

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/9/2017 Date of Pending List: 7/18/2017 Date of 16th Day: 8/2/2017 Date of 45th Day: 7/24/2017 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 7/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





STOP



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 16 1984
date entered JUN 14 1984

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

1. Name

historic People's Unitarian Church

and/or common People's Unitarian Church (VY04-5)

2. Location

street & number 1640 "N" Street na not for publication

city, town Ord na vicinity of

state Nebraska code 031 county Valley code 175

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Roye and Nancy Lindsay

street & number Route # 1

city, town Burwell X vicinity of state Nebraska 68823

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk

street & number Valley County Courthouse

city, town Ord state Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Building Survey 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 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 type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>na</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The People's Unitarian Church is perhaps one of the most unusual church buildings in Nebraska. The first level is a square plan with brick wall material; the second floor is octagon-shaped and covered in wooden shingles. The second floor houses one large room, the meeting hall for church services. The integrity of the building is good. Although the building has served various functions since the closing of the church, the exterior and the meeting hall are little changed.

Brick wall material on first level, wooden shingle wall material on second floor and in gables; square shape on first, octagonal on second; two stories; polygonal hipped roof with four gabled dormers; central bay on first level of main (south) facade projects from the main entrance; first floor is slightly below grade; fifteen-over-fifteen pane windows with prominent Palladian windows on the four compass-point walls of the second floor; 1901; the room arrangement on the first floor has been changed, the exterior and second floor are relatively unchanged; William Wentworth, Ord, builder.

The second floor is one open octagonal-shaped room thirty-seven feet in diameter with a domed ceiling. The staircase rises along the south (main entrance) wall and is decoratively topped with balustrade and finials (see photo # 6). The eight windows, including the four large Palladian windows, and the tall ceiling help create the feeling of a light, airy space, in a relatively small room.

The first floor is about three feet below grade and was originally divided into library, reading room, kitchen, furnace room, and cloak room. It was last used as an apartment, but is currently vacant.

None of the various sources checked has revealed the name of an architect. The plans presumably originated locally, for it does not appear that the policy of the Unitarian Church nationally was to supply church plans. Also, octagon churches are rare in the denomination. A newspaper article of the time credits the pastor, Wayne P. Smith with ". . . laying plans and raising funds for . . . a new church building".¹ However, it is unclear if this means designing the building.

¹Valley County Times, July 5, 1901, p.: 2.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input 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 1901 **Builder/Architect** William Wentworth, Ord, Nebraska

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The People's Unitarian Church of Ord is significant to the architectural heritage of the state as one of the few octagonal buildings and one of two examples in religious architecture. The building is distinctive in the different shape and material of each floor, which reflect the different functions of the church. The Unitarian Church has had few churches or societies in Nebraska; this building is one of two old enough to be eligible for the National Register.

Unitarian societies are known to have been organized in five Nebraska communities, however, Lincoln, Ord, and Omaha are the only cities known to have extant Unitarian Church buildings. The first Unitarian Church of Omaha and the People's Church at Ord are the only ones which meet the fifty-year criterion of the National Register. The Omaha church was listed in the National Register on 3-20-80; with this nomination all eligible, known, Unitarian churches in the state have been nominated.

The Ord church was first organized in early 1899 when the Rev. A. H. Tyrer was compelled to resign from the Episcopal Church because of his liberal views. Some of his parishioners left the church with him and hired him to preach. A Unitarian Society was organized shortly thereafter.¹ Plans for a church building were started in 1901 with the site selected in April² and excavation beginning in August. The dedication was held November 11, 1901. The final cost was about \$2,500. The church maintained ministers from 1900 to 1909, but financial problems continued to plague the congregation. By 1911, services were discontinued. The association was disbanded in 1914 and the building was sold to the Commodore Foote Post No. 40 of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The building served as a club and meeting hall for the G.A.R. until 1921 and then for the American Legion, Ord Fidelity Post No. 38, until 1961. It then housed various commercial uses and the privately-operated Valley County Museum until purchased by the present owners in September, 1982.

Several octagonal buildings are known in Nebraska; two houses, two churches, barns, sale barns, pavillions, etc.; however, extant examples are rare. The two houses (William Nutter House, rural Buffalo County and the George F. Lee House, rural Otoe County, NRHP 11-23-77), were built in the 1870's and 80's and are, therefore, different in period of construction and original use. The other extant octagon church (the First Congregational Church, U.C.C., Naponee, Franklin County, NRHP, 9-14-82) is a one-story frame structure built in 1887. Few octagonal buildings were erected or have survived in the state, which emphasizes the significance of this rare example in religious architecture.

A major variation between this building and other octagons is the different plan and material on each floor. The octagonal portion was the meeting hall on second floor; the square first level was for the library, reading room, furnace, kitchen, etc. The separate functions of each level are reflected in the different plans and materials.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Ord, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	5	0	5	8	4	0	4	6	0	5	3	2	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

Lot 5, Block 28, Original Town, City of Ord, Valley County, Nebraska, the property historically associated with this building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Penelope Chatfield Sodhi, Preservation Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date March 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Merrin O. Knott date 5/7/84

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society date

For NPS use only

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

J. Melores Byrne
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6-14-84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

The various rooms on the first level may have required more space than was required in the hall. Newspaper articles indicate that the library and reading rooms were considered important to the mission of the church, and considering the size of this level compared to the second floor this appears to be true. The minister, Wayne P. Smith, who may have played a role in the design of the building, writes:

"The church that toils and wins men for freedom and accuracy of thought, nobility in character, and pure fellowship, is the church that abides forever growing and developing at every stage of social progress. It faces and seeks to master the new truths of science, new economic, moral, religious and social conditions, and insure men of the her(i)tage which is really theirs."³

The next month a notice in the newspaper stated the lower level will be "used for a reading room in which will probably be placed an extensive library."⁴ Earlier in May, the newspaper discussed the plans for the new Central Church in Chicago which included a twelve to fifteen story building with rooms for settlement work, library and reading, billiards and pool, kindergarten, and other educational activities. These ideas may have influenced the Ord church members.

A library was established in the church; it was called the Ord Unity Free Library, a public library. When the church building was sold to the G.A.R., the library went with it and apparently continued for a few years. After the First World War, however, the library was not maintained. The Ord Township Library was organized in 1922, and the books remaining from the Unity Library were turned over to the new public organization.⁵ Although the Unity Library was not the first attempt at a public library in Ord, it was an important part of the city's library development.

¹Letter. Mingson Coombs, President, Unitarian Association of Ord, to National Unitarian Association, Boston, Massachusetts, August 30, 1899. Original in the Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Mass.

²Valley County Times, April 26, 1901, p. 8: 4.

³Valley County Times, July 12, 1901, p. 1: 2.

⁴Valley County Times, August 23, 1901, p. 5: 3.

⁵Ord Quiz, April 3, 1940.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Letters, Mingerson Coombs, president, Unitarian Association of Ord, to National Unitarian Association, Boston, August 30, 1899, and letter from Benjamin Bridgford to Mr. St. John, September 22, 1901. Located at Andover-Harvard Theological Library, Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lindsay, Nancy. Nebraska Historic Sites Survey Form - The People's Unitarian Church of Ord. April, 1983.

Monroe, Lynn Lewis, "American Octagons," Early American Life, April, 1983, pp. 45-50.

Ord Quiz, April 3, 1940.

Ord Quiz, November 18, 1982.

Valley County Times, April to November, 1901.



Photo #1 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/5: 18 May, 1983

View to the north



274

Photo #2 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/5:20 May, 1983

View to the northwest



274
Photo #3 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/5:23 May, 1983

Detail of main entry, view to the north.



274

Photo #4 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/5:29 May, 1983

Window detail.



Photo #5 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/5:21 May 1983

View to the west.

