

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **NOV 3 1980**
date entered **DEC 3 1980**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 411 "L" Street ___ not for publication

city, town Neligh ___ vicinity of congressional district Third

state Nebraska code 31 county Antelope code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational ___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
		___ no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name The Right Reverend James Warner, Bishop of Nebraska, and

street & number Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, 200 North 62nd Street

city, town Omaha ___ vicinity of state Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Antelope County Courthouse

street & number 102 East Fifth Street

city, town Neligh ___ vicinity of state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Preservation in Nebraska has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date On-going ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town Lincoln ___ vicinity of state Nebraska

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, erected in 1887 and apparently built in accordance to ordered plans, is a one-story, frame structure with horizontal clapboard siding above the level of window sills and vertical tongue-and-groove siding below. The L-shaped building occupies the southeast corner of Fifth and "L" Streets in Neligh, a community of 1,764 (1970 census) in the center of Nebraska's northeastern quarter. Other church buildings are in the immediate vicinity, and in the center of the block northwest of Saint Peter's is the Antelope County Courthouse.

The Neligh Episcopal church is a simple Gothic Revival edifice consisting of a two-bay by four-bay nave, and a two-bay chancel centered on the nave's east. At the southeast is a lateral sacristy whose roof-ridge is aligned with the junction of the nave and chancel; at the southwest is a small entrance porch with a semi-circular-transomed door; and abutting the porch is a gabled stair enclosure leading to a basement excavated in the mid-1940s.

All roof sections are gabled -- end sections on the nave and chancel being clipped. Surmounting the west end of the nave is an open-framework belfry resting on a flared base and covered by a flared pyramidal roof.

All windows have pointed arches, excepting a wheel window in the upper portion of the west wall. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the chancel's east wall. The original roofing material was cedar shingles; in recent years this material was replaced with composition roofing.

The interior space consists of an aisleless nave and an articulated chancel. Plastered walls are above a continuous dado, and the ceiling is composed of thin wooden boards and a system of brackets and delicate rafters and collar arches with dripstone finials. Additional illumination is provided by three triangular lights in the ceiling which are created by the clipped gables. All windows, including the semi-circular transom over the south porch entrance, are filled with fine "Aesthetic" or "Eastlake" stained glass -- a type of glass recognized as being among the artistic splendors of the late 19th century. The focal artistic piece, however, is an oil-on-canvas reproduction of Plockhart's "Good Shepherd," installed behind the altar in the early 1900s.

Interior alterations have been limited to the removal of furniture in the choir, a replacement of the original organ in another position, and the substitution of electrical lighting fixtures.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The tenets of 19th-century ecclesiology as they affected ecclesiastical architecture were by nature felt strongest in England, where the movement commenced in the 1840s as a return to medieval building modes. In America, to which the movement spread, greater flexibility was employed in churches of the United States' branch of the Anglican Communion, yet essentialities of ecclesiological theories were certainly maintained. Saint Peter's Church in Neligh, Nebraska, stands in a direct line of descent from the English parish church while still possessing an American identity, and in this position it attains architectural significance: in its location in heartland America, the building is an excellent expression of the Episcopal Church's respect for familiar building traditions combined with an ability to simplify and modify as local conditions necessitated.

The first Episcopal Church services in Neligh were conducted by the Rev. J. C. Eldred, general missionary, who arrived in the small village before the coming of the railroad. Reportedly, the priest "drove to the hotel where he began inquiry concerning members of the Church. The hotel proprietor [an Episcopalian, seemingly] interested several people in the matter, 'as though the honor of the city was at stake'" (History of Antelope County, p. 78).

In announcing the organization of a local congregation of "the British Church," the Neligh Advocate commented in its October 22, 1881, issue:

It will no doubt be a complete surprise to the citizens of Neligh and especially the members of the churches, when they see Doc Leas, Doc Morgan, Doc Doolittle, John Mead, Ed Clarkhuff, and Judge Willey [prominent citizens of the community] sit in the Amen corner and use their little books and respond with extreme unction to the minister, on next Sunday, a week . . .

In March, 1887, Neligh Episcopalians purchased a conveniently located lot on the southeast corner of what were then Cottonwood and Main Streets, and in June of that same year a building committee was reported to be procuring designs for a church building from Eastern architects (Neligh Advocate, June 16, 1887). The name of the designer has not surfaced, although the local newspaper informed readers that "plans were received from architect Morrison, but due to some defect they were sent back" (Ibid., August 4, 1887). Saint Peter's Church was completed in late 1887 and was consecrated in March, 1888, by Bishop George Worthington, who pronounced it "the best small frame church in the diocese" (Ibid., March 22, 1888).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Neligh, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	5	8	0	3	5	0	4	6	6	4	3	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Eastern half of lots 17 and 18, Block 129, Original Town, Neligh, Nebraska.

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 Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date September, 1980

street & number 1500 "R" Street telephone 402/471-3270

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marvin D. Knett 10/20/80

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Benjamin D. ... date 12/3/70
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Antelope County

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In the 1940s, Saint Peter's Church was raised and a basement was excavated. This action did not affect the building's appearance, though, calling only for the addition of a stairway enclosure beside the south entrance porch. The interior is in a minimally altered state, and the church in total ranks as Neligh's best-preserved 19th-century building.

Architecturally, Saint Peter's falls into a significant type of American parish church that follows the prototypic Church of Saint James the Less, Philadelphia, 1846-48, built from drawings sent to the United States by the Cambridge Camden Society. Saint James the Less, as pointed out by architectural historian Phoebe Stanton, was the first American church erected under the direct supervision of the English ecclesiologists (The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, p. 91).

Essential similarities shared by Saint James the Less and Saint Peter's are a one-story nave with a similarly shaped chancel, a south porch, and no frontal tower and spire; instead, in accordance with a small church there is a bell fixture. But Saint Peter's is a frame construction whereas the 40-year-earlier Philadelphia church has buttressed walls of stone construction. Also, the pitch of Saint Peter's gabled roof sections is considerably less steep, and its crowning element giving the final churchly appearance is an airy belfry instead of a somewhat two-dimensional bell cote. Further differentiating the Nebraska church are clipped gables -- rather unorthodox features for an American Gothic Revival building. The result is a pristine frame church that possesses an American spirit and successfully serves the needs of a small congregation observing liturgical worship.

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History of Antelope County, Nebraska: 1883-1973. Neligh: Service Press, Inc., 1976.

Leach, A.J. A History of Antelope County, Nebraska. Neligh, 1909.

The Neligh Advocate. Neligh, Nebraska: issues from 1881 to 1888.

Neligh Centennial: 1873-1973. Neligh: Neligh Centennial Committee, 1973.

Pierson, William H., Jr. American Builders and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and Early Gothic Styles. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., 1978.

"Saint Peter's Church, Neligh." Forward in Nebraska, Vol. 3, No. 2, Sept.-Oct., 1943.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-56. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.