

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 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 any 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 Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church

Historic name Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church

Other names/site number Welsh Run Presbyterian Church

2. Location

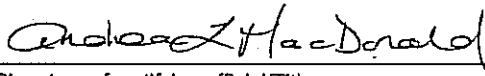
street & number 11799 Mercersburg Road not for publication N/A

city or town Montgomery Township Vicinity N/A

State Pennsylvania code PA county Franklin code 055 zip code 17236

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



April 17, 2009

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

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 this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

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(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	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. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- SOCIAL/civic
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone
 walls Weatherboard
 roof tin, asphalt
 other Wood, brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.)

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

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1871

Significant Dates

1871

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Engineering Record#

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Conococheague Institute

10. Geographical Data**Acreeage of Property**1.7**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	2	56	65	44	05	480	3						
	Zone	5	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
2								4						
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing			

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title James M. Smith/Historic Resources Consultantorganization Nic. Center/Friends of the Robert Kennedy Memorial
Presbyterian Churchdate August 7, 2008
Revised 10/28/08street & number 1 Campus Drive Penn State Mont Altotelephone 717-762-4670city or town Mont Altostate PAzip code 17237**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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 7 Page 1

Physical Description

The Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1871, is a one and a half story frame Italianate structure. The church faces east, rests on a limestone foundation, and is three bays wide and four bays deep with a square projecting bell tower on the front elevation and two shed roof projections on the rear elevation. The site also retains a contributing limestone walled cemetery, established in 1774, and a non contributing garden shed.

The church property is situated in the southwest corner of the junction of PA State Routes 416 and 995 in the center of the crossroads village of Welsh Run in south-central Franklin County. The oblique intersection forms an X with the church property in the narrow southern wedge. The structure is prominently situated on high ground with vistas over the village and surrounding farmland in all directions. The property is rural in its setting, composed of open lawns and mature shade trees. Access is gained by a short macadam and gravel drive extending from PA State Route 997 on the northeast corner of the property. The drive terminates in open lawn. A short concrete walkway leads from the lawn to the main entry of the church. The adjoining cemetery extends to the south of the church structure and is defined by a limestone wall. Mature shade trees are present in the unused southeast and southwest sections of the cemetery. A small garden shed is located on the edge of the west boundary, adjoining the northwest corner of the cemetery wall.

Architectural Description

Resting on a limestone foundation, the church faces east. The gabled front elevation is three bays wide with the central entry in a projecting bell tower. Set into the northeast corner of the foundation is the cornerstone, inscribed "Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church, A.D. 1871." The exterior walls retain their original ashlar siding. Corners are trimmed with pilasters and a horizontal band crosses the gable and the tower. A second horizontal band defines the upper level of the tower where the bell is housed. The pilasters rest on a molded base that forms the watertable. This creates a third horizontal band around the building. The upper bell tower features arched openings with louvered sides and an east-facing round window, framed by a diamond shaped tablet with carved decorations. Decorative scrolled brackets trim the eaves of the bell tower and gable end. The roofing material of the gable end is tin-plated iron, installed over the original wood shingle roof at an unknown date. The wood shingle roof remains in place and is visible from the underside in the attic. The hipped roof of the bell tower is covered with asphalt shingles. The main entry is in the projecting square bell tower. The entry consists of a two-leafed door, each leaf having eight panels, beneath a half-round fanlight. The door surround is embellished with 11 panels, mirroring the panels of the door. The front door lock is cast iron with ceramic knobs and a patent date of 1870. The door opens into a small vestibule with flanking arched windows.

The main section of the south elevation is formed by the four bay long church nave and features original decorative scrolled brackets, ashlar siding, pilasters, window sashes and shutters. A decorative horizontal band below the brackets intersects the upper molding of the round-arched windows. Five regularly spaced pilasters extend from the southeast corner to the southwest corner of the main block, resting on a molded base at the waterline. The four regularly spaced windows in the main block are round-arched with four over four light sash with arched upper panes. Pairs of original arched shutters flank the windows and retain their original hardware. A rear shed roof addition extends the south elevation westward by 11 feet, creating a parson's anteroom. The anteroom was added at an unknown date in the early 1900s by enclosing and expanding a small side entry to the altar area. The low-pitched roof is covered with tin-plate iron and sealed with tar. The anteroom features a segmental arched window with two over two light sash and smaller, less ornate brackets and pilasters. The ashlar siding and watertable are similar to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 7 Page 2

main block of the south elevation. Access to the anteroom is gained through a small four-panel door. Two seams are visible in the limestone foundation supporting the anteroom. The seams are aligned with the original southwest corner of the building and the rear wall of the altar projection.

Two shed-roofed projections extend from the rear gable end of the building. The original central projection forms the altar area with a rear-facing round-arched window in its west elevation, now holding a signed Tiffany stained glass panel installed in 1934. The shed roof of the altar is more steeply pitched than the anteroom and is covered in asphalt shingles similar to the bell tower. Its elevation features decorative brackets, pilasters, ashlar siding and watertable similar to the main block of the church. The gable end above and to the north side of the altar projection is also finished with original brackets, pilasters and siding. The anteroom projection is set adjacent to the altar in the southwest corner of the rear elevation. On its west elevation the anteroom has double segmental arched windows with two over two light sash and less ornate brackets and pilasters. The ashlar siding and watertable are similar to the main block of the church. A small brick chimney, laid in common bond, was added in 1916 with the installation of the furnace. It is free standing, rising along the exterior wall before piercing the gabled eaves.

The north elevation is similar to the south elevation in its architectural description and retains its original ashlar cladding, decorative scrolled brackets, pilasters, moldings, window sashes and shutters. A modern light fixture was installed under the eaves near the northeast corner in 2004 and a small narrow-board bulkhead door was added in 1916 to provide access to the furnace. The access door is located at the midpoint of the north elevation's limestone foundation below the watertable. Under the building a crawl space has been deepened to accommodate a furnace, installed in 1916 with an accompanying exterior brick chimney attached to the west elevation. Some of the floor joists visible from the cellar are hand hewn wall logs with fragments of hand-split lath remaining. They are believed to have been reused from the original 1774 log church that stood on the site until it was removed and replaced with the present building.

The interior of the church is in nearly original condition. Inside the vestibule a door leads to the north into a narrow choir room/library with a book rack along the interior wall, which is open to the nave. The outer doorway surround for this room retains an original mounting for a gaslight. Opposite this room on the south side is a steep, narrow stair leading to the attic and belfry. The third door opens into the nave. Interior doors have four panels with heavy molding. The interior is unadorned. Other than the arched upper panes, neither the windows nor walls contain any embellishments. The walls and ceiling are plaster over lath. Original wooden pews remain in place. Most of the flooring, with painted finish, is also original. Carpeting was installed in 2004 and now covers the wood floor of the vestibule, side and central aisles and altar. An organ console is located in the northwest front corner and a piano in the southwest corner. A central arched opening in the west wall marks the altar. Flanking sets of double steps lead up to the floor of this area, which has three arched openings. One opening is a small side entry door, which now leads to the anteroom, one is a window housing the Tiffany stained glass panel, and the third, facing north, is a window to the exterior. The interior walls and ceiling of the altar are plaster over lath. The interior walls and ceiling of the anteroom are covered with wallboard. A modern loft used for storage was added in 2004. The anteroom's floor is painted wood with a seam running north and south that corresponds to the seam in the limestone foundation on the south elevation and the rear wall of the altar projection.

