

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Rowan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Zion Lutheran Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Organ Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SR 1006, .5 mile from junction with SR 1221

CITY OR TOWN:
Salisbury (Eighth Congressional District, Honorable Earl Ruth)

STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37 COUNTY: Rowan CODE: 159

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of Zion Lutheran Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 3

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Register of Deeds Office, Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
201 North Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	North Carolina
COUNTY:	Rowan
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church, a two-story building of uncoursed stone with a high water table, was constructed about 1794. It closely resembles nearby Lower Stone Church, which was constructed one year later. Its original main (south) facade is fifty feet wide and contains at the first level a central entrance flanked by windows and at the second, three correspondingly placed windows. All openings in the first story are surmounted by heavy segmental arches. The east and west gable ends also have three bays with central entrances but measure only forty feet in width. A small circular tablet, framed by soldiers and located in the apex of the west gable, bears the date "1794". There are two central windows on the north facade flanked by doors at the first level.

About 1900 a large bell tower was added to the east end, shifting the orientation of the church from north-south to east-west. The first two levels of the tower are constructed of uncoursed stone and feature a large open semicircular arch on each face at the first level and segmental arched windows at the second. Shortly after 1900 the gable roof was raised by the addition of a diagonally sheathed wooden band around the top of the walls. This band carries around the top of the stone tower, forming a base for the present wooden belfry. Covered with several types of imbricated siding, the square belfry presents on each face a rectangular opening enclosed by a turned balustrade. It is surmounted by a heavy octagonal spire with a weather vane. In 1929 a Sunday school building was constructed on the rear facade and all the church's original windows were replaced with large two-over-two sash.

Little remains of the original interior of Zion Church except the overall arrangement consisting of one large meeting room with the pulpit on a raised platform between the central windows on the north wall. There is a gallery supported by crude vernacular columns around the remaining walls. The church is finished with plaster walls above a vertically sheathed wainscot. The wooden floor was laid during the ca. 1900 alterations, replacing the original slate.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The present Zion or Organ Lutheran Church, organized about 1745, was begun about 1792 and completed about 1795 on property donated by John Rendleman and his wife in 1786 to the "Elders or Trustees and their successors in office for the Lutheran Congregation belonging to the Second Creek Organ Meeting House." The Second Creek Organ Meeting House is thought to have been a log building located near the present church. In this early church stood the organ John Stirewalt built, from which the church derived its name. John Stirewalt was a local builder-craftsman who is credited with building one of the first organs in North Carolina. When the congregation moved into the new church they took the organ with them. The organ was used until 1872 when it was finally worn out. It was removed, and its disposition is unknown.

During the early years of the church laymen led the congregation, but only traveling ministers who occasionally visited the area could administer the sacraments. The Reverend Adolphus Nussmann, who came to Rowan County from Germany in 1773, was the first pastor of Organ Church, and John Arends, also a German, came as the schoolteacher. Both were "officially called to serve the church by the consistory of Hannover." The pulpit Bible and communion set that Nussman and Arends brought with them are still in the possession of the church. Arends, ordained to the ministry in 1775, was the first Lutheran minister ordained in North Carolina and the second pastor of Organ Church. He was one of the Lutheran clergymen who participated in the organization of the North Carolina Synod in 1803.

The congregation of Organ Church worshipped in this building from 1795 until 1960 when a new church was built on adjacent land that had been purchased from Lutvick Sefret in 1786.

At almost the same time Organ Church was organized, two other Lutheran congregations were being formed in North Carolina--St. John's in Salisbury and St. John's in Cabarrus County. These three churches are the "mother churches" of Lutheranism in North Carolina. This sturdy church stands among many gravestones, some of which have inscriptions in German and date from the late eighteenth century. Zion Church, though altered, is the oldest example of Lutheran church architecture in North Carolina and is a significant monument to the German Settlers who played an important role in North Carolina history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brawley, James S. "Venerable Organ Church's Final Service Is Sunday," Salisbury Post, August 5, 1960.

Rowan County Records, Rowan County Courthouse, Salisbury, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds. (Subgroup: Deeds).

Rowan County Records, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina. (Subgroups: Deeds, Church Records).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	35°	31'	40"	80°	27'	0"
NE	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Three Acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

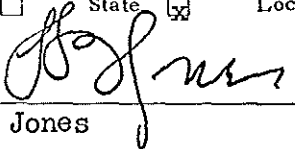
NAME AND TITLE:
Survey and Planning Unit Staff, John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: June 14, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u></u> <u>H. G. Jones</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, State Department of Archives and History</u></p> <p>Date <u>June 14, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <u>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</u></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <u>Keeper of The National Register</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS