

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:  
Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Lower Stone Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Junction of SR 1221 and 2335

CITY OR TOWN:  
*DeH Hill*  
Litaker Township (Eighth Congressional District, Honorable Earl Ruth)

STATE North Carolina	CODE 37	COUNTY: Rowan	CODE 159
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Congregation of Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SR 1221 (Beatty Ford Road)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Litaker Township

STATE:  
North Carolina

CODE:  
37

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Rowan County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
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:

STATE: North Carolina

COUNTY: Rowan

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

The Grace (Lower Stone) Evangelical and Reformed Church is a simple rectangular two-story building of uncoursed stone with a high water table and a gable roof. The north, west, and south sides each contain three bays, marked at the first level by a central entrance flanked by large windows and at the second level by three correspondingly placed windows. The east gable has two windows at each level. The openings in the first story are surmounted by segmental arches, and those in the second by flat ones. All windows contain twentieth century two-over-two sash.

The south facade, originally the front, features a stone tablet above the entrance with the following rhymed German inscription:

ZUR·EHRE·GOTTES: IST·GEBAUT:  
 DIE·KIRCH·WELCHE·IHR·HIR·AN·SAUT:  
 VON·EINEM·VOLCK·SO·GOTT·ER·KENDT:  
 UND·SICH·NACH·IESUM·CHRISTUM·NENT:  
 DIE·AUCH·MIT·IHM·SIND·EIN·VERLEIBET:  
 UND·SICH·DIE·REFORMTEN·SCHREIBET:  
 :1795::GNADEN·KIRCH·ENDE::

This has been translated as, "To the glory of God has been built, the Church which you behold, by a people who God confess, and name themselves after Jesus Christ, who are also incorporated with Him, and they call themselves The Reformed, 1795, Grace Church." To the right of this inscription is a smaller tablet showing a clock face with hands pointing to 9:30 and German words meaning, "In the year of Christ, 1795; with God's help." There are also secondary tablets over the north and west entrances, with inscriptions of prayers and thanksgiving.

In 1901 a bell tower was constructed above the west gable, changing the orientation of the church from south to west. The tower rises in distinct stages. The first element consists of a square plinth constructed of beaded weatherboards with a low pyramidal roof supported by sawn brackets. The second element is the belfry itself, which rests on a square base. It is enclosed by a heavy turned balustrade and has four chamfered corner posts that support the third element, a pyramidal spire.

All the early interiors were removed about 1880, and the floor plan was changed by the addition of several modern partitions. Originally the high pulpit was located at the east end with galleries around the other three sides. Now there is a transverse hall across the west end, and parts of a modern gallery have been enclosed for Sunday school rooms.

The churchyard which surrounds the church contains an interesting collection of gravestones inscribed in German, some of which date from the eighteenth century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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

Grace Reformed and Evangelical Church, called Lower Stone, is one of two similar German churches located near each other not far from Salisbury. It is called Lower Stone because it is lower down the road or Second Creek than its neighbor, Zion (Organ) Church, also built of stone. Both were built by German settlers who had moved down from Pennsylvania into the Rowan County area in the middle of the eighteenth century. Some of these people were Lutherans, while others belonged to the Reformed Church which embraced elements of Calvinism and Presbyterianism. The adherents of each sect worshipped together until the Lutherans undertook to build their own church, the well-known Organ Church. The Reformed Church members were not long in starting to build for themselves.

Land for a church was acquired in February, 1774, by Andrew Holshouser and John Lippard. Paying five pounds proclamation money, they bought sixteen acres from Lourance Lingle "for the use of the Calvin Congregation." Since Lingle was a member of the Reformed Church, and the deed makes reference to an existing "meeting house," this was probably the location of the first distinct Reformed Congregation. A later deed, made January 8, 1795, transferred the same property to Jacob Fisher, Sr., and John Casper, "Elders of the German Presbyterian Congregation on Second Creek in the Dutch [Deutsch, i.e. German] Settlement." This later deed marks the first step toward the construction of the present stone church. The considerable task of raising a stone structure apparently warranted the execution of this new deed placing both the property and responsibility for the new church in the trusteeship of Fisher and Casper.

There is disagreement as to the date of completion of Lower Stone. A church document confirms, however, that the church was completed by 1798, and it speaks of a future undetermined date for its dedication. More specifically the inscription in German on the south wall of the church bears the date of 1795. After the date is the word "ende" (end), suggesting that Lower Stone was finished in that year. Other documents record that it was not dedicated until 1811 but do not give a reason for this apparent delay.

Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church, usually called Lower Stone, is the oldest Reformed Church in Rowan County and is the parent church of five others in the area. It is notable for the absence of architectural refinement, being a practical expression of the needs of a people known for their sober-sided pioneer virtues. Because of the earth-toned granite of which it is constructed, it rises naturally in its country setting and suggests the simplicity and sturdiness of its builders.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Lower Stone Church, State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

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

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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'	11"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	80°	25'	21"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One Acre

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  
John B. Wells, III, Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: State Department of Archives and History DATE: July 7, 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

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:

National  State  Local

Name H. G. Jones  
 Title Director, State Department of Archives and History  
 Date July 7, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

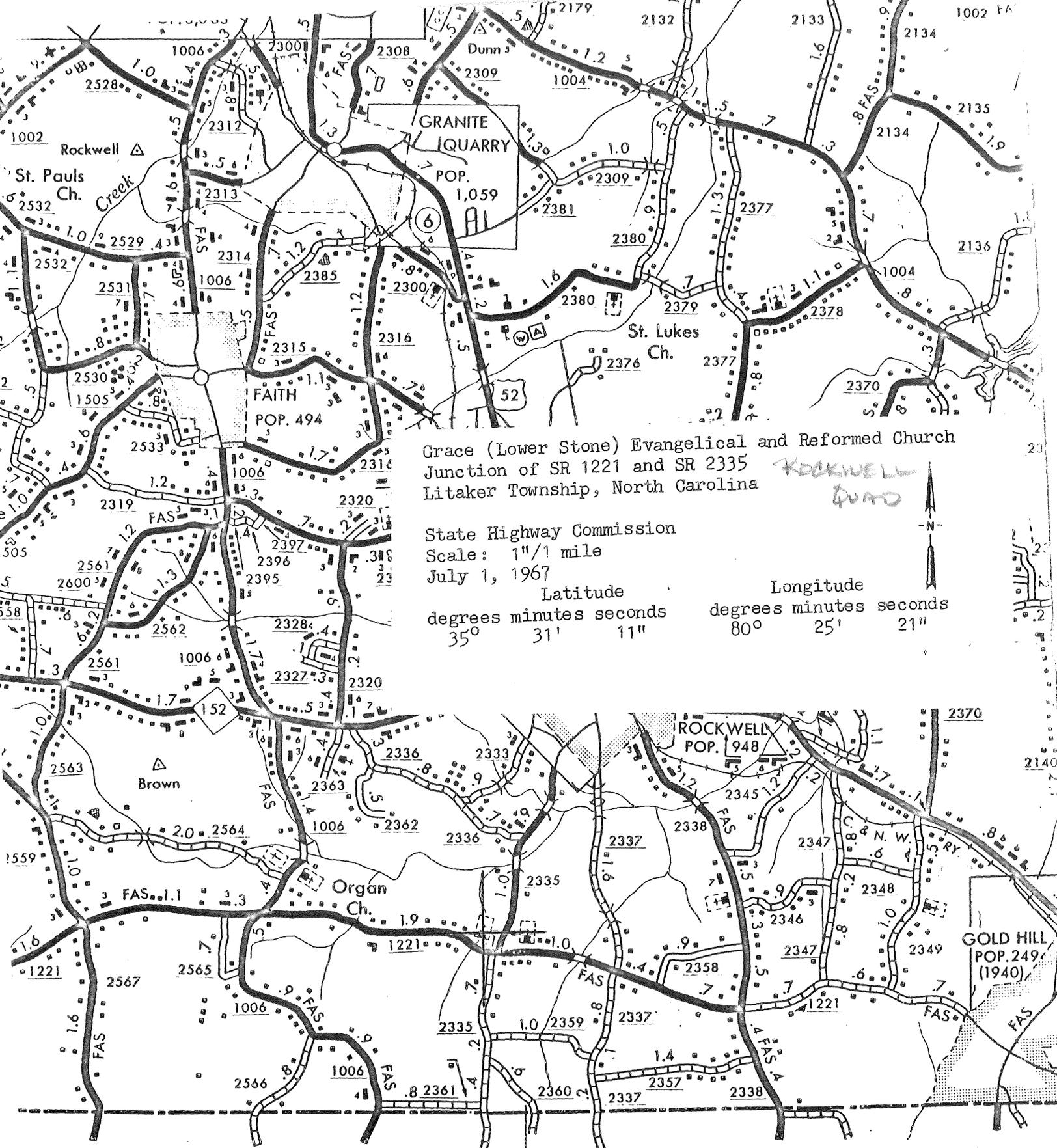
(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

9.

Saunders, William L. (ed.). The Colonial Records of North Carolina. Raleigh,  
North Carolina: The State Printer, 1886.



Grace (Lower Stone) Evangelical and Reformed Church  
 Junction of SR 1221 and SR 2335  
 Litaker Township, North Carolina

*ROCKWELL QUAD*

State Highway Commission  
 Scale: 1" / 1 mile  
 July 1, 1967

Latitude	Longitude
degrees minutes seconds	degrees minutes seconds
35° 31' 11"	80° 25' 21"



C O U N T Y

80°25'