The attic and belfry are accessed by a narrow, steep stairway. A modern exhaust fan and plywood partition were installed in 2004 at the head of the stairway. Access to the attic and belfry is gained through a plywood panel door in the partition. The attic and belfry are open and floored with wide wood planking. Within the attic, wood rafters with cross ties support open shingle lath and the original wood shingle roof. Heavy king's posts are set on a tie beam and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

support the rafters. Iron tie rods join a number of the rafters to a center tie beam. The rafters, cross ties and king's posts are a combination of hand hewn beams, believed to be reused from the original 1774 log church, and circular sawn beams. The cross ties are joined to the rafters by mortise and tenon joints and pinned with wood pegs. The walls of the belfry are built of upright posts, cross braces and the exposed underside of the exterior sheathing. A small freestanding ladder allows access to a third level of the belfry, which houses a cast copper alloy bell. The bell's cast iron support is marked McShane & Co. in raised lettering. The McShane bell foundry, Glen Burnie, MD, began casting bells in 1856 and continues in operation. The underside of the hipped belfry roof is comprised of continuous wood sheathing supported by a light framework joined at the roof's apex and supported by a small upright post.

A limestone-walled cemetery adjoins the church immediately to its south. The first interment is recorded as 1774, in association with the original log church, and the last interment occurred in 1991. The earliest legible grave marker is dated 1802. Access to the cemetery is gained through a modern wrought iron gate within the north wall. A larger opening pierces the south wall, allowing access for funerary and maintenance equipment. Removable wood rails close off the opening. Within the cemetery, burials are arranged in family plots forming 17 irregular rows, extending north to south. The burials are surrounded by open lawn without any defined pathways. Many of the earlier limestone markers have suffered damaged from neglect and/or dislodgement. Members of the ownership group, Friends of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church, have begun the process of recovering and recording the original grave markers.

In addition to the church and cemetery, a small frame garden shed is located near the southwest corner of the church building, abutting the northwest corner of the cemetery wall. The shed was built in 2004, replacing an earlier privy recorded on the May 8, 2000 survey. It houses a portable toilet and maintenance equipment. The shed is sided and roofed in corrugated aluminum and is considered a non contributing resource to the property.

The Kennedy Church retains a high level of architectural integrity to its 1871 date of construction. The church is situated in its original location on an elevated site prominent within the village of Welsh Run. The setting remains unchanged and continues to reflect the rural character of the agricultural community from the time of its construction. The church retains its original ashlar siding, scrolled brackets and pilasters. These decorative elements are distinctive characteristics that define the structure's Italianate style. Exterior trim, window sashes and shutters are original and remain intact. The original wood shingle roof remains in place beneath the present tin-plated iron roofing material. An anteroom was added at an unknown date in the early 1900s by enclosing a small side entry to the south of the altar projection. The exterior finish of the anteroom is similar to the original finish of the church, though the workmanship is not of equal quality. Interior flooring, woodwork, seating, plasterwork and hardware are original to the 1871 construction and remain intact. A contributing cemetery was established in 1774 on the church property and continues to be associated with former members of the now disbanded congregation and their families.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church is significant under National Register Criterion C, Consideration A. Constructed in 1871, the Kennedy Church is architecturally significant as a rare example of a light frame Italianate rural church. It is also a rare example of Italianate church architecture in Franklin County. The church retains distinctive decorative details characterizing the Italianate style, including ashlar siding, scrolled brackets, pilasters and a low-pitched hipped bell tower roof. The Kennedy Church also contains a signed Louis C. Tiffany stained glass panel, made at the Tiffany Studio in New York in 1934, the studio's final year of operation, and installed in the altar of the church that same year. The period of significance for the Kennedy Church corresponds to its date of construction in 1871.

