

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Benjamin Godfrey Memorial Chapel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Godfrey Road (Illinois Route 67 at Tolle Lane) 20 and 23

CITY, TOWN

Godfrey

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Illinois

VICINITY OF

CODE
012

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lewis and Clark Community College District No. 536

STREET & NUMBER

5800 Godfrey Road

CITY, TOWN

Godfrey

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois 62035

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lewis and Clark Community College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

- Historic American Buildings Survey
- Illinois Historic Landmarke Survey - Interim Report: Madison County

DATE

1. 1934 2. May 1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

2. Illinois Department of Conservation (405 E. Washington)

CITY, TOWN

2. Springfield

STATE

2. Illinois

7 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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Benjamin Godfrey Memorial Chapel is a one story white frame over stone foundation and full basement church building with an area of 4,367 square feet per floor, for a total gross floor area of 8,734 square feet.

The Doric Hexastyle temple on "raised platform" in the Greek Revival style is designed in combination with an essentially Gothic spire. On the entrance facade, a simple low triangular gabled pediment rests on an entablature which in turn is supported by six simple Doric columns. The fluted wooden column shafts rest directly on the porch or "platform" floor. The stone basement walls extend forward beneath and beyond the porch to form the "raised platform" into which the seven wooden steps are set.

The center entrance has eight foot tall double doors beneath a five foot "transom" space which is sheltered by an ornamental cap. Originally the church was an approximately 90 by 40 foot structure. All pilasters on the corners of the original building are still extant. A 30 by 40 foot addition has been attached to the rear where pilasters appear at all corners. This forms the back of the chapel which has "return cornices", but no door or window openings. On the north and south facades of this addition are door openings and two high round windows. The basement story here is over twice as high above grade as that of the front of the original building. At the rear, only the corners of the basement story are stone; the rest is concrete.

Seven windows (16 over 16 lights) punctuate the north and south facades of the original structure with basement windows directly below them. The windows are strongly vertical in design (16 by 4 feet) with lintels rising to a slight point in the center. At present the upper halves of the windows are covered with closed shutters. The lower portion of the seventh window on each side of the church has been converted into an entrance reached by an exterior stairway. In all, there are four entrances to the church on the south side (two to the basement and two to the upper story) and two entrances on the north (one to the basement and one to the principal story).

The bell was cast in Troy, New York in 1857.

In 1939, \$25,000 was expended in a year-long restoration program.

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 checked="" 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 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 1854 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Only mention of a possible architect is an 1854 record mention-

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ing "the partial completion of a church under contract to W.H.Howell." (H.A.B.S.)

The Benjamin Godfrey Memorial Chapel has a great amount of educational and religious significance as it was part of an educational concept introduced by Captain Benjamin Godfrey in the higher education of Women. Godfrey's philosophy of "Educate a woman and you educate a family" was the basis for the founding of the Seminary in 1835, at a time when education of women was considered by most to be relatively unimportant, and in a part of the country which was extremely sparsely settled and isolated. During the 133 years from the first commencement in 1838 until the last in 1971, the Chapel touched the lives of thousands of young women from all 50 states and over twenty foreign countries.

In 1839, a small group of community leaders led by Rev. Theron Baldwin, then Principal of Monticello Female Seminary, formed the Church of Christ, a non-denominational church composed of Presbyterians, Dutch Reformed and Congregationalists. After construction of the Chapel in 1854, it was used by this congregation for all religious services.

In addition, throughout the history of Monticello Female Seminary and Monticello College, until its closing in 1971, the Chapel was at various times the site of daily Chapel services, Sunday Vesper services, as well as student drama productions, convocations, baccalaureate and commencement exercises, and other social and cultural events such as concerts and lectures. The church provided a religious umbrella under which students, teachers and community members of varying faiths in a sparsely-settled part of the country could find spiritual comfort.

Documented in H.A.B.S., the Godfrey Chapel has been termed one of the six most authentic copies of New England Church architecture beyond the north-eastern United States. (Early American Eastern seaboard architecture simplified the seventeenth and eighteenth century English architectural designs of Wren and Gibbs.)

A detailed study of the building was made for the Department of Conservation by Paul Sprague in 1977. His report, currently on file with that Department, states that "compared to other surviving Greek Revival churches in Illinois, the building certainly stands on its own. There is nothing like it in the State. It is one of Illinois' impressive Civil War structures.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Early History of Monticello Seminary," a paper read by Miss Harriet Congdon, Principal of Monticello Seminary, found in the Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society for the year 1924, pp. 58-63.

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C			
E			
G			

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D			
F			
H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orville E. Brown, Director of Public Relations

October 11, 1973

ORGANIZATION

Lewis and Clark Community College

DATE

466-3411, Ext. 228

STREET & NUMBER

5800 Godfrey Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Godfrey

STATE

Illinois 62035

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 4

One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1839-1964, a short history of the Godfrey Congregational Church, by the Anniversary Committee, Dorothy Jackson Nicolet, Co-Chairman, et al.

Records of the Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Monticello Female Seminary, Monticello Seminary, and Monticello College, consulted at the Monticello College Foundation, Godfrey, Illinois.

Three volumes of Church Records, now in the State Historical Library, the basement of the Old Capital Building, in Springfield. Volume One covers the years 1839-1855 and 1867-1888. Volume Two takes up the years 1855-1867. Volume Three from 1889-1909.

History of the Presbyterian Church in the State of Illinois, A. T. Norton, St. Louis, 1879.

"Origin and Early History of Monticello Female Seminary," a dissertation presented to Washington University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, by Dr. Homer Floyd Young, 1951. Dr. Paul Cooke last talked with Dr. Young about the church and his history in Chicago in March, 1975.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ILLINOIS

STATE

Date Entered MAY 10 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Godfrey, Benjamin, Memorial Chapel	Godfrey Madison County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Paul Findley

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.