

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**SITE FILE COPY**  
 RECORDED  
 DATE ENTERED

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Corner of Hill and East streets

CITY, TOWN

Keytesville

VICINITY OF

 #6 - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Missouri 65261

CODE

29

COUNTY

Chariton

CODE

021

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER:
**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Friends of Keytesville, Inc.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Bridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Keytesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 65261

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Recorder of Deeds, Chariton County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Highway 24

CITY, TOWN

Keytesville

STATE

Missouri 65261

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963 (published)

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS
 State Historical Society of Missouri  
 Corner Hitt and Lowry streets

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1976  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

state

## 74 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Presbyterian Church, Keytesville, Missouri, is a rectangular-plan, plus addition, wood-frame, one-story building designed in the Classic Revival style in 1853<sup>1</sup> with a turn-of-the-century Romanesque Revival derivative style addition.<sup>2</sup> The building faces south. A southwest, two-story plus belfry tower is a dominant feature. The mid-portion of the east wall has a semi-octagonal, gabled addition.

Over-all dimensions are 48 feet from north to south and 28 feet from east to west, giving approximately 1344 square feet total area. The tower is approximately 45 feet tall.

The foundation is roughly squared stone, drylaid. The wood-frame walls are sheathed with clapboarding painted white. The main roof is covered with asphalt shingles, installed in 1975. The pyramidal tower roof is covered with shaped wood shingles, also from 1975. The two chimneys are red brick.

The original portion has large, double-hung windows with Classic Revival style surrounds. At an unknown date alterations introduced round-arched windows to the north and south walls.<sup>3</sup> In 1900 the stained glass was installed.<sup>4</sup>

The only doorway is now in the tower giving access to a foyer.

The bell tower is assumed to date from 1853; the bell is inscribed "Meneelys West Troy New York 1853."<sup>5</sup> An examination of the oak timbers of the tower reveals that those of the upper portion differ from those of the original church. Additionally, the nails are slightly different. It is believed that the tower was probably enlarged between 1853 and 1900.<sup>6</sup>

Decorative detailing includes pilasters at the southeast and southwest corners of the original building and a well-proportioned entablature made up of wood mouldings without dentils or brackets. Recessed wood panels articulate the areas under each round-arched window. The eaves of the eastern addition have a modest display of stickwork. The tower is topped with an ornate metal finial giving this feature an appropriate upper terminus. Through the open upper tower one can see the church bell and ringing mechanism.

On the interior the pews curve in rows facing the pulpit on the east side. The presbytery occupies the semi-octagonal eastern addition. The window treatment is similar to that on the exterior. The walls are painted plaster above a wainscot. A shaped metal cove moulding frames the ceiling of narrow wood boards.

The building has stove heat.

Originally, the simple, rectangular church had a slave balcony across the south, rear interior wall.<sup>7</sup> The balcony was removed in 1900 when the eastern extension was constructed.<sup>8</sup> The original pews were straight, in rows facing north.<sup>9</sup>

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In 1966 a windstorm broke a large tree branch which damaged the transom over the entrance. The art glass was reconstructed using some of the original glass.

Present Status

In 1965 the church was deeded to the Friends of Keytesville, a non-profit corporation, dedicated to the preservation of local heritage. A condition of this transfer was that the church would always be maintained as it is. The building is kept in readiness for special services, weddings, funerals, and so forth.<sup>10</sup>

Site

In 1950 the southeast corner of the church lot was sold to J. L. Prather who built his home on the lot. The manse (extensively renovated in the early 1970's and now rented out to support maintenance on the church building) is located on the northwest corner of the lot and the church is on the southwest portion of the lot. The property originally occupied all of Block 88 in Redding Addition, and was 200 feet square. On the next block to the north is the Redding-Hill House, visible in photograph number 1, and entered on the National Register of Historic Places. These two buildings--the Redding-Hill House and the Presbyterian Church--are the best remaining local examples of historic architecture. The Chariton County Courthouse at Keytesville, formerly listed on the National Register, was destroyed by fire in 1973.

