was constructed on Sixth Street (Edelen interview). As of 2009, there is not a bank in town, so people **travel** to Lebanon or Gravel Switch to **reach a nearby** bank. (Marion, 2001: 53).

Many additions and improvements to Bradfordsville have taken place over the years, including a post office, improved water sewage waste treatment systems, replacement of one-way iron bridges, newly paved streets, streetlights, stop signs, sidewalks and the Volunteer Fire Department. The Drye Memorial Park is located on the site of the Lewis and Drye building that was donated to the city by the Drye family (Marion, 2001: 52).

The Bradfordsville Christian Church

In 1833, a religious group known as the Bradfordsville Christian Church was formed. **In 1840**, four years after the town was incorporated, the first physician in this community, Dr. Joseph Rose, granted the land for a church under the leadership of John "Raccoon" Smith and John Steele. The first church was a log structure (unpublished manuscript).

Pastors for the Bradfordsville Christian Church were noted as early as 1840. By 1885, the church had 100 members, 40 Sunday-school pupils, six teachers and officers and the congregation raised \$ 100.00 in 1883 for local church work. At the time, the property was valued at \$ 1,000.00 which is comparable across the State of Kentucky (Year-Book, 1885: 44). In comparison with the two other Disciples of Christ churches in Marion County, Bradfordsville had 100 members in 1888 while Lebanon had 43 and Pleasant Valley had 80 (Year-Book, 1888: 23). By 1892, the Bradfordsville Christian Church had 200 members (Year-Book, 1892: 41).

The Bradfordsville Christian Church has been a prominent part of this community since the church's establishment. Many of the earliest church members were pivotal people in the community who have been instrumental in the town's progress. These church members included Billy Drye, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the City of Bradfordsville, Don V. Drye, who established the Lewis and Drye Department Store, prominent landowners and farmers, physicians, those who served on the Board of Education and as post master (unpublished manuscript).

Because the Bradfordsville Christian Church is situated on a hill on the edge of the town, it has weathered two fires that destroyed portions of the commercial district during the Civil War and in 1928. Since the church has escaped damage, it is one of the oldest remaining structures in town and has provided a place to worship for local residents and the surrounding community since the mid-1800s and in this specific building since 1896.

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When membership began to dwindle, the Bradfordsville Christian Church was closed and the building and property were given to the City of Bradfordsville on September 21, 1999 (Deed Book 210, Page 236). The City decided to use the building for a performing arts center since the pews provided seating for large groups. The original altar area **became a stage, and since the floor sloped up from the altar**, the acoustics were well-suited for performances. The church was renamed the Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center. The building has continued to be used as a central gathering place where various community activities still take place.

Restrictions for the use of the Performing Arts Center were established at the City of Bradfordsville's Regular Board Meeting on September 14, 1999. These restrictions **prohibited** Bingo and drinking alcoholic beverages. This committee determines what type of performances can take place there and looks for activities and performances that are for the betterment of the community, enlightenment, education and entertainment.

At the Board of Commissioners regular meeting December 14, 1999, discussion took place regarding placing a stone in the ground next to the church entrance that would say "Bradfordsville Christian Church circa 1830-1998." This stone is intact and remains visible today. The City of Bradfordsville's Board of Trustees agreed to place a sign was on the property to designate it as the new Performing Arts Center at their regular meeting on March 14, 2000.

The City of Bradfordsville **leases out** the Performing Arts Center on Sundays mornings and Wednesday nights each week. The income generates funds to pay for insurance and some of the center's activities. In 2007, the City appointed committee decided to have at least one program there every three months but no less than four times a year (unpublished manuscript).

Since its inception, presentations given at the Bradfordsville Christian Church have been an ongoing effort to build the spirit of the community. As a Performing Arts Center, it continues to serve the community and surrounding area with events including Christmas plays, beauty pageants, talent shows, spelling bees, readings, funerals and weddings. In 2004, the Lebanon Community Choir performed their Christmas program here (unpublished manuscript).