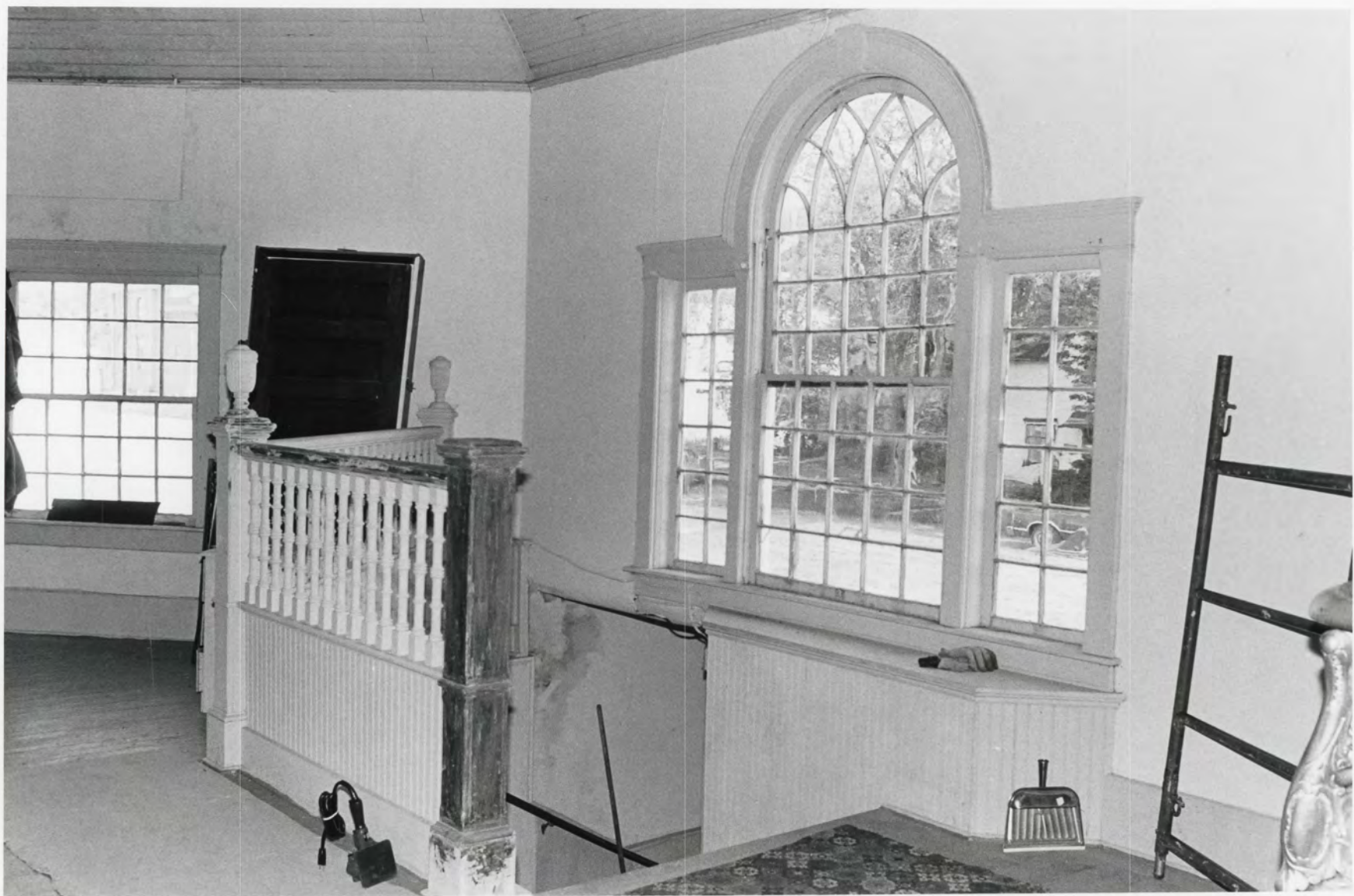
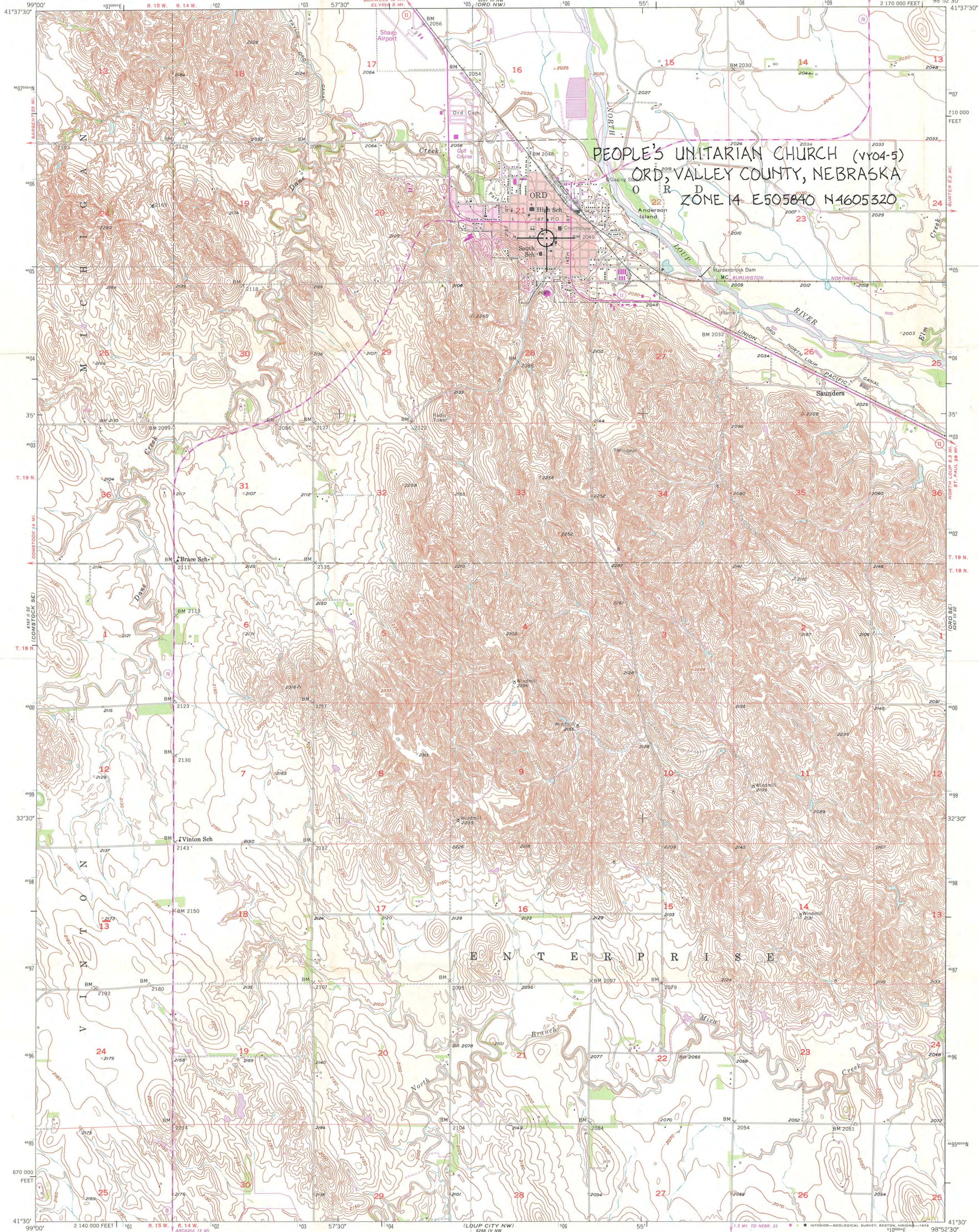