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

FOOTNOTES

1. "Records of the Presbyterian Church of Keytesville, Mo.," 17 June 1857; Chariton (Keytesville, Missouri) Courier, 20 July 1900, p. 1.
2. Written statement by Zettie Sneed Hubbard, 8 February 1976. (Mrs. Hubbard, age 73, whose grandmother, Missouri Gaston, is listed in the official church records as a member of the church in 1860, relates her mother's recollections of the 1900 alterations and prior arrangement of the interior.)
3. W. F. Knight, Area Director, University Extension Center, Keytesville, Missouri, to Nancy B. Breme, 16 May 1977.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.; written statement by Zettie Sneed Hubbard, 8 February 1976.
7. Written statement by Edward C. Drace, D.D.S., Keytesville, Missouri, 12 February 1976. (His great-grandmother was a charter member of the church. The family history recorded in the Drace family Bible lists births and deaths of the family's slaves. Drace explains how the slaves would sit in the balcony at the rear of the church during the services as there was no separate church for them to attend.)
8. Chariton (Keytesville, Missouri) Courier, 25 August 1966, p. 1; written statement by Zettie Sneed Hubbard, 8 February 1976; Dorothy J. Caldwell (ed.), Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), p. 26.
9. Chariton (Keytesville, Missouri) Courier, 25 August 1966, p. 1; written statement by Zettie Sneed Hubbard, 8 February 1976.
10. Written statement by Mr. and Mrs. John E. (Dred) Finnell, custodians of the church property for the last ten years, Keytesville, Missouri, 13 February 1976.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1853, 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Presbyterian Church of Keytesville, Missouri, is significant within its locale as the oldest surviving church building. Built in 1853 in a Classic Revival style design, it was enlarged compatibly in 1900 and has since been maintained in a good state of preservation. The building is a fine, central Missouri example of the Classic Revival style in architecture. Its early use by slaveholding families reflects this aspect of the economic/social history of the area. Other local nineteenth century churches are of later date and have been extensively altered in "remodeling" projects.

The deed to the property is dated April 6, 1853.<sup>1</sup> The church record states:

In the year 1853 two houses of worship were erected one in Brunswick and one in Keytesville. In the latter place the church being assisted by over \$1000 solicited from friends at the east [sic] and by \$300 loaned from the "Church Extension Fund" of the Synod of Missouri.<sup>2</sup>

The church had a balcony, at the rear of the sanctuary, for slaves.<sup>3</sup> This facility reflected the slave economy of the early members, many of whom came from Virginia and Kentucky to settle this region of Missouri known as "Little Dixie."<sup>4</sup>

Bible records of early members show that slaves were given the family name, their births and deaths were recorded in the family Bibles. These slaves attended church with their "families" and sat in the rear balcony.<sup>5</sup>

The 1900 renovation project was designed by an architect, A. R. Elliott. Carpenters for the project were Fuqua & Ziemer. The stone foundation for these sections was laid by John Bulch "of the vicinity of Indian Grove."<sup>6</sup>

During the work the local newspaper commented on the strength of the existing fabric:

The framing timber, which is first-class whiteoak [sic], is seemingly as sound as it was when placed in the building. The sills are 12 inches square and were hewed with the broad axe according to the custom of former times.<sup>7</sup>

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

FOOTNOTES

1. Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Chariton County Courthouse, Keytesville, Missouri, Book N, p. 392.
2. "Records of the Presbyterian Church of Keytesville, Mo.," 17 June 1853.
3. Written statement by Edward C. Drace, D.D.S., Keytesville, Missouri, 17 February 1976. (His great-grandmother was a charter member of the church. The family history recorded in the Drace family Bible lists births and deaths of the family's slaves. Drace explains how the slaves would sit in the balcony at the rear of the church during the services as there was no separate church for them to attend.)
4. Robert M. Crisler, "Missouri's Little Dixie," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XLII, No. 1 (October, 1947), p. 130ff.
5. Written statement by Edward C. Drace, 17 February 1976.
6. Chariton (Keytesville, Missouri) Courier, 20 July 1900, p. 1.
7. Ibid.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Caldwell, Dorothy J. (ed.). Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue. Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963, p. 26.
2. Chariton (Keytesville, Missouri) Courier, 20 July 1900; 25 August 1966.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5	5	0	5	4	3	0	4	3	6	4	9	3	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

C 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

D 

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

1. W. F. Knight, Area Director

ORGANIZATION

University Extension Center

DATE

February, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse - Box 202

TELEPHONE

816/288-3239

CITY OR TOWN

Keytesville

STATE

Missouri 65261

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources,  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

3. Crisler, Robert M. "Missouri's Little Dixie," Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XLII, No. 1 (October, 1947), p. 130ff.
4. Drace, Edward C., D.D.S. Keytesville, Missouri. Written statement, 17 February 1976.
5. Finnell, Mr. and Mrs. John E. (Dred). Custodians of the church property, Keytesville, Missouri. Written statement, 13 February 1976.
6. Hubbard, Zettie Sneed. Keytesville, Missouri. Written statement, 8 February 1976.
7. Knight, W. F. University Extension Center, Keytesville, Missouri. Letter to Nancy B. Breme, 16 May 1977.
8. Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Chariton County Courthouse, Keytesville, Missouri. Book N, p. 392.
9. "Records of the Presbyterian Church of Keytesville, Mo." 17 June 1853.

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ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. M. Patricia Holmes, Research Associate  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

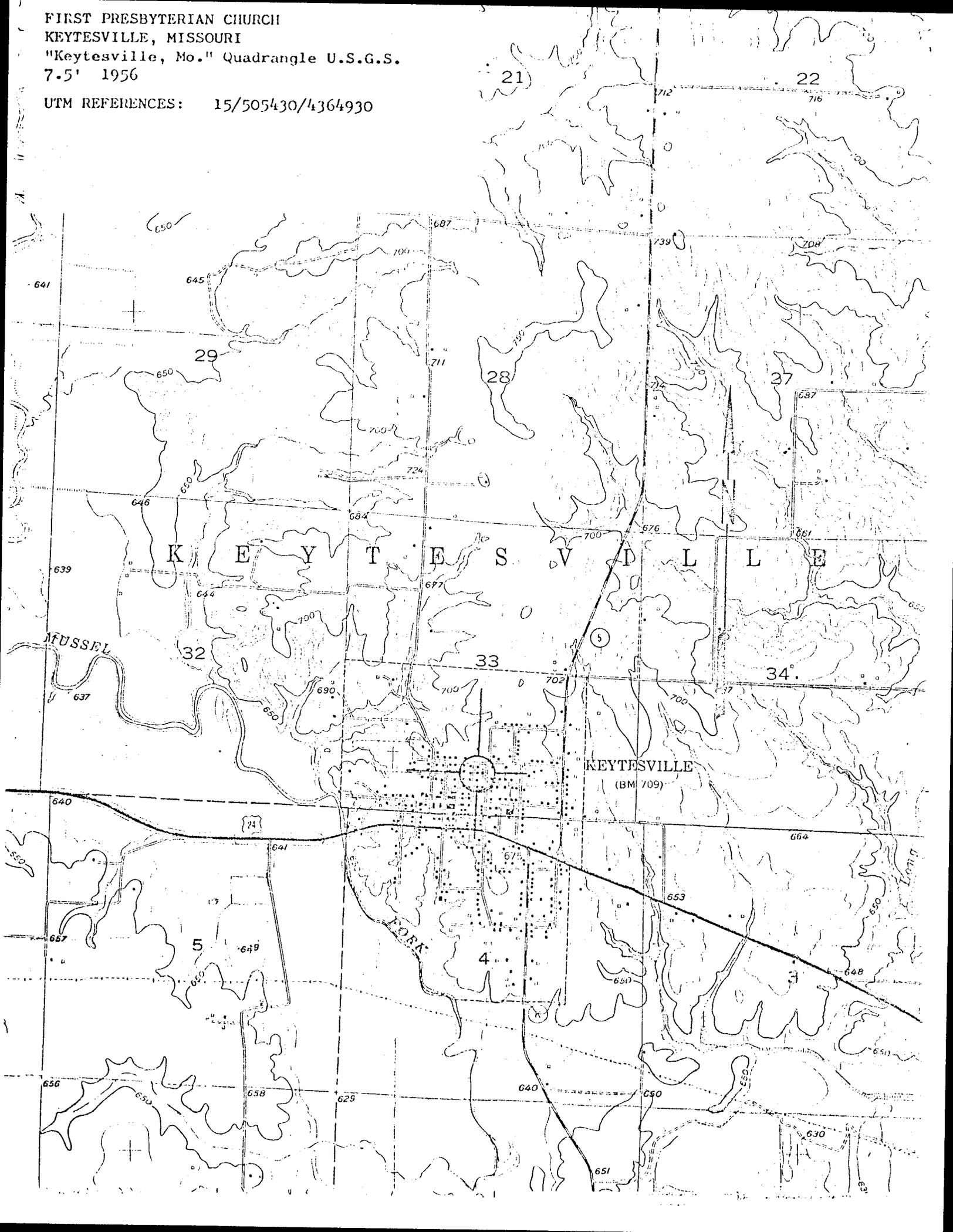
April, 1976

3. Nancy B. Breme, Architectural Historian  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

May 20, 1977  
Telephone: 314/751-4096

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
KEYTESVILLE, MISSOURI  
"Keytesville, Mo." Quadrangle U.S.G.S.  
7.5' 1956

UTM REFERENCES: 15/505430/4364930



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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HISTORIC

First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Keytesville

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Chariton

STATE

Missouri

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey "Keytesville, Mo." Quadrangle

SCALE

1:24000

DATE

1956

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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**1 NAME**

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First Presbyterian Church

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CITY, TOWN

Keytesville

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Chariton

STATE

Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Chariton Courier

DATE OF PHOTO

February, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Chariton Courier, Keytesville, Missouri 65261

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