Analysis and Conclusion

Throughout the years, Bradfordsville has remained a strong Christian community. At one time it was home to the Methodist, Presbyterian, Christian, Latter Day Saints and Baptist churches with the Pleasant Valley Christian Church and the South Fork Presbyterian Church located just outside of town (Marion, 2001: 52).

The Liberty Meeting House was the oldest church in this area. Built in the 1790s, this Presbyterian Church was located on the Old Liberty Cemetery site, just behind the Bradfordsville Christian Church. This church was unique at the time in that both blacks and whites worshiped there together. Although the church building is no longer extant, the foundation remains intact. It is speculated that this may have been the same group who worshipped with the Baptist's in 1880 every other week (Edelen Interview).

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The oldest written record that mentions Bradfordsville's Methodist Church is from a Quarterly Conference Record dated March 7, 1840, held at "Spurling's Meeting House" (Marion: 2001, 96). Records say that Bradfordsville's first meeting-house was in a two-story log structure on the corner where the former General Telephone Building stood (Marion: 2001, 96). The present vinyl sided church on Central Avenue was built in 1866. In the early-1950s, the two-story Sunday School Annex was built, the auditorium renovated and other improvements to the church were made (Marion: 2001, 96).

Some of the wealthiest citizens in the community attended the Methodist Church; however, this did not necessarily mean the church more dominant or powerful. As of 2009, an additional fellowship hall and new restrooms were added to the church. Although this is the oldest still active church in Bradfordsville, it served the community with religious services on Sundays and was not considered the hub of the community (Edelen Interview).

The Bradfordsville Baptist Church began on the grounds where the Masons were located in 1880. The man who owned the property was Presbyterian and his wife Baptist. Every other week a Presbyterian or Baptist service was held. This continued until the 1920's when the Presbyterian's built their church just outside of town. The Baptist bought them out and remained in their same location. In the 1940s, when the large steeple was damaged, it was replaced with a flat roof with a spire on top. During that time, new Sunday school rooms were built. Brick was added to the exterior in the 1960s and the front of the church was redesigned. This edifice survived a flood in April 1970. Then, in the 1980's, a foyer and two more Sunday school rooms were added.

In recent years, the Bradfordsville Christian Church has been modified from its original use as place of worship. Since 1896, this church has played a vital role in the social history of Bradfordsville. As a house of worship, members of the community gathered here weekly. It was also a social gathering place where people met to make decisions about their community and actively participate in local events. It also serves as the community emergency storm shelter.

The church has played significant non-religious roles in the community. One example occurred in 1954 when the Bradfordsville High School was being closed by the Marion County Board of Education, city leaders, mostly from this church, met at the church to rally the community together to strike against the school for one year. The group later bought a bus and transported the children to high school in Lincoln County. (Edelen interview).

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Marion County, Kentucky

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9. Bibliography

Previous Research at the Kentucky Heritage Council

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Interviews

Mr. Barry Brady

Mr. Nolan Brady

Mrs. Mary Lou Brock

Mr. Jimmy Clements

Mr. David Edelen

Mr. Steve Leake

Mr. J.T. Reynolds

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

The Bradfordsville Christian Church/Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center is located on Property Identification Map BR-12-10 in Marion County, Kentucky. Located at 101 E. Main Street, the rectangular lot is situated on the northeast corner of KY 49 and Sixth Street in Bradfordsville. The surrounding residential and commercial area is not associated with the property. See attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries chosen for this property encompass the significant church and wood shed. The entire .287 acres of land has been associated with the property since the church was constructed in 1896.

