



49.1983.1 First Presbyterian Church of Southport
Marion County
Marker Text Review Report
9/22/2010

Marker Text

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations. . . .” (Matthew 28:19)

In recognition of its 150th year as a worshipping congregation, this sign marks the original location of the First Presbyterian Church of Southport, established March 30, 1833. Originally known as New Providence, the founding congregation met at this site in a log cabin called the “Old Mud Schoolhouse.” This marker is dedicated to the glory of God in 1983, the congregation’s sesquicentennial year. The past is prologue to the future.

Report

The text of this marker does not convey the historical significance of the church. Unfortunately, the church records are missing, and IHB researchers were unable to locate any other primary sources. Therefore, it is impossible to conduct research into important events in the history of the Presbyterian Church which might show its significance. Secondary source information was located in the form of two church pamphlets: *The First Presbyterian Church of Southport, Dedication of the Church, Education Unit and Memorials* (March 31, 1957) and Dudley D. Davis’s “Southport Presbyterian Church: An Adventure in Faith” in *Souvenir Centennial Program and History of the Southport Presbyterian Church* (September 21-24, 1957).

The pamphlets state that the Indianapolis Presbytery authorized the formation of a Presbyterian church at Southport in January 1833. Twenty-three members from the Greenwood Church and one member from the First Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis formed the New Providence Church on March 30, 1833. These sources disagree as to the location of this first organizational meeting. One claims that the members met in the “Old Mud Schoolhouse,” located west of the intersection of Stop 9 and McFarland Roads; the other claims that the members initially met in the home of Mrs. Mary Sebern. Since the church records from its first thirty years of existence have been lost, the exact location of the first organizational meeting cannot be verified.