From the northwest looking southeast, the north facade is on the left and the west facade is on the right. Stained glass dating from 1900 fills the windows lining the west wall.

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Chariton

STATE

Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Chariton Courier

DATE OF PHOTO

February, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 3

From the south looking north, this view shows the semi-circular transom above the main entrance.

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Keytesville

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Chariton

STATE

Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Chariton Courier

DATE OF PHOTO

February, 1976

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PHOTO NO. 4

This interior view of the northeast corner shows the presbytery (contained in the 1900 extension) along the east wall.

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HISTORIC First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN Keytesville VICINITY OF COUNTY Chariton STATE Missouri

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Chariton Courier DATE OF PHOTO February, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Chariton Courier, Keytesville, Missouri 65261

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 1

From the southeast looking northwest, this view shows the south (front) facade on the left and the east facade on the right. The 1900 semi-octagonal extension for the presbytery is to the right. In the right background is the Redding-Hill House.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COUNTY: Chariton  
LOCATION: Corner of Hill and East streets  
Keytesville, Mo.  
OWNER: Friends of Keytesville, Inc.  
ADDRESS: Bridge Street, Keytesville

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: November 5, 1976  
DATE SENT TO D.C.: December 8, 1976 and May 27, 1977  
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:  
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: November 23, 1977  
DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE:  
(AND PRESENTOR)  
DATE FILE REVIEWED

The First Presbyterian Church of Keytesville, Missouri, is significant within its locale as the oldest surviving church building. Built in 1853 in a Classic Revival style design, it was enlarged compatibly in 1900 and has since been maintained in a good state of preservation. The building is a fine, central Missouri example of the Classic Revival style in architecture. Its early use by slaveholding families reflects this aspect of the economic/social history of the area. Other local nineteenth century churches are of later date and have been extensively altered in "remodeling" projects.