Section number ____ Page ____

Photographic Identification Sheet

Same information for all photos:

Name: Bradfordsville Christian Church/ Bradfordsville Performing Arts Center

Location: Marion County, KY

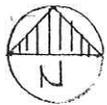
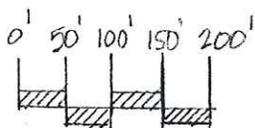
Photographer: Donna G. Logsdon

Date: January 2009

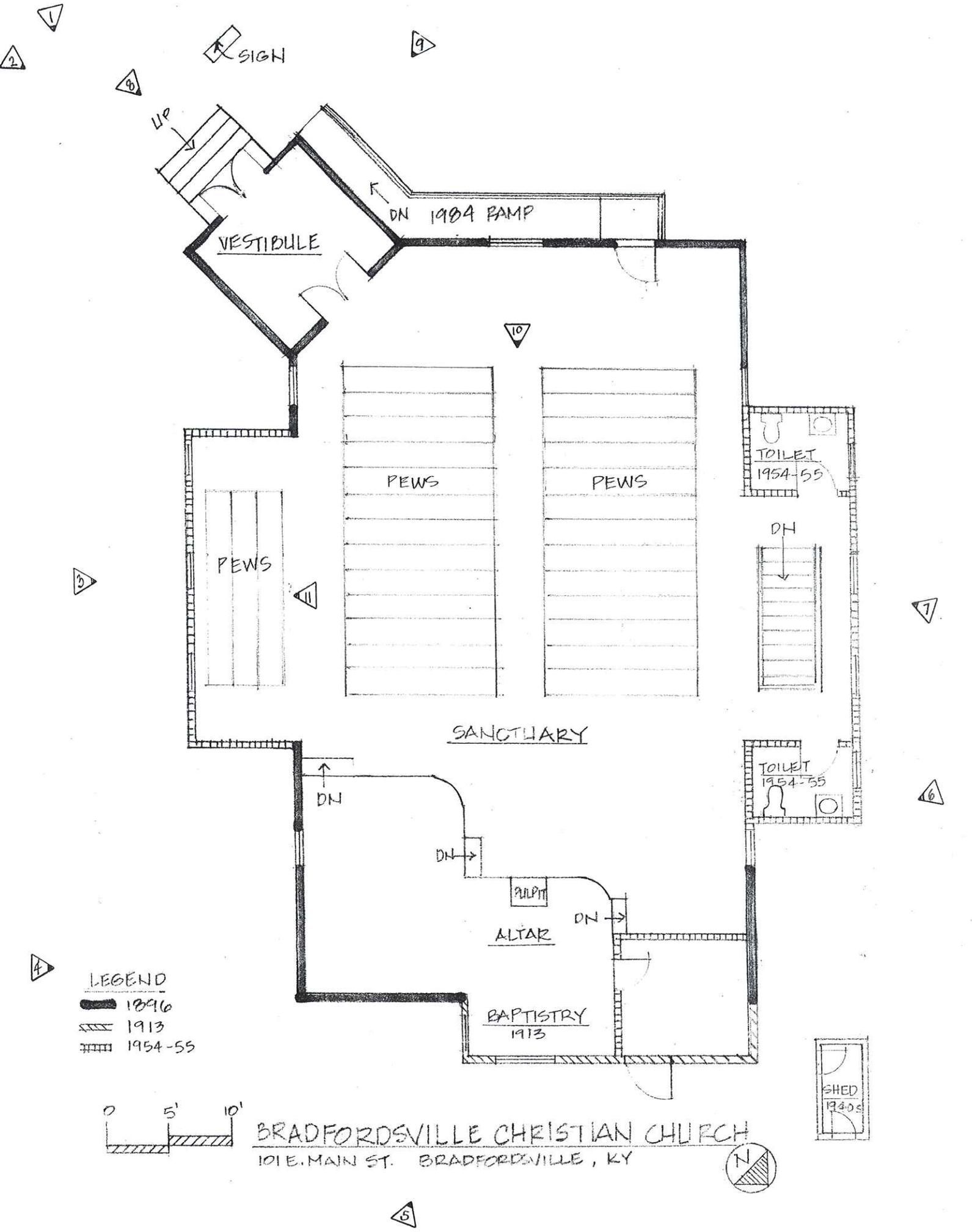
Location of digital photographs: Kentucky Heritage Council, 300 Washington Street, Frankfort, KY 40601

Photograph-specific information:

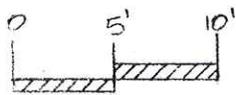
Photo #	Photo Direction and Content
Photo 1:	Facing North, South Elevation
Photo 2:	Facing North, West Elevation
Photo 3:	Facing North, South (side) Elevation
Photo 4:	Facing Northwest, South and East Elevations
Photo 5:	Facing Northwest, East (rear) Addition
Photo 6:	Facing West, Partial South Elevation
Photo 7:	Facing Southwest, Partial North Elevation
Photo 8:	Facing Northeast, Front Door
Photo 9:	Facing Southeast, Bell tower
Photo 10:	Facing North, South and East Elevations – Wood Shed
Photo 11:	Facing West, Altar
Photo 12:	Facing North, Interior Stained Glass Windows



BRADFORDSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
101 E. MAIN STREET BRADFORDSVILLE, KY



LEGEND
 — 1896
 ▨ 1913
 ▤ 1954-55



BRADFORDSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
 101 E. MAIN ST. BRADFORDSVILLE, KY



5

16/663300/4151000 Bradfordsville Christian Church
101 E. Main St. 669
Bradfordsville, KY 40009

BRADFORDSVILLE QUADRANGLE

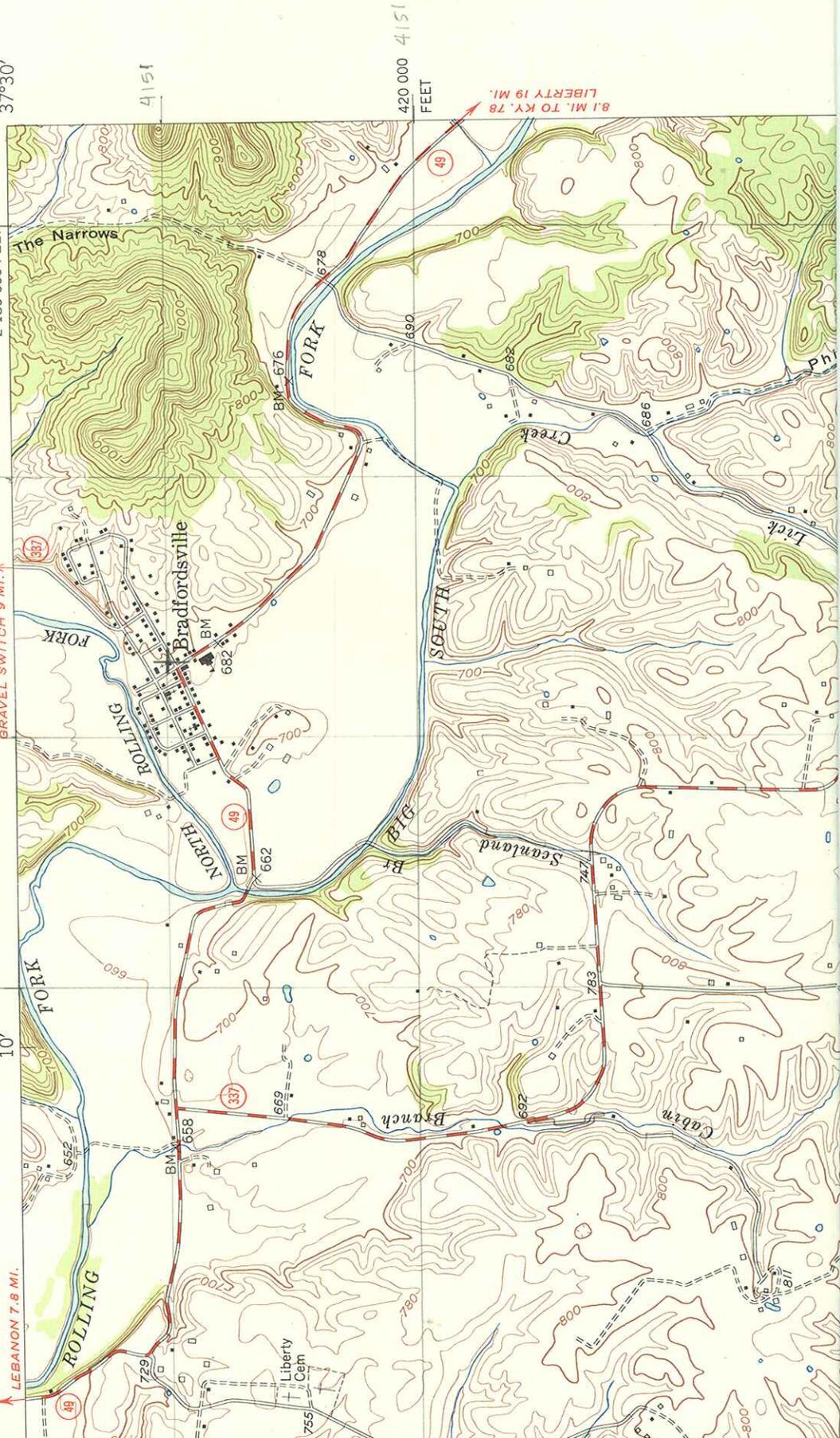
664 KENTUCKY 665
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BRADFORDSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

