

PH0693456

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DEC 12 1978

DATE ENTERED

JAN 25 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

St. Paul's Methodist Protestant Church (HK00-1)

AND/OR COMMON

The Stone Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

S of Culbertson on NE 17

State Highway 17

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Culbertson

VICINITY OF

3

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Nebraska

31

Hitchcock

087

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Stone Church Community Association, c/o Mrs. Elynnor Trail, Secretary

STREET & NUMBER

Rural Route 4

CITY, TOWN

STATE

McCook, Nebraska

VICINITY OF

Nebraska

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Culbertson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Trenton

Nebraska

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE

1971

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Nebraska State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lincoln

Nebraska

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Paul's Methodist Protestant Church, or "the Stone Church," completed in 1900, is a gable-roofed rectangular building of speckled rubble construction. The church faces south and its main facade (photo 1) contains a centered entrance approached by a low stone stoop. The entrance has multi-paneled double doors with a two-pane transom and a smooth lintel overhead. The upper third of the facade is covered with imbricated shingles and an oculus within this section contains a plaque inscribed with the church's name and date of erection. To one side of the roof-ridge is a disintegrating brick chimney built to serve a fuel-burning stove.

Each side wall (photos 1 and 2) is pierced by three double-hung sash windows. The rear wall contains two windows set at a slightly higher level, and the upper third of the rear is weatherboarded.

The interior (photos 4 and 5) does not appear to have been altered in any substantial manner. The angular ceiling follows the pitch of the gabled roof on side walls and the lectern is placed on a raised podium spanning the building's width at the north. The pews and flooring appear to be original.

The nominated property involves one square acre in the southwest corner of Section 22, township 2 north, range 31 west, Hitchcock County, Nebraska. Although the church is the only building on this lot, the entire acre is necessary for inclusion--the property having been a gift to the congregation in 1899.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

J. L. Hoyt

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Methodist Protestant Church, commonly known as the Stone Church, is significant to Hitchcock County and southwestern Nebraska as being one of the region's few earlier stone buildings that survive unchanged. Although modest in form and size, the Stone Church attains a quiet dignity through its very chasteness and through its isolated location on a broad, flat prairie.

St. Paul's Methodist Protestant Church was founded in Logan township of Hitchcock County in June, 1892, and during its early years the congregation made use of a sod building that stood a short distance south of the stone church. But the sod meeting house proved to be drastically inadequate, and in 1899 it was decided to build a new structure on land in close proximity donated by a member of the church. Hitchcock County, situated in the Republican Valley of Nebraska's southwest corner, had been founded in 1873. This region was cleared for settlement by General Eugene Carr and his Republican River Expedition in 1869 upon the defeat of hostile Indians at the Battle of Summitt Springs (Hitchcock County Centennial, page 1).

At the time of the present building's construction, the local Methodist organization numbered 97. Members quarried and hauled the building material from a site seven miles southwest--the work being supervised by J. L. Hoyt, a stonemason who had immigrated to Nebraska from New York State. Money used to purchase most materials was raised by the Ladies Aid of the congregation. Lumber was especially scarce due to dry weather and destruction caused by grasshopper hordes.

In 1904 the Methodist Protestant Church merged with the United Brethren, but the union did not result in church growth; the early 1900's witnessed an exodus of people who had taken homesteads in Hitchcock County: "Many letters were granted (from the Stone Church) to members who had moved back to former homes in the eastern states (75th Anniversary of the Stone Church, p. 2)." The congregation depended on part-time ministers until 1920, and during the years of World War II attendance seriously diminished. Regular services were discontinued in 1951, but the church remains in use as a community center. An association was formed in 1975 to preserve the building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hitchcock County and Massacre Canyon Battle Centennial Publication. Trenton, Nebraska: The Hitchcock County News, Inc., 1973.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Stone Church. Hitchcock County, Nebraska: The Stone Church Community Association, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Culbertson SE

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 345300 4441830  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

1 square acre, southwest corner, southwest quarter, section 22, township 2 north, range 31 west, ~~Hitchcock County, Nebraska.~~

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

DATE

ORGANIZATION

Nebraska State Historical Society

December, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1500 "R" Street

TELEPHONE

402/432-2793

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 X

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 E. Knott*

12/6/78

TITLE

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1-25-79

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1-22-79