United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Mammoth Cave Baptist Church and Cemetery
other names/site number T-41, C-44

2. Location

street & number Mammoth Cave National Park
city, town Mammoth Cave
state Kentucky code KY county Edmonson code 061 zip code 42259

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Mammoth Cave National Park

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

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):

Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Religion: religious structure</td>
<td>Religion: religious structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funerary: cemetery</td>
<td>Funerary: cemetery</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other: no style</td>
<td>foundation: sandstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls: wood: weatherboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet
7. Description of present and historic physical appearance.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property, located on the north side of Flint Ridge Road, two miles east of its junction with Highway 70, consists of one contributing building, Mammoth Cave Baptist Church; one contributing site, the church cemetery; and one non-contributing structure, a contemporary outhouse.

 Constructed in 1927 after the original structure had been destroyed by a tornado, Mammoth Cave Baptist Church is a one-story frame building with white weatherboard siding and a tin, gable front roof. The church, which faces Flint Ridge Road to the south, sits on stacked sandstone blocks, measures 42 feet (N-S) by 26 feet (E-W), and has three batten doors, two front and one rear. The front entrances each have three concrete steps. Each side wall has four two-over-two double-hung sash windows. A wooden sign in between the two front entrances notes the following: "Mammoth Cave Baptist Church, Estab. 1827, Meeting Sat. & Sun."

The church's interior is unadorned, with wood tongue-and-groove planked walls and ceiling, and a wood plank floor, covered with linoleum in some spots. There are a number of movable handmade pews in the church set in rows facing the podium in the north end of the church.

To the west of the church is Mammoth Cave cemetery, which dates from the early nineteenth century and measures approximately 230' (E-W) by 190' (N-S). All of the graves face east, which is consistent with local tradition, and are designated predominantly with commercially produced head and foot markers. There are also a number of graves marked with fieldstone head and foot stones, both engraved and unengraved, and also some unmarked graves. There is a semi-circular gravel drive on the south side of the cemetery, which provides access to cars from Flint Ridge Road, and evidence of an old wire fence in the wooded areas on the north and west sides of the cemetery.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property is in good condition. The church building, which is deteriorating slightly from lack of regular use, is original in design, workmanship, and the majority of materials. The original metal roof was replaced in kind in the 1970s, at which time the chimney or flue on the west side of the building was removed. The church was wired for
electricity at some unknown date. The outhouse on the north side of the church is not original, though it probably replaced a similar structure. The cemetery is well-maintained and is still in use. For the entire property, integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are intact.
### 8. Statement of Significance

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

- [x] nationally
- [ ] statewide
- [x] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria

- [x] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

- [x] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D
- [ ] E
- [ ] F
- [ ] G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social History</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Period of Significance

- 1927-1941

Significant Dates

- 1927

Cultural Affiliation

- N/A

Significant Person

- N/A

Architect/Builder

- N/A

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

- See continuation sheet
9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
À preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
À previously listed in the National Register
À previously determined eligible by the National Register
À designated a National Historic Landmark
À recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _________________________
À recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _________________________

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
À State historic preservation office
À Other State agency
À Federal agency
À Local government
À University
À Other
Specify repository:

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property ________________

UTM References

A
Zone _________________________
Easting _________________________
Northing _________________________

B
Zone _________________________
Easting _________________________
Northing _________________________

C
Zone _________________________
Easting _________________________
Northing _________________________

D
Zone _________________________
Easting _________________________
Northing _________________________

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Kelly A. Lally, consultant
organization  Kentucky Heritage Council
date  June 1989
street & number  701 D Daniels St.
telephone  919-828-9123
city or town  Raleigh
state  NC  zip code  27605
8. Statement of significance, criteria justification, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance.

The Mammoth Cave Baptist Church property is historically significant in the area of Social History and represents the property type "Church Properties" (for property type information, see Section III of the Historic Resource Study, pages A-6 to A-8).