KENTUCKY
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

4152 (GRAVEL SWITCH)
85°07'30"
37°30'

2 180 000 FEET
GRAVEL SWITCH 9 MI.

LEBANON 7.8 MI.



8.1 MI. TO KY. 78
LIBERTY 19 MI.

420 000 4151
FEET

10'





LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT
CENTER























United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Return/Evaluation Sheet

Property Name: Bradfordsville Christian Church, Marion County, Kentucky

Reference Number: 09001141

This nomination is being returned for substantive problems. The Bradfordsville Christian Church was nominated under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Community Planning and Development. The nomination does not adequately support this area of significance.

The National Register bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* notes on page 40 that Community Planning and Development is defined by “the design or development of the physical structure of communities.” This area of significance is typically reserved for activities that led to the physical development of a community. From the narrative provided for the Bradfordsville Christian Church, it appears that there was already a well-established town in place before this building was constructed. No evidence is provided that the construction of this church building resulted in new development in the town or immediate surroundings. The town was centered on a mill and was platted and incorporated in 1836, sixty years prior to the construction of this church building.

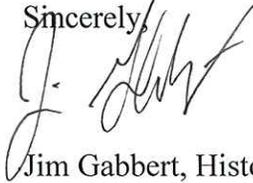
If the gist of the argument is that the Bradfordsville Christian Church had a significant role in the social development of the town (the creation of a social community), the more proper area of significance would be “Social History.” If this area of significance is pursued, the resubmitted nomination would have to explore not only the role of the Bradfordsville Christian Church but also the roles of other churches in the town. The information provided in this nomination does not indicate whether the town supported other churches. Were there any? In exploring the role of the Bradfordsville Christian Church, please cite the specific aspects of social history that the church played a significant role. Did the church have competing institutions in the social development of the town? The nomination cites an opera house and a Masonic lodge. What roles did these places/institutions serve? Educationally, there is mention of “Home College” established in 1865. How long did it operate? Were there other educational institutions in town? If so, did they serve social functions as well?

The building is sheathed in vinyl siding. While it may be reversible, as claimed on page 7-2, it is present currently. Typically, nominations for buildings with aluminum or vinyl siding are discouraged unless the new material has been installed without irreversibly damaging or obscuring the architectural features and trim of the building and if the substitute material matches the historic materials in size, profile, and finish so that there is no change in the character of the historic building. Please address the effect of the vinyl siding on the church's ability to convey its significance.

Should you choose to resubmit this nomination under a different area of significance, the nomination would have to follow the procedures for a new submission. The change in area of significance is considered a substantive change, requiring review by the state review board.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at <James_Gabbert@nps.gov>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Gabbert", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
12/28/09

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Bradfordsville Christian Church

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 11/13/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/01/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/28/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001141

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/24/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA *Return* *12/24/2009*

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

