

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 an 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

historic name McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number South side Bainbridge Road, 1/2 mile W. of I-55 [N/A] not for publication

city or town Jackson [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Cape Girardeau code 031 zip code 63755

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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).

Mark A. Miles 12/30/05
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/ Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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 the 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

McKendree Chapel (boundary increase)
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, MO
County and State

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Funerary: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Cemetery

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other limestone

sandstone

granite

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

McKendree Chapel (boundary increase)
Name of Property

Cape Girardeau County, MO
County and State

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.
- 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:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1821-1890

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Buildings Survey # _____
- 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: _____

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Section number 7 Page 1

McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Summary:

The McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase) consists of a 2.32 acre parcel of land located on the south side of Bainbridge Road approximately eight miles north of Cape Girardeau and three miles east of Jackson in Cape Girardeau County. The acreage includes a 2.32 acre cemetery and an 0.19 acre access road connecting the McKendree Cemetery to the National Register listed McKendree Chapel (NR 4/14/87) to the north. The cemetery land was part of a Spanish land grant given in 1799 by Commander Louis Lorimier to William Williams, one of Jackson's earliest recorded settlers. William Williams set aside the land for use as a cemetery in 1819, the same year the small congregation of Methodists constructed the chapel. The first recorded interment was in 1821, and since then approximately 300 burials have occurred. The cemetery sits atop of a hill facing east and is connected to Bainbridge Road by a narrow private gravel lane lined with elm, oak and hickory trees. The property is generally flat with a well-groomed grassy lawn. The narrow strip of land that connects the cemetery to the chapel property is well maintained with a gravel lane that leads to the Chapel. Farm fields and thick woods surround the property, conveying a sense of the cemetery's historic period. McKendree Cemetery retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic use as an early settlement cemetery in Cape Girardeau County. It is a record of the families that resided in the area who contributed to the growth of the Methodist congregation and the surrounding region.

Elaboration:

McKendree Cemetery is named for its association with McKendree Chapel (NR 4/14/87) that sits across Bainbridge Road to the north. A small metal sign marks the location of the entrance. An uneven dirt and gravel lane approximately 18 feet wide and 600 feet long runs along the north side of the cemetery providing access onto the property from Bainbridge Road and abruptly stops at the west side property line with no turn around available. (See Photo 1) In 1928, an indenture was made by the Trustees of the McKendree Chapel to purchase from the Smith family a strip of ground thirty-feet wide which began at Bainbridge road and ran to the west side of the Chapel property. Again in 1998, the trustees obtained the .19 acre parcel that was between the east property line of the cemetery and Bainbridge road thus rejoining the cemetery property and the McKendree Chapel property. (See Survey Map) Facing east and southeast, the cemetery lies upon the highest rolling hill of the property overlooking a small farmstead and Bainbridge Road. (See Photo 2) Williams Creek runs east of the cemetery along the property line of the chapel. (See Topo Map) Hickory, oak and elm trees heavily surround the outskirts of the cemetery on the north and west sides contributing to the peaceful, rural setting.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Amid the different markers are limestone, sandstone, marble, and granite monuments placed in fairly regular rows and grouped by families. The older markers consist of obelisks, square columns, and granite or sandstone tablets. Several have symbolic carvings like the lamb for innocence, a dove for peace and clasping hands for farewell and welcoming. (See Photo 3, 4) Some of the oldest markers are simple fieldstones with hand scratched inscriptions that are in excellent condition and reflect the rural settlement period.

Those buried in the cemetery are primarily family members of the early settlers of the area and partitioners of the McKendree Chapel. There are also two veterans buried in McKendree Cemetery who died as a result of war. R. W. Campbell Co. K 29th MO Infantry was taken prisoner at Chickasau Bayou during the Civil War and never returned home.¹ Fred Guy Smith died October 24, 1918 in World War I. (See Photo 5) He was in Shipwright Co. J. 13 Reg U.S.M.R.F.²

Generations of families were buried in generalized locations throughout the cemetery. Newer marble stones denote family members buried later and are located primarily on the east and west ends of the cemetery with the oldest markers in the center. The newer stones reflect changing funerary art and do not significantly impact the historic integrity of the cemetery. Most of the stone markers are in excellent condition and reflect the unique craftsmanship and design of the period of historical significance 1821-1890. The rural setting, complete with farms and fields in the valleys below and thick woods lining the west and north sides, provides a secluded, peaceful setting that conveys the cemetery's historical character.