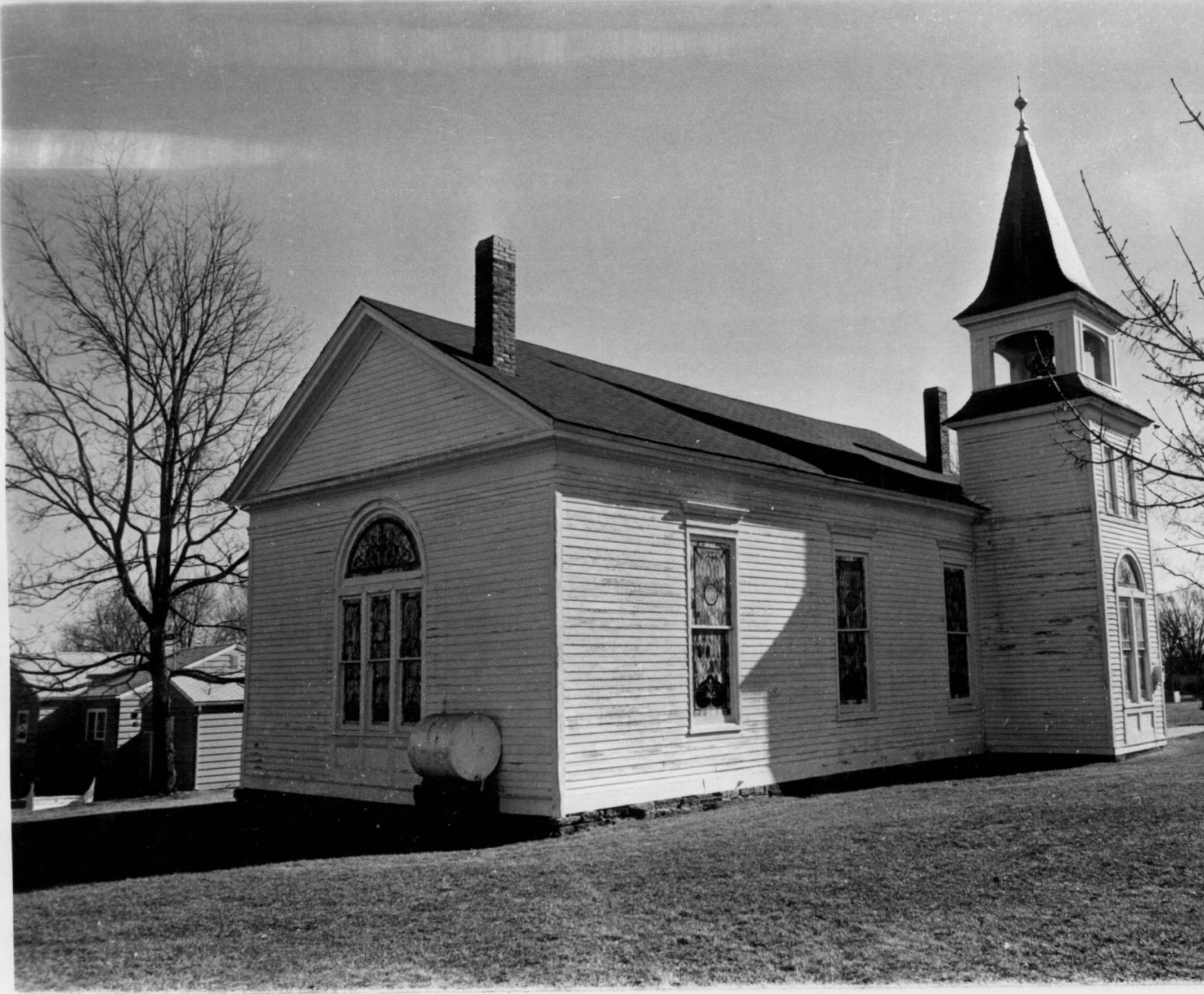
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KEYESVILLE

CHARITON COURIER PHOTO FEB, 1976

SFC







Presbyterian Church  
1853-1900

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KEYTESVILLE

CHARITON COURIER PHOTO FEB, 1916

SFC

