

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hopewell Presbyterian Church
other names/site number 081-222-30004

2. Location

street & number 548 West 100 North N/A not for publication
city or town Franklin vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Johnson code 081 zip code 46131

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 36CFR 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] 5/4/00
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
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:

- 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

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Johnson IN

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	4	objects
1	5	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 Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

OTHER: Akron Plan

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1902-1927

Significant Dates

1902

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Anderson, George

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Hopewell Presbyterian Church

Hopewell Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Johnson IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	575960	4371700	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bobbie Ray White / Jennifer Hoffman-Stonebraker

organization Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana date 9/20/99

street & number 340 West Michigan St. telephone 317-639-4534

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Carol Poe, Clerk of the Session, Hopewell Presbyterian Church

street & number 132 West S.R. 144 telephone _____

city or town Franklin state IN zip code 46131

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Narrative Description

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is located on State Road 144 approximately 3 miles northwest of Franklin, Johnson County, Indiana. The L-shaped church is situated at the apex of a large hill with its primary facade facing east. A shelter house, flagpole, time capsule, boulder and a bell are non-contributing resources also found on the rolling grounds associated with the church. The bell was taken from the Hopewell Academy, since demolished. This item, as well as the plaque on the boulder, are dedicated to the existence and excellence of the academy, which was located on the grounds. The cemetery adjoining the church is owned by a separate corporation and is therefore not included in this nomination.

The brick church exhibits characteristics of the Gothic Revival Style with its pointed arches, crenelation and steeply pitched roofs. It also features elements of the Romanesque style in the rock-faced limestone trim. The church is composed of three parts. The original 1902 rectangular portion features undulating wall surfaces and an octagonal dome. In 1927, a 1-story rectangular addition with a hipped roof was placed on the west end of the church and in 1958, a 1-story rectangular addition with a gable roof was built on the western half of the south side. All three portions of the church feature asphalt shingle roofs with aluminum gutters and limestone coping. A stainless steel flue vents the furnace. All of the stained glass windows are protected with aluminum cover windows.

The 1902 portion is based on the "Akron Plan" and houses the main functions of the church. The "Akron Plan" was a packaged design scheme sanctioned by the Church Erection Board and distributed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church between the years of 1880 and 1929. The plan is characterized by a three-quarter round staging and tiered seating in amphitheater style.

The 1902 structure is composed of a rock-faced ashlar limestone foundation and brick walls with limestone trim. Three parapetted gable dormers pierce the central octagonal dome that is capped by a wood octagonal cupola. The southeast corner is terminated by a hexagonal-roof bay. A square entry tower is situated on the northeast corner and rectangular entrance-spaces extend from the south and north elevations. A rock-faced and

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smooth-faced limestone cornice wraps the top of the 1902 building. The windows are capped with rock-faced limestone lintels and possess smooth-faced limestone sills. The basement windows align with the first floor fenestration.

The south elevation is divided into two portions. The 1902 portion is located on the eastern half and the 1958 section projects from the western half. The 1958 addition will be addressed later.

The 1902 south elevation features a central stained-glass window located in the gable dormer. It is framed by a rock-faced limestone Gothic arch. Three stained glass windows are located below this element at first floor level. To the east, a small rectangular projection contains a set of wood doors with a stained-glass transom. A crenelated parapet wall composed of corbeled brick is situated above the entry. A smooth-faced limestone stringcourse is located between the transom and parapet. The east corner of the elevation features a bay in which two of the four stained glass windows are visible.

The central feature of the east elevation is a large stained-glass window located in the gable dormer. It is framed by a rock-faced limestone Gothic arch. Three stained-glass windows are below this element, also centered on the facade. A tall, narrow stained-glass window is situated to the north of these and is immediately adjacent to the corner tower. Three of the four stained-glass windows are visible in the south bay.

The northeast corner tower features the primary entry. Two wood doors within a rock-faced limestone pointed arch are on the east side. The north side features a similar arch with a stained-glass window. A rock-faced limestone stringcourse wraps the tower above the arches. The three visible corners are defined by two engaged buttresses and a small tourelle. The buttresses display two bands of rock-faced limestone with smooth-faced limestone at their bases. The tourelle differs by having a wide strip of decorative limestone with an urn-motif below the lower band of rock-faced limestone. The corner elements extend above a crenelated parapet composed of corbeled brick.

The north elevation is similar to the east. The fenestration pattern is repeated featuring the large stained-glass window in the dormer. Below this, there are three first-floor stained-glass window symmetrically placed with a tall, narrow stained-glass window to the east of these and a rectangular projection featuring a side entry to the west. This space extends approximately five feet from the facade on the east and 10 feet on the

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west. There is a narrow stained-glass window on both the east and west sides of the projection. The north side features wood doors framed by a rock-faced limestone Gothic arch. A rock-faced limestone stringcourse is located above the arch. The corners are defined by two engaged buttresses with a crenelated parapet spanning the area over the doors. The buttresses and parapet wall was similar to the matching elements of the northeast tower. To the west of the entry projection there are three stained-glass windows. The last 15 feet of the north elevation is comprised of the 1927 addition.

The 1927 addition has smooth concrete foundation and brick walls. There is one stained-glass window on the north elevation and four stained-glass windows on the west elevation. The windows have decorative brick lintels and smooth-faced limestone sills. Basement windows align with the first floor fenestration.

The 1927 and 1958 additions meet midway on the west elevation. The 1927 addition comprises the northern half and the 1958 addition the southern. A smooth-faced limestone vertical band indicates the boundary between the two.

The 1958 addition has a rock-faced ashlar limestone foundation and brick walls. The windows are vinyl and have brick lintels with smooth-faced limestone sills.

The west elevation features three first floor windows and two basement windows.

The south elevation is capped by a crenelated parapet wall. A Gothic arch with decorative brick is located within the parapet. This feature contains wood ventilation slats. A smooth-faced limestone stringcourse is located above the three first-floor windows. There are four basement level windows.

The east elevation of the 1958 addition features three first floor windows and three basement windows. There are two steel doors situated on this elevation. One is located within a vinyl sided open porch and the second enters at ground level.

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The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is accessed via one of three entries. The main doors are located within the tower on the east elevation. These doors enter into a small foyer that leads to the rear of the sanctuary. This room contains a series of steps leading to two oak paneled doors. The doors are flanked by stained-glass windows.

A second entry is located on the south elevation. This foyer features an oak paneled door opening into the worship area by way of a series of steps.

The third entry is located on the north side of the church. The foyer contains two sets of steps. The first leads to the sanctuary and convocation room while the second set enters into the basement.

The sanctuary of the church is based on the "Akron Plan." It is a modified cruciform design with three alcoves. The three-quarter round staging contains oak pews situated on an inclined surface that slopes down toward an elevated pulpit. Behind the pulpit, a raised paneled partition featuring a quatrefoil motif conceals the pipes of the pipe organ. A choir loft is situated to the left of the pulpit. The "overflow" or convocation area is located to the right. The convocation area features black walnut pews and a fireplace. The pews are from the 1853 church that once occupied this site. At the back of the convocation area are three small rooms with paneled wood doors that are part of the 1927 addition. A historical room is located in the southeast bay of the building.

The ceiling is an octagonal dome rising 28 feet to its apex. Three large stained-glass windows with oak trim are located within the dormers. These windows have a pointed-arch configuration. Gold trim is found on the robe of Jesus in one of the window. Only one other window in Indiana shares this rare trait.¹ The windows are in excellent condition. The ceiling on the west side of the dome also features a painting, or fresco, applied directly to the plaster.

The plaster walls of the sanctuary and convocation room are painted light blue with oak trim. Carpeting covers the original wood floors. The stained-glass windows are center pivot and were imported from Holland. The windows are in excellent condition, receiving only minor restoration work.

¹ Christ Cathedral Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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The church's functional spaces are situated within the 1927 and 1958 additions. The first-floor level contains seven Sunday School rooms, the church office, minister's office, library, conference/choir room, storage room and rest rooms. The interior surfaces are plain with painted walls, wood doors, textured ceilings and carpeted floors. Exterior egress is provided for through the steel door on the east side of the 1958 addition.

The basement level is reached via one of three staircases. The north foyer contains one with two more found in each of the additions. The basement consists of a kitchen, dining room, five storage rooms, Sunday School room, auxiliary kitchen (original kitchen) and a furnace room. The interior surfaces are plain with painted block walls, tiled ceilings and cement floors. Exterior egress is provided for through the steel door located on the east side of the 1958 addition.

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is in excellent condition. The 1927 and 1958 additions do not detract from the original structure and the building's integrity, in regards to location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association, is intact.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. It is significant under Criteria C in the area of architecture. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival and the Romanesque styles.

"The Devil will get you out there in the woods."

"We will take our religion with us; we will settle together and there we will build a church."

With these words on their minds, members of the Presbyterian Mud Meeting House from Harrod's Station,¹ Kentucky migrated north. Descendants of Dutch, English, and Huguenot pioneers, they sought to escape the pressures and inhumanity of living in a slave state. The migrants settled in Johnson County, Indiana just northwest of Franklin.

The site for Hopewell was selected by Simon Covert and Thomas Henderson in 1824. Mr. Henderson is said to have outwitted a man by the name of Moore for the deed rights to this area, originally known as Pleasant Hill. The rolling topography predetermined the future location for a church, school and burial grounds. Each structure was to be situated at the apex of one of the three knolls. Big Spring is in near proximity of the site. Hopewell is one of the oldest church-related communities in Johnson County. The pioneers created one of the most substantial and influential neighborhoods in Indiana.

The Franklin Presbyterian Church was located across Young's Creek. Thirty-five settlers in the Hopewell area were members and attended this church, fording the perilous creek every Sunday. Members requested to organize a new church due to the hazardous water crossing. The Franklin Presbyterian Church granted a release and the Indianapolis Presbytery bestowed permission to organize a new church in Hopewell. The Hopewell Presbyterian Church was officially established on May 23, 1831 with forty-one members, making it one of the oldest church-related communities in Johnson County. Today, the

¹ Harrod's Station has since been renamed as Harrodsburg.