The cemetery was used as a family cemetery for William Williams and his family who were deeply dedicated to the Methodist faith and church outpost in Cape Girardeau County. In 1799, he acquired the property from Louis Lorimier through a Spanish land grant.³ In 1819, he donated land east of the cemetery for the Methodist congregation and McKendree Chapel. The cemetery was also used for members of the Methodist congregation and local community members. The oldest legible headstone in the cemetery is a young boy, William Hooser, who died at age 11 years, 9 days in 1821. (See Figure 2) Local tradition states that he became ill and died during the 1821 camp meeting of the Methodist congregation thus becoming the first interment of the

¹ *Hearts of Blue and Gray - Citizens of Cape Girardeau County in the Civil War*. Cape Girardeau County Genealogical Society, No Date.

² *World War I Service Personnel of Cape Girardeau County*. Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, 1998.

³ A record of the land transaction can be found at the Missouri State Archives, "Spanish Land Grant to William Williams, 15 December 1799," Microfilm F390, Book A, pg. 176.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

McKendree Cemetery. Families came from many states to attend these annual meetings and occasionally tragedy would strike. Young William died on October 21, 1821 approximately three weeks before the recorded date of the annual camp meeting. There is no traceable record of his family in any local census data or guardianship documents thus contributing to local belief. Church members credit his death as the beginning of the McKendree Cemetery. There are over 300 persons buried in the McKendree Cemetery with the last burial recorded in 1970.

McKendree Cemetery continues to retain a high degree of integrity and upholds its rural setting and location. It also strongly possesses the original feeling and association of the historic period of significance. The property is well maintained by the Trustees of McKendree Chapel. The cemetery is the site of some of the earliest members of the first Methodist church in this area and is representative of some of the initial settlers of Cape Girardeau County and the influential men who contributed to the growth of Jackson, MO. It has withstood against time and nature and continues to be a testament to this early settlement period and the families who settled there.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

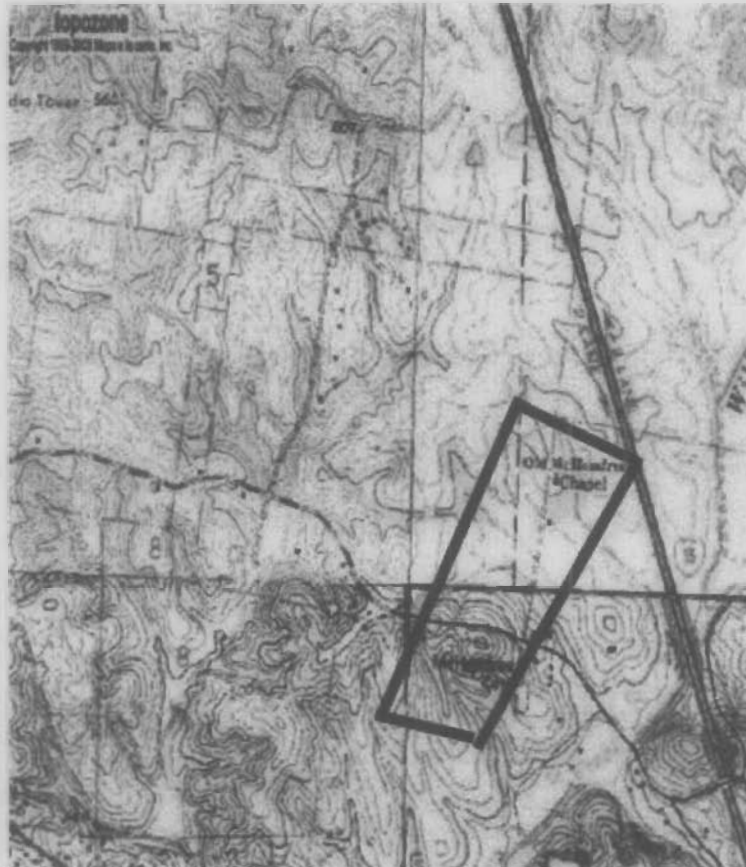


Figure 1: Location Map showing McKendree Chapel and Cemetery

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Cape Girardeau County, MO



Figure 2: Hand carved stone for William Hooser, first person to be buried in McKendree Cemetery.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