The period of significance (1927 to 1941) refers to the years from the construction of the current church building to the demise of the community with the official establishment of Mammoth Cave National Park in 1941.

As in other parts of rural Kentucky, churches in the Mammoth Cave area, mostly of the Baptist denomination, served as the centers of community life. Local residents attended weekly church services, weddings, funerals, baptisms, homecomings, revivals, and grave decoration days, not only for spiritual reasons, but also to interact with other people who lived in the area. In such a rural area, where the nearest substantial town was ten miles away over very poor dirt roads, community gatherings were very important. In addition to church functions, communities often used their churches as meeting houses and schools as well.

Before Mammoth Cave National Park was developed, there were seven churches which served the communities in the immediate cave area. During the 1930s, most private and public properties within the proposed park area were acquired by the Mammoth Cave National Park Association, the Mammoth Cave National Park Commission, and the National Park Service through purchase or condemnation, local residents were removed, and buildings were razed. Church properties were exceptions to the removal and demolition process. Although not required to do so, the National Park Service recognized the significance that church properties had for local communities. In return for the donation of community-owned church properties, the National Park Service agreed to grant special use permits to the congregations who wished to maintain the location of their churches. Currently there are three churches located within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park which have agreements with the National Park Service: Mammoth Cave United Baptist Church, Good Spring United Baptist Church, and Joppa Missionary Baptist Church.
Mammoth Cave Baptist Church, established in 1827, served the white residents of the Flint Ridge. According to former local residents, there was a "Mammoth Cave Colored Baptist Church" in the area, the site of which is currently unknown. Among the members of the Mammoth Cave Baptist Church were L. P. Edwards, owner of Great Onyx Cave, and the Collins family, owners of Crystal Cave. The Dennisons and the Esters were among the other prominent families involved with the church. In 1927, the present church building was constructed to replace the original structure, destroyed by tornado the previous year. Mammoth Cave Baptist Church requested and was granted a special use permit which allowed the congregation to continue to use the church and cemetery, provided National Park Service guidelines were followed. The church and cemetery were used regularly through the 1950s and 1960s. Currently, members of the congregation meet several times a year for funerals and burials, grave decoration days, and homecomings.

Though Mammoth Cave Baptist Church is a religious property, it deserves exceptional status as the only physical representative of the once thriving Mammoth Cave/Flint Ridge area community, and as a reminder of part of the process of developing Mammoth Cave National Park, through agreements between the National Park Service and local communities.
9. Major Bibliographical References


Lally, Kelly A. Tape Recorded interview with residents of the Mammoth Cave area, part of the oral history project, "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Development of Mammoth Cave National Park." Mammoth Cave National Park Library, Mammoth Cave, KY, June to September 1987.


_______ Jacob's People. Glasgow, KY: By the Author, n.d.


10. Geographical Data
Acreage of property: approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References
A 16 4117020 582260

Verbal Boundary Description
Beginning at a point on the northern edge of Flint Ridge Road where the old fence row and woodline on the west side of the cemetery meet the road, proceed north 190’. Then proceed east 290’ along the fence row on the northern edge of the cemetery. Then proceed south 100’ along the woodline at the northeast corner of the cemetery. Then proceed east 70’ along the woodline north of the rear of the church. Then proceed south 90’ along the woodline east of the church. Then proceed west along the northern edge of Flint Ridge Rd. to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification
The boundary includes the church and all visible graves in the cemetery that are historically associated with the property.
1. Mammoth Cave Baptist Church (T-41)
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky
Mammoth Cave Baptist Church (T-41)
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park
Mammoth Cave, Ky
Kelly Lally
November 1987
Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park Library
northwest view
2. Mammoth Cave Baptist Church (C-41) and Cemetery (C-44)
Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky
Mammoth Cave Baptist Church (T-41) and Cemetery (C-44)
Mammoth Cave Nat’l Park
Mammoth Cave, Ky
Kelly Kelly
November 1987
Mammoth Cave Nat’l Park Library East view