

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FINAL

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number U. S. 52 at Little Cedar Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Brookville

vicinity

state IN

code IN

county Franklin

code 047

zip code _____

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

roof WOOD: shingle

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located three miles southeast of Brookville, the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church is situated in a wooded area near the Whitewater River. The simple brick building is a two-story, rectangular structure with a roof of cedar shakes. The brick is laid in Flemish bond. The church sits on its original stone foundation.

Facing south/southwest, the symmetrical main facade (Photo #1) is located on the eaves side and has three bays on the main level. The main entrance is recessed in the center bay and has a plain wood door with plain surrounds. A soldier brick course surmounts the door. Flanking the door are two double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights, plain sills, a soldier brick heading, and wooden shutters. The brick above the three main level bays shows signs of being repointed, suggesting that the window and door heads may have been changed. Between the two levels, there are four "S" shaped, exposed tie rod ends. On the second level, two smaller, double-hung sash windows with four-over-four lights are aligned with the lower level windows. Each window has a plain lintel and sill and a wood shutter on the outer side. At the sill level, six small openings extend across the facade. The openings were used to support scaffolding. The roofline has a plain cornice, and no gutter, except over the entry.

The east and west gabled facades (Photos #2 & #3) are identical except for a stone panel above the west entry. The panel was added sometime after 1908 and is inscribed with "Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church Erected 1812, Property of the Brookville Historical Society". Each end facade has a single center bay on each level. The door on the main level, the upper level window, and the four exposed tie rod ends are of the same design as those on the main facade. The cornice follows the rake of the roof and has simple gable returns. A narrow horizontal board spans the gable near its peak.

The rear facade has a number of windows and small openings similar to those on the other exteriors, but no second story windows.

The interior of the church consists of a large room with a balcony, bordered by a cherry balustrade and supported by the original handhewn log beams and pillars, which were covered with walnut boards during a restoration in the 1940's. The raised pulpit, a replica of the original,

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church

is situated near the rear wall. Wood pews face the pulpit on three sides. A pastor's bench is behind the pulpit and a "probationer's bench" is in front of the pulpit. A charcoal pit, which was added in 1818, was used to heat the building. It is built in the floor in front of the pulpit. The church also houses an original tombstone dated "1810". A walnut stairway on the northwest side of the room provides access to the balcony which contains wood pews, three of which are original. Originally, the church had two stairways; the present stair was constructed during the rehabilitation in the 1940's. At that time, the building was also replastered and a new walnut floor was laid. A small ceiling area at the rear of the church has been left unplastered, revealing the original lath. There is also a small floor area with the original wide floor boards exposed.

The church was purchased by the Brookville Historical Society in 1905 and a rehabilitation was subsequently undertaken, which was finished in 1912. It is unclear what elements were repaired or replaced. The lintel areas on the exterior may have been extensively repaired at this time. Other incidental items such as shutters may have been added during this period.

At the northwest end of the property, there is a cemetery which is presently marked only by crude gravestones. This is the original cemetery for the congregation and it contains a number of early tombstones. Many are badly damaged but others remain visible. A typical stone appears in the foreground of Photo 3. The resource count includes one contributing building (church) and one contributing site (cemetery).

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1812-1816

Significant Dates

1812

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Carter, Thomas

Winscott, Thomas

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church is significant under Criterion A as an important reminder of the settlement of Franklin County. The fact that very few buildings of this size, relative sophistication, and integrity remain from Indiana's prestatehood era (before 1816) give the church statewide importance under Criterion A. This church also has significance under Criterion C as a good example of the very simple, and often "primitive" craftsmanship pioneers used in the construction of their buildings.

Settlement of Franklin County began prior to Indiana's admission to the Union in 1816. Nearly half of the county, including Brookville Township (in which this church stands), was opened to European settlers by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. Subsequent treaties in 1805 and 1809 opened most of the county to settlement, and made the area of Brookville Township more secure. Settlers arriving via the White Water River from Ohio soon found the area highly desirable. As in many parts of the state, early settlers rallied around religious organizations (such as this church) to provide a sense of purpose and organization to frontier life. In 1811, Franklin County was officially recognized, and by about 1816, its significant period of early settlement had ended. Few buildings in the county have survived to represent this settlement period. The Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory for Franklin County, done in 1978, has found only eight other pre-1816 buildings in the county. Only three of these, including the Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church were rated "outstanding," which is the designation given to items which appear to be individually eligible for the National Register.

The Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church community was formed in 1806 soon after settlement began in this Franklin County area. It was the first Baptist society in the county. Early church meetings were held in settlers' log cabins. It is believed that a log meetinghouse was soon erected by the congregation on the Hackleman farm. In 1811,

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church

plans were made for the building of a larger meeting hall to accommodate the growing congregation. The church purchased land from Enoch McCarty for the building site and hired Thomas Carter, a carpenter, and Thomas Winscott, a mason, to erect the structure. Some of the construction work was done by the congregation. The building was constructed of handhewn logs and brick which was molded and baked by Conrad Saylor at the church site.

The Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church was first used on August 1, 1812. The church congregation continued to grow and by 1830 had 160 members. This early congregation had also served as a mother church for other Baptist communities in Franklin, Union, Fayette, Rush and Decatur counties, and it especially influenced the Big Cedar congregation, which was located a few miles northeast of Little Cedar Grove Church. During the 1840's and '50's, membership began to dwindle, and after the Civil War the church building was only used for occasional worship services and revival meetings by several religious denominations, including the Presbyterians.

In 1905, the church building was acquired by the Brookville Historical Society, which still owns the building. The society planned to eventually use it as a memorial building and museum, and undertook restoration of the structure, which was completed in 1912. Due to a renewed interest in the church building's historical value, another restoration was begun in 1946 by a number of preservation and civic organizations. A HABS form for the church was completed in 1962, but it has never officially been entered in HABS.

The simple brick church building has retained most of its original features, including the handhewn pillars and beams, flooring, and lath under later materials. The church has enough integrity to recall its period of significance in spite of its several rehabilitations. It is a reminder of Franklin County's, as well as Indiana's early religious development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Franklin County Interim Report. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 1978.

Illustrated Historical Atlas of Franklin County, Indiana.
Chicago: J. H. Beers & Coy 1882.

"Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church." Franklin County, IN:
Franklin County Historical Society, 1957.

"Notes on 1812 Little Cedar Baptist Church." Unpublished
manuscript transcribed from original church records, collection
of Franklin County Historical Society.

Riefel, August J. History of Franklin County, Indiana.
Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen & Co., 1915.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	6	7	3	8	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing	

4	3	6	1	4	9	0
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C

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B

Zone		Easting				Northing	

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the northwest corner of the intersection of Little Cedar Road and U.S. 52, at the point where the west right-of-way of Little Cedar Road and the north right-of-way of U.S. 52 meet, then follow the west right-of-way of Little Cedar Road northeast for 200', then

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the original parcel bought to establish the church. The original legal description refers to points of reference which no longer exist, so this description was based on county plat maps and on-site measurements.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Shea
organization Franklin County Historical Society date February 2, 1983
street & number 650 East 8th Street telephone 317/647-5182
city or town Brookville state IN zip code 47012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Little Cedar Grove Baptist Church

Verbal Boundary (continued)

turn northwest and proceed 120' until the south bank of Little Cedar Creek is reached. Follow the south bank of Little Cedar Creek westward until a point which is due north of a point which is 265' west from the above described intersection, along the north right-of-way of U.S. 52 is reached. Then turn due south to reach the above described point on the U.S. 52 right-of-way. Then turn eastward and follow the north right-of-way of U.S. 52 to the point of origin. See enclosed map.