SUMMARY:

The McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase) on Bainbridge Road, three miles west of Jackson, Cape Girardeau County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement. It also addresses the requirements of Criterion Consideration A and C as a religious owned property and cemetery that is primarily significant for its association with early settlement and community development in the county rather than its religious or memorial purpose. The cemetery is closely associated with McKendree Chapel and the William Williams family who donated property for use as a Methodist "camp meeting" site in 1806 and set aside two acres as a cemetery in 1819. The National Register listed McKendree Chapel dates from the same year the cemetery was established. The cemetery is an excellent local example of an early settlement period family and church graveyard, and is unique because of its association with the earliest extant protestant church building in the state. The period of significance is 1821 to 1890, the date of the first recorded interment through the date McKendree discontinued regular services.

Historical Background and Significance:

In 1790, territory in Cape Girardeau County was a frontier just beginning to develop. French explorers were among the first Europeans to encounter the wild land west of the Mississippi River which was rich in resources but inhabited by tribes of Indians and full of swamplands. The first permanent white settlement in Missouri, Ste. Genevieve, wasn't established until about 1750 and St. Louis in 1764.

In 1762 by the Treaty of Fontaine Bleau, France ceded Louisiana territory to Spain. At that time, Spain established five districts in what is now Missouri: St. Charles, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Cape Girardeau, and New Madrid.⁴ For each district a commandant or governor was assigned to control and manage dealings for their territory. Louis Lorimier, a French Canadian was the appointed commandant for the Cape Girardeau district. The Spanish sought to build a "buffer colony" to help protect their empire in North America. They found it much easier to colonize the territory by attracting American settlers and emigrants with large land grants.⁵

⁴ William Foley. *A History of Missouri. Volume, I 1673-1920.* Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press, 1971: pgs 16, 180-182.

⁵ Joel Rhodes, Assistant Professor of Department of History, Southeast Missouri State University. Oral Interview. Cape Girardeau, Missouri, June 22, 2004.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Lorimier had the land surveyed into tracts that were carefully described and numbered. Anyone desiring to settle in a territory had to gain permission in writing from the Spanish Lieutenant Governor who then would issue the land grant. William Williams obtained such a land grant on December 15, 1799 which contained approximately 212 acres in Cape Girardeau County.⁶ He and his wife Elizabeth, originally from Kentucky, were among the first pioneers to arrive in this area and contributed greatly to its development and growth.

Other pioneer families came from Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina and became a part of the settlement around the Williams farm or developed nearby settlements which contributed to the growth of the area and the town of Jackson. Each of these families and the settlements they organized all played intricate roles in the development of the Cape Girardeau District. Their contributions and diverse talents changed a dense frontier into a thriving community.⁷ The Samuel Randol family arrived in 1797 from Pennsylvania and settled along what is now known as Randol Creek.⁸ His family became prominent farmers and deeply involved with politics. Abraham Byrd, one of the first assessors, came from North Carolina with his four sons and wife. His son, John, built the first stillhouse, cotton gin, and blacksmith shop in the Cape Girardeau District. William Russell traveled with the Byrd family to the Cape Girardeau District and taught the first school in the Byrd settlement. James Brooks, an early surveyor for the Cape Girardeau District and his family were also a part of the Williams settlement.

The Cape Girardeau district began to fill up with settlers primarily self-sufficient farmers who exported their agricultural goods to New Orleans. The site for the town of Jackson was about three miles west of the Williams settlement and many of the settlers had a great deal of influence on the town's creation. They were active in politics, business and agriculture contributing to the economic and political success of the town. (Survey Map 1870 by James Brooks)

Early settlers openly established social and religious groups after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Protestant religious freedoms had been tolerated under the French and Spanish control but not recognized. After the Louisiana Purchase, protestant missionaries moved into the territory to organize new congregations. Methodists were some of the earliest to begin work in Missouri, organizing a camp meeting at Coldwater Creek north of St. Louis in 1805.⁹ Another organized congregation in this area was

⁶ "Spanish Land Grant to William Williams, 15 December 1799," Microfilm F390, Book A, pg. 176.

⁷ "History of Cape Girardeau County." Taken from: *Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri*, Volume I. Edited by Howard L. Conrad. (1901) pp 485-489.

