

Cane Ridge Meeting House  
Eight miles from Paris  
Bourbon County, Kentucky

HABS No. 20-8

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. 20

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
G. M. Grimes, District Officer  
304 Martin Brown Building  
Louisville, Kentucky

ADDITIONAL  
FOOTNOTES

Name of structure: Cane Ridge Meeting House

Location: About eight miles from Paris, Bourbon  
County, Kentucky, on Little Rock Road.

Owner or  
custodian: Mr. Samuel Clay

Address: Paris, Kentucky

Date built: 1791  
(approx)

Architect  
or builder: Robt. W. Finley and his followers from  
North Carolina.

Present  
condition: Good. Has been well cared for.

Number of  
stories: One story and balcony.

Material used  
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.  
Exterior walls: Ash logs chinked with  
cement.  
Rail of balcony: Cherry.  
Floor: Oak boards.  
Roof: Hand split shakes of oak, four  
feet long.

Description: The following is from records on file at  
architectural the University of Kentucky, Department of  
and historical University Extension, Lexington, Kentucky.

"The Cane Ridge Meeting House was built in 1791 by Robert W. Finley and his followers from North Carolina and was first used as a Presbyterian Church. Five years later, Barton W. Stone, a native of Maryland and a Presbyterian minister, assumed the pastorate of the church, and in 1804, following the break with the Presbyterians, he and his followers formed an independent organization and adopted the name of Christian Church.

"When Alexander Campbell came into Kentucky a few years later, organizing churches known as Disciples of Christ, Stone and a number of his followers joined with Campbell, and formed an independent organization, retaining the name of Christian Church, which was united a few months ago with the Congregational Church.

"The old Cane Ridge Meeting House was built of logs, but in 1829 the building was weatherboarded, and the inside of the walls and ceiling were lathed and plastered. In the present reconstruction, the weatherboarding, laths, and plaster have been removed, leaving the log walls and beamed ceiling as they were originally. The logs have been rechinked and treated with a process to aid in their preservation.

"In the original structure, there was not a log in the side wall exceeding twenty feet in length. This was made practical by using shorter logs, attached to the main logs, and forming an off-set, or alcove, in each side wall. These alcoves, covered during recent years by weatherboarding, are now revealed.

"In 1882 the building was remodeled again, the east door being closed and the old pulpit transferred from its original position on the north side to the east end of the building. The pulpit now has been restored to its first location in the alcove in the north wall, and the east door opened.

"In the original structure there was a massive balcony, which seated approximately one-half of the number of persons seated in the main body of the church. The only entrance to the balcony was by means of a ladder placed on the outside of the church.

"In the remodeling in 1829, the balcony was torn down and the material used in the erection of a stock barn on a neighboring farm. It is planned now to use the old material, which is said to be in good condition, for the reconstruction of a balcony as similar as possible to the original.

"The material in the old building is said to be in excellent condition and with some repairs, which have been made, it is expected that the original structure will last for many years. A new foundation has been built of concrete below the ground level and rock above. It is planned that in the near future the old structure will be given further protection by enclosing it in another building, where it will be preserved for future generations. The old church has interested comparatively few persons during recent years, presenting as it has, the appearance of an ordinary frame building. It is expected, however, that with its restoration

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in keeping with its original form, it will become one of the most outstanding historic spots in the country".

*G. M. James*

*Revised 1936, H.C.F.*

ADDENDUM TO:  
CANE RIDGE MEETING HOUSE  
Little Rock Road  
Paris vicinity  
Bourbon County  
Kentucky

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, DC 20240