History of the Lower West Conococheague Church

During the 1730s and 1740s, a number of Presbyterian Welsh and Scots-Irish families settled along Welsh Run, a tributary of the West Conococheague Creek in what is today south-central Franklin County, Pennsylvania. At the time of settlement, this area was part of Cumberland County. Prior to the establishment of Franklin County in 1784, Cumberland County encompassed all the Cumberland Valley from the Susquehanna River to the Maryland border and was first settled by Presbyterian Scots-Irish and Welsh during the 1730s. In 1741, the Welsh Run community established the Lower West Conococheague Presbyterian Congregation, an evangelical sect that broke away from the older Upper West Conococheague Church, located near Mercersburg at Church Hill. Welsh Run became one of at least four other Presbyterian churches, Rocky Spring (Letterkenny), Falling Spring (Chambersburg), Moss Run (Greencastle) and Church Hill, established in the lower Cumberland Valley during the period of settlement. The Welsh Run congregation built a log meeting house one mile north of the present village of Welsh Run along a well-established Indian trail on the West Conococheague. Rev. Dunlop served as the first itinerant preacher, followed by Rev. James Campbell eight years later. Prior to 1760, a raiding party of Western Lenape (Delaware) burned the meeting house, temporarily disbanding the congregation (M'Cauley 1878: 154-155).

The Lower West Conococheague Church reestablished itself and built a new log meeting house on the present church site in 1774. Later known as the "White Church" for the color of its weatherboard siding, the second meeting house featured a central high pulpit with an elaborately carved sounding-board and space in front for the long communion table and seats "having backs as high as the shoulders" (Diehl 1906).

The Rev. Thomas McPherrin served as the minister from 1774 to 1799. After a three year absence, the church was led by Rev. Robert Kennedy, who served from 1802 to 1816 and from 1825 to 1843, increasing the congregation to 65 members. Between Kennedy's first and second terms, the congregation was without a minister. Kennedy, for whom the present church is named, was known for his strong views on temperance and was one of the movement's first advocates in the region. Local tradition claims Kennedy forbade any alcohol to be present on his nearby farm property, making it nearly impossible for his family to find and keep farm workers (Craig 1871).

After Kennedy's death in 1843, the log church fell into disrepair and its congregation declined in number. In 1871 Kennedy's son Elias, now living in Philadelphia, donated \$2,300 to build a new church on the same site. The congregation renamed the church in honor of Elias' father. Elias also donated funds to build the Welsh Run Academy, a high school for girls run by the church (Diehl 1906). The Italianate academy building, located directly across PA Route 416 from the church site, features the same style of scrolled brackets and ashlar cut siding as used on the Kennedy Church. The academy is privately owned and currently used as a residential rental property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

In 1875, Rev. Joseph H. Fleming, D.D., became the first pastor for the new church and founder of the Welsh Run School for Girls. Under Fleming's leadership, the congregation grew to more than 70 members and supported both a Sunday church service and a Sunday school with a library for children and young adults (Diehl 1906).

After Fleming retired in 1891, the church was served for the next 58 years by the Revs. William West, Roland Crist, William Pfoutz, John Diehl, George Rentz, Edward Snook, Lawrence Guthrie and W.W. Dinsmore (Dinsmore 1941). The congregation purchased a new pump organ in 1916, which continues in use to this day. In 1933, Sophie Fleming commissioned Tiffany Studio, New York, to create a stained glass window in memory of her father, Joseph, mother, Margaret, and sister, Tacy. The window, signed Louis C. Tiffany, was installed in the rear of the altar in 1934 and remains in its original placement.

With the end of World War II, the congregation again went into decline resulting in the dissolution of the church in 1962. In 1974, the Carlisle Presbytery took over the property and 30 years later donated the church building, cemetery and 1.666 acres to the Friends of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church, a local nonprofit corporation, organized to maintain and preserve the church building and cemetery. Today, the friends group and other local organizations use the building and grounds for public functions and social events.

The Kennedy Church serves as the dominant architectural feature and community center of the small crossroads village of Welsh Run. Though the Welsh Run area was first settled in the 1730s by Welsh and Scots-Irish immigrants, the earliest surviving structures are Federal style farm houses of limestone and brick, dating to the early to mid 1800s. Other historic resources include Late Gothic Revival and Queen Anne style light frame weatherboard residences. The village setting retains much of its late 1800s appearance, with the Kennedy Church prominent as the community's anchor building.