⁸ Houck, Louis, *A History of Missouri. Volume II*, Chicago: Donnelley & Sons Co. 1908.

⁹ Ibid. Foley.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

formed between 1806-1809 by William Williams, John Randol, Isaiah and Simon Poe, Thomas Blair, and Charnal Glasscock. The historical tradition of what would become known as McKendree Cemetery, is that the first camp meeting actually took place in 1806 on the Williams farm and on the site of the present McKendree Methodist Chapel. (See Survey 202 & 213) The first written record of a camp meeting of this congregation was on Good Friday, 1810; however, there was mention of a group of Methodists in the Williams settlement area in letters by Rev. Joseph Oglesby dated 1806. Olgelsby, a pioneer Methodist preacher, apparently encountered them when he preached at the Murphy settlement in Farmington in 1805.¹⁰

Acting upon the information of Rev. Olgelsby regarding a group of fellow Methodists, the Western Conference appointed John Travis to form the Missouri Circuit in 1806 that would include all of the settlements along the west banks of the Mississippi River.¹¹ By 1819, the Cape Girardeau Circuit had a range from Grand Tower along the east bank of the Mississippi River to the Big Swamp, four miles below the town of Cape Girardeau; south by the Big Swamp to the Current River; west into Butler County and north to Fredricktown and Apple Creek requiring a six week journey to make the trip. The Western Methodist Conference held annual camp meetings in which pastors and members from surrounding areas would gather to report on their labors and renew their fellowship. The Williams campground held church meetings in the years of 1810, 1811, 1812, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1821, 1825, and 1831. The campground was a stronghold in the Methodist circuit and contributed to the westward frontier movement of Methodism.¹²

William Williams and his wife were devoted Methodists who sought to establish Methodism in the Cape Girardeau District.¹³ They were among the charter members of the McKendree Chapel and named one of their sons John Wesley. In 1818, Williams donated two acres of land on his farm for the congregation to build a new meetinghouse for worship. Many speculate that the name of the chapel was chosen to honor Bishop William McKendree, a towering figure in American Methodism who attended an annual camp meeting in 1818. He was an eloquent speaker, highly intelligent and traveled throughout the conference preaching endlessly to faithful congregations. Some members suggest that the meetinghouse at McKendree was erected based on his recommendation to build the structure to accommodate one of the strongest congregations in the region.

Completed in 1819, the McKendree Chapel is described by John Scripps, one of the

¹⁰ Tucker, Frank. *Old McKendree Chapel*. Cape Girardeau: Missouriian Litho and printing Co, 1959.

¹¹ Ibid. Foley.

¹² Ibid. Tucker.

¹³ Limbaugh, Rush. *Letter to Judge MaryBell Mueller pertaining to Old McKendree Chapel*. March, 1982.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

circuit pastors as, "a good, hewed log house, with a shingle roof and good plank floors. The first substantial meetinghouse built in Missouri on hallowed ground full of happy recollections."¹⁴ The property was described by Nelson B. Henry, whose father was pastor of the Methodist Circuit in 1834, as being "a most desirable site, covered with a fine grove of oak, maple, and poplar trees lifting their crowns above a high point of ground, at the base of which was a good spring." (See Photo 6)

The McKendree Chapel was the only Meeting House in the Circuit from 1819-1830, Cape Girardeau built their first Methodist church in the 1830s and Jackson Methodists built in the 1850s. The last regular service that was held in McKendree Chapel was in 1888 when most of the membership moved to Jackson. The structure still remains intact today, as the oldest extant protestant church in Missouri. It is maintained by the Old McKendree Chapel Trustees who are also responsible for the care of the McKendree cemetery. (See Photo 7)

Old McKendree Cemetery is associated with the oldest extant protestant church building in the area and the state. There are over 115 historic cemeteries that have been documented in the county. The majority of these rural burial grounds are primarily family and local community cemeteries customarily located on the highest part of a tract of land and generally the gravestones face east. Old McKendree Cemetery conforms to these early settlement patterns but unique because of its association with the oldest extant protestant church building in the state.¹⁵ Most of the earliest burials are of local church members and those who traveled to the annual camp meetings, William's family members, and neighbors. The oldest headstones are simple red granite stones or sandstone with hand sketched remembrances or drawings of lambs, praying hands, and roses. (See Photo 8)

Generations of families are buried together in the cemetery but the burial site of William Williams who died in 1836 cannot be found. Many of the headstones of his descendants are intact and eloquently carved. Other notable early settlers and many veterans from the Civil War, World War I and World War II are also buried there.¹⁶ The last burial took place in 1970. (See Photo 9) Newer granite and marble stones are within the boundaries of the cemetery but do not distract from the historic sense and feel. It is located on a serene hilltop overlooking a valley which contains Williams Creek and the Old McKendree Chapel sitting directly to the north of the cemetery.

