

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 2 1979
DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Stone Church

AND/OR COMMON

Old Stone Church

LOCATION

E of Ringgold off U.S 76/41

STREET & NUMBER North of Georgia Highway 2 (Catoosa Springs Road) at intersection with U.S. 76/41

CITY, TOWN
Ringgold

VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Ninth - Jenkins

STATE
Georgia

CODE
013

COUNTY
Catoosa

CODE
047

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Paul Bandy, Chairman, Board of Trustees of Old Stone Church

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2

CITY, TOWN

Ringgold

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30736

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Catoosa County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Ringgold

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Structures Field Survey: Catoosa County, Georgia

DATE

January, 1976

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

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 Stone Church is a small, rectangular sandstone structure built in 1852. The church is of simple design with a sheet-metal roof. The stone is laid in an irregular pattern, some small, thin stones being laid together to achieve the wall thickness of between one foot and one and one-half feet, and some large stones which have the entire thickness. The floor is supported by beams cut with a vertical saw, a process that was typical for the period. The church contains the original pews and altar, which show evidence of hand-planing, despite a covering of black paint.

Alterations to the building consist of sheet rock on the interior walls and temporary small rooms made across the back by using thin wood panels. The concrete front steps are also a fairly recent addition.

There is a cemetery behind the church on a grassy knoll. A dirt road circles the cemetery, which has graves marked by stones ranging from small ones on Civil War-era burials to large, free-standing monuments. There are also a few cast-iron fences surrounding some graves.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Constructed in 1852 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stone Church is significant in local history and the history of architecture and religion in Georgia. Locally, it is important as one of the first church bodies created in the newly opened territory of the 1830s and as the oldest church structure still in use in the county, as well as the site of activity during the Civil War. Architecturally, it is significant due to its sandstone construction, a type rarely seen in Georgia churches. Religiously, it is important as one of the few antebellum Presbyterian churches in Georgia, a state that in 1850, shortly before the construction of this edifice, was ninety percent Baptist and Methodist, with the majority of Presbyterian churches being in urban areas.

The Stone Church was organized as the Chickamauga Presbyterian Church on September 2, 1837, its organizational document reading in part:

We, whose names are here unto subscribed, being members of the Presbyterian Church, but having removed from our respective churches and settled in this vicinity where there is no organized church, desiring to enjoy the means of grace and the ordinances of the gospel as administered according to the Presbyterian form, do agree to associate ourselves together for the purpose of being regularly organized into a Presbyterian Church according to the principles and form laid down in the confession of faith.

The first meetings were held in a log schoolhouse approximately one-quarter of a mile south of the present structure and later in a small frame house north of the present structure. The present sandstone structure was erected starting in the summer of 1850. Stone was hauled by charter church member Robert Magill and his two brothers from a nearby quarry at White Oak Mountain. The building was completed in 1852 at a cost of \$1600, part of which was donated by the Rev. W.H. Johnston, who gave one year's salary.

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clark, W.H.H. History in Catoosa County (1972)
 McDaniel, Susie B. Official History of Catoosa County, Georgia, 1853-1953 (1953)
 Personal inspection, February, 1979, by Ed Trammell.
 Numerous newspaper clippings related to the history of the church.

[continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY app. 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Ringgold, Ga.-Tenn.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 6,7,5 7,0,0 3,8 6,4 1,5,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

As marked by a black line on the attached plat map recorded in Catoosa County, Ga., tax map for District 4, Map 17-31, Parcel 24, all the property currently owned by the trustees.

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 Description by Ed Trammell, student intern, Historic Preservation Section; Significance by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian, Historic Preservation Sec.

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Sec., Ga. DNR

DATE June 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington St., S.W.

TELEPHONE 404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta

STATE Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X 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

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/18/79

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

Carol D. Shull
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-29-79

ATTEST: *Christ A. Dubric*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11/26/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Stone Church, as far as records indicate, was the first church organized in what was then Walker County when it was opened for settlement during and after the Cherokee Indian Removal. Catoosa County was created out of Walker County on December 5, 1853.

During the Civil War, the advancing Federal soldiers headed toward Atlanta from Chattanooga and came to nearby Ringgold, Georgia. After the battle there, they turned east down what is now U.S. 41/76. Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick reported on May 2, 1864, that he met the Confederates one mile from "Stone Church" that morning and drove them to Tunnell Hill. The Confederates had twenty-one wounded, and the Federals, three. Tradition has always been that due to the church's substantial construction, it was used as a Confederate, as well as Union hospital. No church minutes are entered from November 2, 1863, through May 28, 1865. It was considered a "No-man's land between the two armies at Ringgold and Dalton" and was "unfit for services due to the war."

After the war, church services resumed and it remained a Presbyterian church. Its name was officially changed in 1912 to Stone Church, due to the Presbyterian church in Chickamauga, Georgia (begun in 1910), changing its name to Chickamauga Presbyterian Church.

After the Presbyterians ceased to use the building in 1921, it was purchased by the Methodists, who held services there. It went briefly into private hands before the present owners purchased it in 1937. It is leased to the Highland Park Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee. On the bulletin, it is called "Historic Old Stone Baptist Church".

Architecturally, the church is significant in the use of native sandstone to build a rural church (most others in Georgia were of frame or brick construction), and is similar to the depot at Ringgold, which also survived the Civil War. The use of sandstone was rare in Georgia, and thus the construction and survival of an antebellum sandstone church is quite unusual.

Religiously, the church is significant in being one of the few antebellum Presbyterian churches in Georgia, both in the establishment of a church body, as well as a church structure. In 1850, the U.S. census indicated

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FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

that Georgia had only ninety-seven Presbyterian churches, comprising only five percent of the churches in the state, with ninety percent being Baptist and Methodist.

The cemetery is included in this nomination, due to its being associated with the church since the beginning and is also owned by the present owners. The burials both marked and unmarked date from the 1840s and the earliest days of the county and the church.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Interviews with the Rev. Ray Melear of Ringgold, Ga., by telephone, 1979.

Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1861-65 (Plate XCVII, No. 1, shows march by the Stone Church).

Abbott, Nell S. Within Our Bounds, A History of Cherokee Presbytery, 1844-1974 (1975)

Telephone interview with Mr. Paul Bandy, July, 1979.

Records from The Historical Foundation of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches, Montreat, North Carolina, including minutes of the Cherokee Presbytery, session records of the Chickamauga (Old Stone Church) Presbyterian Church, and other miscellaneous items from their files.