



OLD STONE CHURCH

NPS Number 71-11-45.0068

Title: Old Stone Church  
& Cemetery

Loc. Oconee Co, S.C.  
Church front

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE South Carolina	
COUNTY Pickens	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.11.45.0068	DATE 11/5/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Stone Church and Cemetery

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Off U.S. 76 1½ miles N of Pendleton at intersection of County Road 37

CITY OR TOWN:

Pendleton

STATE:

South Carolina

29670

CODE

45

COUNTY:

Pickens

CODE

071 39

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Hurley E. Badders

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

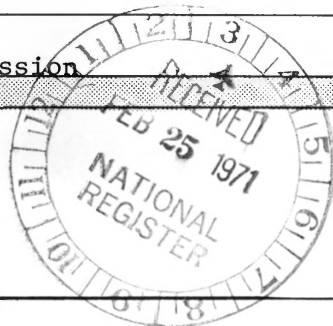
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Pendleton District Historical and Recreation Commission

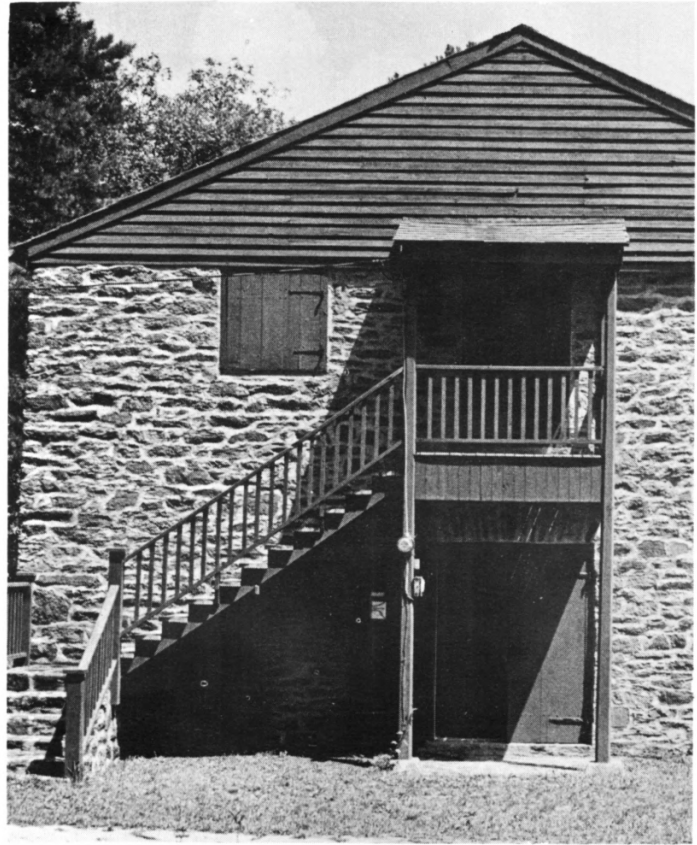
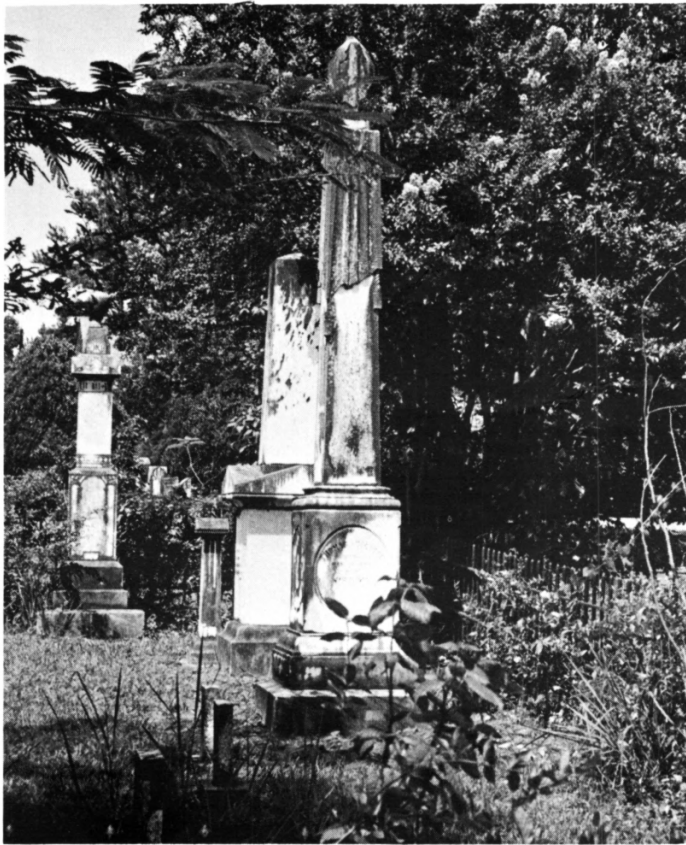
4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