History of Italianate style architecture in Franklin County

Italianate structures first begin to appear in Franklin County in the county seat, and largest borough, of Chambersburg at the end of the Civil War. Chambersburg was the site of the first settlement in Franklin County, established by Benjamin Chambers in 1730 at the confluence of the Conococheague and Falling Spring. The settlement became known as Fort Chambers, then Chamberstown and finally Chambersburg. When Franklin County was established in 1784, Chambersburg became the county seat. On July 30, 1864 Confederate forces under the command of General John A. McCausland and by order of General Jubal A. Early burned the town center, comprising all or parts of 11 blocks and destroying 537 structures. In the rapid rebuilding that followed the fire, Italianate three story brick commercial/residential and office buildings became the most common architectural form and currently dominate the streetscape in a four block section stretching north and south of the town square (diamond). Many of these buildings feature contiguous Italianate cornices and ornate molded doorways as seen in the first block north of the square known as Townhouse Row. In Chambersburg's historic district, 84 Italianate buildings are listed as contributing resources with construction occurring between 1864 and 1870 (Schein and Hearne 1980-81).

In southeastern Franklin County, the Borough of Waynesboro was first settled in the 1760s and incorporated in 1797. Its main period of growth corresponds to the development of manufacturing in the area from the mid 1800s to 1910, led by the establishment of Frick, Geiser, Landis Tool and Landis Machine Companies. Waynesboro also underwent a building resurgence after the Civil War. As with Chambersburg, Italianate brick three story

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

commercial/residential buildings became a favored building style in Waynesboro within a four block section extending east and west from the town square along Main Street. Italianate bracketed cornices and decorative window hoods were also combined with other architectural styles as expressed in the Greek Revival Mt. Airy-Geiser House (1868) and the Second Empire Bonebrake-Harbaugh Building (1882-86). Waynesboro's oldest standing structure, the Central Hotel, is located on the northeast corner of the town square. Originally built in 1798 as a two story Federal styled limestone hotel/residence, it was later altered and expanded in 1880 to an Italianate three story brick hotel/residence featuring decorative window hoods, bracketed cornices and a low-pitched hipped roof. New construction along Main Street during the 1870s also favored the Italianate style as seen in the framed Smith Building (1870), the brick Old Liquor Store (1870-80) and the brick Odd Fellows Hall (1873). The original weatherboarding of the Smith building was cut to resemble stone block in an ashlar treatment similar to the Kennedy Church (Smith 2000). In 2007, the original cladding was removed by the owner and replaced with vinyl siding.

A third area of Franklin County influenced by the Italianate style was Greencastle. The borough, established in 1782, is located in the south central part of the county at the intersection of two major roadways, what was then the east-west Baltimore Pike, now PA Route 16, and the Great Valley Trail, now US 11. With the introduction of the Cumberland Valley Railroad in 1840 and its extension to Hagerstown, Maryland in 1860, Greencastle developed as a transportation, tavern/hotel and manufacturing center. Mirroring the expansion of Chambersburg and Waynesboro, the borough underwent a building surge after the Civil War that lasted through the late 1800s. Three story brick Italianate and later Second Empire public and commercial/residential buildings began to dominate the commercial district. The Italianate Town Hall was built in 1871 on the first block east of the town square followed by the First National Bank, the Hans Hotel and the Adams House (Franklin Hotel) in the later 1870s. The Bank building and Hans Hotel are anchor buildings on the town square and the Adams House is located in the first block north of the square (Reed 1992).

A fourth area of Franklin County influenced by the Italianate style, though on a much smaller scale, was Mercersburg. The borough is situated in the southwest corner of the county on the eastern flank of the Tuscarora Mountains. First settled in 1730s, Mercersburg is named for the Scots Hugh Mercer, a local physician and militiaman during the period of the French and Indian War. Mercer was the first physician (and veterinarian) in Franklin County, a commissioned captain in the provincial militia and a veteran of the Forbes campaign against Fort Duquesne (1758) and the Battle of Princeton against the British, where he was killed in 1777. Mercersburg's historic district features a predominance of early Federal and Greek Revival construction. Italianate influences appear as expansions and alterations to pre-existing structures, most notably the Buchanan Hotel and the Mansion House on Main Street (Reed 1978).

