

PHQ 362956

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED SEP 29 1976
DATE ENTERED

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 - The First Congregational Church of Lyons
AND/OR COMMON - The Old Stone Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Lyons, Colorado.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: High Street at 4th
CITY, TOWN: _____
STATE: _____ CODE: 08 COUNTY: Boulder CODE: 013
VICINITY OF: _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 42nd

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Membership of Old Stone Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
STREET & NUMBER: High Street at 4th
CITY, TOWN: Lyons STATE: Colorado
VICINITY OF: _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Boulder County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER: Pearl Street at 13th
CITY, TOWN: Boulder STATE: Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE: January, 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Colorado, 200 14th Avenue
CITY, TOWN: Denver STATE: Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Stone Church is a one and a half story sandstone structure laid out on a north-south axis. It measures 40 feet by 60 feet and opens south onto High Street in Lyons, Colorado; Fourth Street parallels the east wall of the church.

Its walls, which measure twenty inches thick, are of solid sandstone laid along a stone foundation. The blocks have been hand cut, squared, and laid in irregular, non-continuous courses. The rock faces are untooled and appear rustic.

Approaching the entranceway, one sees at the southeast corner near the base of the tower wall etched into one of the stones the inscription (First Cong'l Church 1894). Four hand cut stone steps that are flanked by trunkated stone railings lead to plain, recessed, eight-panel double doors. Over the doors rests a semi-circular arch of radiating stone voussoirs enclosing a wooden panel embossed with a circle design in low relief.

Walking around the building, one notices on the front that the stone lintils support a semi-circular configuration of radiating voussoirs set flush with the surrounding wall. Over the motiff is a smaller circle of voussoirs enclosing a louvered opening. Around the sides, large double hung stained glass windows highlighted with simple lintels and lugsills, regularly punctuate the sandstone walls with the exception of the back walls which is without lights.

Set into the southeast corner of the building is the forty-two foot tower having a fifteen feet square base. Several small stained glass windows and louvered openings decorate the south and east side of the tower walls which climb toward the belfry with its large louvered openings supported by a stringcourse running around all four sides. The cap-like hipped tower roof is brought to its climax with a sharp metal sword like finial which pierces the sky. Inside the belfry hangs the original bell.

The medium gable roof (41 degrees with the horizontal) runs from north to south with the ridge running about thirty-four feet above the ground. The raking trim with verges close brings the slope to a rather abrupt end in a very simple carved design. On the west side, a chimney stands out from the facade and climbs seven feet above the roof cove, culminating near the top with a stringcourse that echoes that encircling the tower.

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Stone Church (First Congregational Church), which is located in Lyons, Colorado, along the front range of the Rocky Mountains, is one of the oldest unaltered buildings in the town. It stands midst the townsite that was occupied by settlers emigrating to the area following the Civil War seeking new ground to farm and ranch. It was about 1880 that E.S. Lyon came to the St. Vrain Valley from Connecticut and at the junction of North and South St. Vrain Creeks purchased 160 acres which included the townsite and parts of the beautiful natural sandstone formation from which the stone to build the church was quarried.

The organization that was to build the church was organized on March 8, 1889 under the direction of Reverend H. E. Thayer of the First Congregational Church of Longmont. Reverend Henry Harris of Lyons was largely responsible for getting the church building project started in 1894. Construction began on April 16, 1894 with many Congregationalists contributing time, money, materials, and labor. Reverend Harris labored in the quarries alongside the stone workers who selected the stone and carved it from the mother rock.

The sandstone itself is a rather celebrated building material that has been used throughout Colorado and some of the plains states to construct stately residences and public buildings. Formed during the paleozoic era, some two hundred and twenty feet of fine to medium grained sediments making the Lyons sandstone formation which was later covered over with thousands of feet of deposits that gradually eroded away. Coupled with a later uplift, the sandstone again saw the light of day to become one of the significant natural building materials of the architect's art as expressed in the stone church.

Because much of the work was accomplished by the stone cutters who had come to Lyons to work in the quarries, the cutting and fitting is exceptionally well executed. Motifs and highlights are subtly integrated into the overall design to quietly accent the otherwise simple form which does not overpower the purity of the building stone itself.

From the time of its completion on September 23, 1895 until over a decade later when a Methodist Church was built, it served as the only church in the community. Just after the turn of the century, the pipe organ that presently praises God and inspires the congregation was installed. Tied to the hills beyond, from which it was built, the small sandstone church benefits the town both as a community landmark and a place to worship that has little changed over its many years of service.