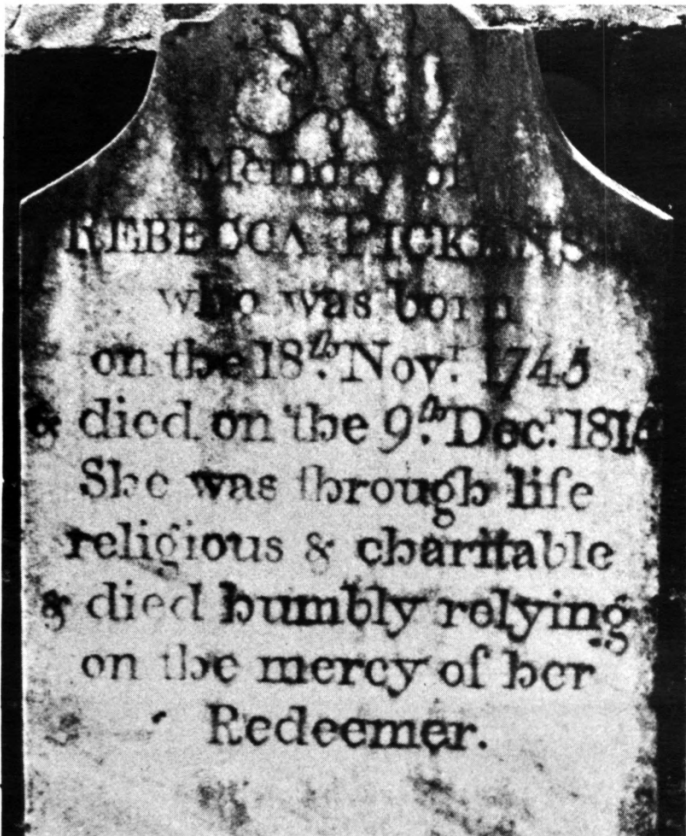
View to the northwest of church front.







*“These Walls Have Tales To Tell”*





# The Old Stone Church

By Joseph H. Chapman

The clanking of the swords still seem to echo under the great oak tree that has become only a shadow of the past. Just a stump is left. But if one gazes from the door of the Old Stone Church at the stump long enough, he might visualize the angry swordsmen who battled there for their lives, while fervent holy singing from within subdued their cursing and their clattering. Was the congregation aware? How much surprised were they when, after the Sunday evening services, they stepped outside to stumble across a body? Did they later cut down the tree so that it would not serve as a grim reminder?

But such a battle is only legend that is whispered excitedly among present day visitors to the Old Stone Church, located just inside Pickens County off highway 76, near Clemson, South Carolina. However, everything else about the church is not legend: The brownish stone walls still stand today much the same way they stood since the

church was erected in 1797 by John Rusk, who is an ancestor of Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Except, at that time, a carriage path was nearby, rather than the dual-lane highway needling beyond the trees.

You can become absorbed in the ever-presence of history, though, as you step inside the stone church and seat yourself on one of the primitive benches spaced evenly on the wooden floor. If you listen close, you might even hear its first pastor, Rev. Thomas Reese, spouting fury from his old, worn Bible. Or you'll shake-hands with General Andrew Pickens himself, who did quite his share of helping General George Washington relieve the British of the South Carolina colony.

General Pickens became one of the first elders of the church. His son, Colonel Andrew W. Pickens, fought in the War of 1812 and became governor of South Carolina

in 1816. Both the older and the younger Pickens, along with their wives and children, are buried in the Pickens family lot in the church's graveyard.

Also in the cemetery is the grave of Senator Robert Anderson, who also was an elder in the church. Anderson County, South Carolina, which adjoins Pickens County, was named after Senator Anderson. He fought alongside General Pickens in the Revolutionary War.

The church, first constructed of logs in 1791, was originally called Hopewell-Keowee, from the Treaty of Hopewell, a treaty between the settlers and the Indians, enacted in part by Gen. Pickens, and the word Keowee was from a branch of the Seneca River. The original edifice, it was thought, burned, thereby giving John Rusk the opportunity to create the present stone structure that has become a major symbol in South Carolina's sometimes bloody, but always glorious history.

APR Number 7-11-73-0068  
Title: Old Stone Church  
+ Cemetery  
George Co. S.C.  
Pictures from magazine

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
South Carolina	29670	Pickens	077 <del>39</del>
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Pictures of Old Stone Church and Cemetery from <u>South Carolina Magazine</u> February, 1970.			