Photo #6 of 6

People's Unitarian Church
1640 N Street
Ord, Valley County, Nebraska (VY04-5)

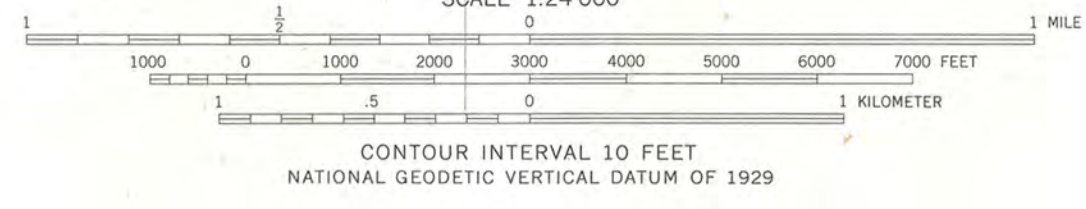
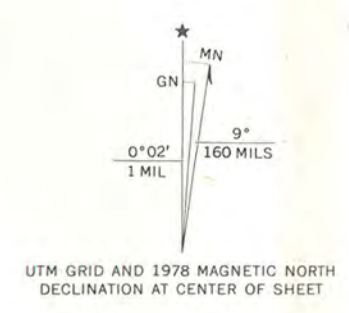
Joni Gilkerson
Nebraska State Historical Society
8305/9:33 May, 1983

Interior view of meeting room and
staircase to main entry.



PEOPLE'S UNITARIAN CHURCH (VY04-5)
ORD, VALLEY COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ZONE 14 E505840 N4605320

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin control by USGS, USC&GS, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1951. Field check 1954. Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, south zone. Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown. Unchecked elevations are shown in brown. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, Zone 14, shown in blue.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	4 LANE	Unimproved dirt

U.S. Route (square symbol) State Route (circle symbol)

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

ORD, NEBR.
N4130-W9852.5/7.5
1954
PHOTOREVISED 1978
AMS 6267 III SW-SERIES 6875

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

People's Unitarian Church
Valley County
NEBRASKA

Working No. MAY 16 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 6/14/84 - 6/30/84
Action: ACCEPT 6-14-84
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

MAY 24 1983

F78 (BHR-PR)

PROPERTY: People's Unitarian Church, Ord. OWNER: Roye and Nancy Lindsay
ADDRESS: 1646 "W" Street ADDRESS: Route 1
Ord., Nebraska 68862 Burwell, Nebraska 68821

PROJECT NO.: NE-83-00019

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay:

This office concurs with the State Historic Preservation Officer's preliminary determination that the property listed above appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and as result will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the year.