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church has approximately 250 members with twenty-three families that are direct descendants to the original settlers.

Several buildings have housed the members of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church. However, the site has never been altered. The first "meeting house" was a log structure that had been built in 1827. It was later replaced by a wood frame building in 1835. A brick building was erected in 1853 and remodeled in 1872. This structure was razed around the turn of the century to accommodate the church that presently occupies the site.

George Anderson, of whom little is known, is credited with the design for the church. The cornerstone was laid on September 22, 1902 with the formal dedication occurring almost a year later on August 30, 1903. The cost of the building and furnishings was \$13,000. The original pews from the 1853 church were put to use in the new church.

The exterior of the church was designed in a combination of the Gothic Revival and Romanesque styles. The Gothic Revival style was a popular style of church architecture throughout much of the nineteenth century. The projecting bay and corner tower provide the church with the asymmetry that is characteristic of the style. Steeply pitched roofs, gabled dormers, crenellations, pointed arches, and stained glass windows are other features of the style. A Romanesque influence can also be found in the church. The use of rock-face limestone in the foundation and trim and the use of a corner tourelle are the Romanesque-like characteristics.

The sanctuary remains an excellent example of the "Akron Plan," which has not been altered in regard to layout and materials since its erection. The "Akron Plan" was a significant development in regard to religious education and worship practices. It was distributed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church from 1880-1929. The three-quarter round staging and tiered amphitheater seating plan allows for a greater degree of intimacy with large numbers of people. The Gothic style is carried over into the interior through the use of gothic motifs such as the quatrefoils on the paneled partition behind the pulpit.

The stained-glass window portraying Jesus Christ trimmed in gold is a very unique feature discovered in Hopewell Presbyterian Church. The only other window known to

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share this trait is the Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis. This design element, which is in excellent condition, distinguishes the church from others due to its rare and unusual nature.

The 1927 and 1958 additions do not diminish the building's significance. Constructed in a sensitive manner, the additions do not detract from the original structure's appearance.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church can be compared to some of the churches of the late 19th and early 20th century in the neighboring town of Franklin. The First Presbyterian Church in Franklin was established in 1824, and the current Gothic Revival structure was built in 1875. This was the congregation that many of the Hopewell residents belonged to before they had permission to establish their own church. There are some architectural similarities between the two churches, such as a tower and pointed arch windows. Franklin is home to a few other brick Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival churches of similar size and materials as Hopewell, as well as having similar characteristics. However, the style of these churches is often more cut and dry, rather than a combination of styles as is evident in Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

The rural churches in Johnson County fall into several categories. Several can be described as small, simple wood framed structures, such as those found in Hensley Township. Many of the rest can be described as either Gothic Revival or Romanesque Revival structures. Many of those are constructed out of brick and are of similar size to Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Whiteland Methodist Episcopal Church is an example of a Romanesque Revival church built in 1904. The tower and red brick construction make it comparable to Hopewell Presbyterian Church. Similar characteristics can also be found in the Providence Christian Church, a Romanesque Revival church built in 1905.

Hopewell Presbyterian Church embodies the distinctive characteristics of both the Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival styled churches in the rural areas and towns of Johnson County. Hopewell Church is as elaborate as many of the churches in Franklin and the surrounding areas from around the same time period.

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is in excellent condition and its integrity remains intact, containing both original materials and furnishings. The church has been listed as outstanding in the *Johnson County Interim Report*. Also, the Hopewell area including the

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church has been deemed a "historic corridor" through a survey conducted by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

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Bibliography

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA

Curry, George L. *History of the Hopewell Presbyterian Church 1831-1915*. Franklin, Indiana: Office Service Company, 1981, p. 1-89.

Brown, Robert Allen. *The Hopewell Herald*. Franklin, Indiana: Hopewell Presbyterian Church, 3 December 1927, p. 1.

Covert, William Chalmers, D.D., LL D. "An Unbroken Spiritual Lineage," *Old Mud Meeting House*. Harrodsburg, Kentucky: Harrodsburg Historical Society, p. 44-46.

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Geographical Information

HOPEWELL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHNSON COUNTY, INDIANA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Hopewell Presbyterian Church is located in Franklin, Franklin Township, Johnson County, Indiana. The property is a part of the southwest quarter of section 8, township 12 north, Range 4 east. The boundary description is described as follows:

Off of County Road 100 North, follow the first (northern most) driveway leading up to the church. The starting point of the boundary begins at where the driveway meets the parking lot at the top of the hill. Heading west through the parking lot and parallel to the north side of the church, proceed around the driveway on the west side of the church. A driveway then parallels the cemetery as it heads east. around the south side of the church. When the driveway meets the next parking area, head north to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The church's legal property description contains 13.066 acres. However, most of that land is not found immediately adjacent to the church and is not necessary for the boundary. The boundary is drawn to include only the church by using man-made driveways and parking lots as guides.