¹⁴ *Old McKendree Chapel*, Pgs 27-28.

¹⁵ Gammon, Rev. William. *A Belated census of Earliest Settlers of Cape Girardeau County, Missouri*. Washington, D.C., 1958.

¹⁶ *World War I Service Personnel of Cape Girardeau County*, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, 1998.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Originally, the cemetery was associated with William Williams and originated on 212 acres of land that remained in the care of the Williams family until 1894 when the Trustees of McKendree Graveyard formed. Over the years, the land on which the chapel and cemetery sit was given to heirs of various families and much of the land sold. Since 1928 and through the efforts of the Trustees, the two properties once again were joined. Interestingly, it was also in 1928 that the restoration and preservation of the McKendree Chapel was undertaken in earnest. By purchasing and maintaining the cemetery even at this early date, the Trustees recognized its close association with the history and significance of the chapel. The Trustees have cared for and maintained the cemetery for nearly 100 years. In 1981, the Trustees for the Old McKendree Chapel filed for appointment over the graveyard so that the preservation of the cemetery could continue under the careful instruction of the McKendree Chapel Memorial Association.

It is not clear why the McKendree Cemetery was not nominated along with the chapel and grounds in 1987. The nomination states only that the "land and the adjoining cemetery, "not included in this application", are owned by the Missouri East Conference on [sic] the United Methodist Church."¹⁷ However, the two properties are tied not only by proximity but by close association with the settlement period of Cape Girardeau county and its early settlers. The cemetery, established on Williams land near the time that the McKendree Chapel was completed in 1819, is a good example of a settlement era cemetery associated with an original church building in Cape Girardeau County.

¹⁷ "McKendree Chapel, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 4/14/1987.

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Cape Girardeau County, MO

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"McKendree Chapel," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 4/14/1987.

"Spanish Land Grant to William Williams, 15 December 1799," Microfilm F390, Book A, pg. 176.

Tucker, Frank. *Old McKendree Chapel*. Missouriian Litho and printing Co., Cape Girardeau: 1959.

World War I Service Personnel of Cape Girardeau County. Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, 1998.

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

Rhodes, Dr. Joel, Assistant Professor of Department of History, Southeast Missouri State University, *Oral interview* Cape Girardeau, Missouri, June 22, 2004.

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McKendree Chapel (Boundary Increase)
Cape Girardeau County, MO

Boundary Description:

The boundary increase is as shown by a dark line on the attached scale survey map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the Old McKendree cemetery and a thirty foot strip of land that leads from the west boundary line of the chapel to and across Bainbridge Road and connecting to the cemetery property per Survey No. 324, Township 31 North, Range 13 East of the Fifth Principal Meridian in County of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The boundary also includes Survey 205, a square sized .19 acre of land that meets the west boundary line of Survey 324 and the east boundary of the 2.32 acres of land historically associated with the McKendree Cemetery.

Photographs:

The following is true for all photographs:

McKendree Chapel Boundary Increase
Cape Girardeau County, MO
Photographer: Melinda Winchester
Location of Negatives: Maintained by nomination preparer
Date: 6/2004

1. Sign at entrance road on Bainbridge Road, facing northeast.
2. View of cemetery on hilltop, facing northwest.
3. Memorial stone for child, with lamb and tree, facing north.
4. Memorial stones showing carvings facing northwest.
5. Tombstone of Fred Guy Smith, Veteran World War I, facing northwest.
6. Old McKendree Methodist Chapel. Facing Southeast.
7. Memorial stone at Old McKendree Methodist Chapel, facing east.
8. View of cemetery showing various markers, facing north.
9. Tombstone of William W. Williams, son of William Williams, facing west.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
DIVISION OF GEO

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Mckenzie
(Kearney, Iowa)

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