Upon listing, if the property is subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, this property will automatically qualify as a "certified historic structure" for purposes of the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981.

Obtaining "certified historic structure" status in the first step in qualifying for tax deductions and tax credits. These incentives apply only to structures which have either undergone or are to undergo rehabilitation which can be certified in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

This determination is made pursuant to your request in Part 1 of the "Historic Preservation Certification Application." If you have not yet completed Part 2 of the "Historic Preservation Certification Application," describing your rehabilitation plans, the enclosed copy should be completed and mailed to your State Historic Preservation Officer for preliminary review prior to final review at the federal level. Instructions for filling out the application are on the form itself. Enclosed are the Secretary's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

Rec'd 5-26-83
Nebraska State Historical Society

#137 RECEIVED MAY 27 1983
NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State Historic Preservation Office

Specific questions concerning documentation required to certify rehabilitation work should be addressed to your State Historic Preservation Officer or J. Keith Everett, A.I.A., of this office at 303-234-2560.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ de Teel Patterson Tiller

de Teel Patterson Tiller, Chief
Branch of Project Review and Technical Assistance

Enclosures

EXECUTIVE BOARD
ELECTED MEMBERS

Edwin J. Faulkner, President Lincoln
J. M. Hart, Jr., 1st Vice President Omaha
Mrs. Bill (Virginia) Coffee
 2nd Vice President Harrison
Arthur Carmody, Treasurer Trenton
Maurice S. Hevelone Beatrice
Walter G. Huber Blair
Otto Kotouc, Jr. Humboldt
Nes Latenser Omaha
Charles W. Martin Omaha
James A. Rawley Lincoln
S. N. Wolbach Grand Island
Nellie Snyder Yost North Platte

MARVIN F. KIVETT
DIRECTOR-SECRETARY



Phone (402) 471-3270

EXECUTIVE BOARD
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

ROBERT KERREY, GOVERNOR
State of Nebraska

RONALD W. ROSKENS, PRESIDENT
University of Nebraska

NORMAN KRIVOSHA, CHIEF JUSTICE
Supreme Court of Nebraska

KEN KAUFFOLD, PRESIDENT
Nebraska Press Association

1500 R STREET, BOX 82554
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501

May 7, 1984

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of
Historic Places
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20240

RE: People's Unitarian Church
Ord, Nebraska

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find enclosed the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the above named property. This nomination has met all notification and other requirements, as established in 36 CFR Part 60. Also enclosed is the letter for Part I certification.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marvin F. Kivett'.

Marvin F. Kivett
State Historic Preservation Officer

MFK:lp
encs.

078400297



June 2, 2017

Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service – National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Keeper:

In September 2000, the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office (NeSHPO) presented the *Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines for Removing Properties from the National Register of Historic Places* to the Nebraska Historic Preservation Board. The Board subsequently adopted these guidelines.

The People's Unitarian Church (VY04-005), a National Register listed property located in Ord, Valley County, Nebraska, has been demolished. The qualities that caused this property to be listed in the National Register have been destroyed. As documented in 36 CFR 60.15 (a) (1), loss of integrity supplies grounds for removing properties from the National Register.

The People's Unitarian Church (VY04-005)

The People's Unitarian Church first organized in 1899 with Rev. A.H. Tyler. It was on the register for its architectural significance of being an octagonal building. It was a rare example in religious architecture. The structure played many different roles in the community after services discontinued in 1911. It served as a meeting hall for the Grand Army of the Republic, an American Legion, museum, and other commercial and residential uses.

Current Physical Description

A fire badly damaged the building a few years ago. After the fire, the remaining shell of the building sat vacant until it was demolished December 7, 2016. There is now an empty lot where it stood. Since the structure is no longer there, it is no longer eligible for listing.

On May 26, 2017, the NeSHPO presented this information to the Nebraska Historic Preservation Board and recommended removal of the People's Unitarian Church from the National Register. The Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

Please remove the People's Unitarian Church (NeHBS VY04-005) from the National Register of Historic Places, pursuant to 36 CFR 60.15 (a) (1). You may direct any questions regarding the removal of this property to me at 402-471-4773. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill E. Dolberg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jill E. Dolberg
Interim Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

1500 R Street
PO Box 82554
Lincoln, NE 68501-2554

p: (800) 833-6747
(402) 471-3270
f: (402) 471-3100

www.nebraskahistory.org