An architectural survey of the more rural Quincy and Washington Townships in southeastern Franklin County by the Waynesboro Historical Society in 1995-96 (Smith 2000) identified only two Italianate structures, the two story brick Andrew Hotel in the village of Quincy on PA Route 997 and the brick Jacob Miller Farmhouse west of Waynesboro on Marsh Road. The Andrew Hotel was constructed in 1870 on a north-south transportation artery linking Hagerstown to Harrisburg. The Miller Farmhouse was constructed from 1862 to 1873 and combines Italian Villa and Italianate styles.

Italianate architectural forms found expression in Franklin County during a 22 year span from 1864 to 1886. The greatest concentration occurred from the end of the Civil War through the mid 1870s and was limited to the three largest population centers of Chambersburg, Waynesboro and Greencastle and, to a much lesser degree, Mercersburg. With two known exceptions, the Italianate style never gained popularity in the more rural areas of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 8 Page 4

county, a reflection of the building traditions associated with the county's agricultural community and its majority Pennsylvania German culture.

History of Church Architecture in Franklin County

The history of church architecture in Franklin County follows a general trend with the earliest churches and meeting houses built of log as small, rectangular single story, one room structures followed by larger replacement brick or limestone churches. The first recorded church, Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church, was established in 1733 on the southern edge of Letterkenny Township adjacent to the present-day Letterkenny Army depot. Rocky Spring was followed by Falling Spring near Fort Chambers in 1734, Upper Conococheague Presbyterian Church at Church Hill in 1736, the East Conococheague Congregation of Presbyterians at Moss Spring (Greencastle) in 1738 and the Lower Conococheague Presbyterian Church at Welsh Run in 1741. Rocky Spring replaced its log building with a substantially larger brick Georgian style church in 1794, which is now the oldest surviving church in Franklin County. Falling Spring replaced its log church in 1803 with a vernacular brick structure on Main Street in Chambersburg, which was later modified with a Romanesque facade in the 1880s. The Upper Conococheague congregation relocated to Mercersburg in the 1790s and built a Georgian/Federal style limestone church. The church was damaged by fire and rebuilt in 1885. Moss Spring eventually relocated less than a mile west to Greencastle and evolved into the Greencastle Presbyterian Church with its current brick Romanesque/Gothic Revival church built circa 1880. The Lower Conococheague congregation's first log church was destroyed by a Western Lenape raiding party in the 1750s and rebuilt in the village of Welsh Run in 1774 as its second log church. The church remained standing until 1871 when it was replaced by the current Italianate Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church. In Guilford Township at the intersection of PA Route 997 and Grindstone Hill, the Solomon Lutheran Church began as a log union church in 1776, serving both the local German Lutheran and Brethren congregations. The log church was later replaced by a vernacular brick church in 1833. The original core of the church is extant, though now enveloped by a series of additions and expansions (Reed 1992, 1993, 2001).

In southeastern Franklin County, the log Salem German Reformed Church was established in 1785 and served as the first house of worship in the Waynesboro area. In 1842 a rectangular vernacular limestone church replaced the original log building and was later enlarged in 1887 to a Gothic Revival style. The Antietam Congregation of the Brethren was organized in Washington Township in the early 1800s and built a single story brick vernacular Amsterdam Meeting House in 1868. The congregation moved to Quincy Township in the 1880s and took over a rectangular limestone church. This structure was replaced by a brick vernacular church in 1890, an enlarged version of the Amsterdam Meeting House (Smith 2000).

In the county seat of Chambersburg in central Franklin County, the brick Federal style Zion Reformed Church was completed in 1813 and expanded in 1883. The brick and stucco Greek Revival Masonic Temple dates to 1823-24. In Mercersburg, the massive brick Greek Revival United Church of Christ dates to the mid 1800s. On the campus of Penn State Mont Alto in Mont Alto, the small, rectangular Gothic Revival Episcopal Emmanuel Chapel was built in 1854 of native stone and served the workforce of the Mont Alto Iron Works. The chapel is noteworthy for its steeply pitched roofline. In Guilford Township, the brick Gothic Revival Fetterhoff United Methodist Church, formerly the Zion United Brethren Church, was built in 1889. Its original core is extant, though obscured by recent additions (Schein and Hearne 1980-81, Smith 2000, Reed 2001).

Waynesboro area's church architecture is dominated by Late Gothic Revival brick structures, as expressed in the Harbaugh Reformed Church, 1892, Christ United Methodist Church, 1900-01, Church of the Brethren, 1903, and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 5

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Faith United Methodist Church, 1914. Other Waynesboro churches of note are a Richardsonian Romanesque brownstone, Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1905, and a Tudor Revival stucco and light frame, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1914. With the exception of St. Mary's, these churches are second generation buildings for their congregations, replacing earlier log or brick vernacular structures (Smith 2000).

In the far southeastern corner of Franklin County, the village of Blue Ridge Summit developed as a summer resort when the Western Maryland Railroad extended its excursion line in 1873, linking the mountaintop community to Baltimore and Washington, D.C. The Queen Anne Hawley Presbyterian Church was built in 1888, followed by the Shingle style Church of the Transfiguration in 1892, the Tudor Revival Robert Rennard Memorial Chapel in 1900 and the Tudor Revival Parish House/Church of the Transfiguration in 1909. In the nearby village of Beartown, the Shingle style Calvary Church was built in 1906. The chapel is also noteworthy for its Tiffany Studio semi-circular stained glass panel, installed above the altar in 1911 (Sturtevant and Berman 1975, Smith 2000).

The Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church, built in 1871, is significant as a rare example of Italianate architecture in rural Franklin County. It is one of three known examples and the sole example of light frame Italianate construction. The church is also significant as a rare example of Italianate church architecture in Franklin County. It is the single known example of a church built in the Italianate style. Other contemporary county churches constructed in the two decades after the Civil War were built predominately of brick as plain vernacular or more elaborate Late Gothic Revival structures. In the late 1880s and through the 1890s, light frame Queen Anne and Shingle style churches began to appear in the resort area of Blue Ridge Summit.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Craig, Thomas

1871 "Dedicatory Services of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church of Welsh Run, Pennsylvania on September 30th, 1871," Henry B. Ashmed, Philadelphia, pamphlet, on file Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

Diehl, Frederick

1906 "An Address: 165 years of Welsh Run Presbyterianism, delivered on the 35th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Church," pamphlet, on file Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, PA.

Dinsmore, W. W.

1941 "Two Hundreth Anniversary, The Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church Welsh Run, Pennsylvania, 1741 to 1941," pamphlet, on file Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia.

Franklin County Land Records, Franklin Co. Courthouse, Chambersburg, PA.

M'Cauley, I. H.

1878 Historical Sketch of Franklin County, Pennsylvania. John M. Pomeroy, Chambersburg, PA.

Reed, Paula Stoner

2001 "Architectural Description Kennedy Memorial Church Welsh Run, PA," ms on file, Conococheague Institute, Mercersburg, PA.

Smith, James M. (editor)

2000 South Mountain to Blue Ridge Summit: Architectural History of the Antietam Watershed, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Waynesboro Historical Society, Waynesboro, PA.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Forms:

Reed, Paula S.

1978 Mercersburg Historic District

1992 Greencastle Historic District

1993 Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church

2001 Harbaugh Reformed Church

Schein, John R. Jr. and Ray C. Hearne

1980-81 Chambersburg Historic District

Sturtevant, Albert D. (Mrs.), David M. Berman

1975 Monterey Historic District

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Name of Property Robert Kennedy
Memorial Presbyterian Church
Name of County, Franklin, PA

Section 10 Page 1

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church is shown on the accompanying map entitled, "Resurvey of the Lands of the Trustees of the Presbytery of Carlisle at the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church." Scale: 1" = 50'

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the Robert Kennedy Memorial Presbyterian Church.