

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel of Prince William Parish  
other names/site number Stoney Creek Presbyterian Chapel

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet not for publication N/A  
city or town McPhersonville vicinity N/A  
state South Carolina code SC county Hampton code 049 zip code 35218

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide x locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 3/28/02  
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

[Signature] 5/22/02  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

[Signature] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)  
in the count.)

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

0 buildings

     sites

     structures

     objects

0 Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: religious facility/church

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION Sub: church

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls wood: weatherboard

brick

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1833-ca. 1900

**Significant Dates** N/A

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:** N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other state agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository  
Historic Beaufort Foundation, Beaufort, S.C.

Property Name Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State Hampton County, South Carolina

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** approximately 1 acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing  
1 17 507981 3616948    3 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_                    4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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name/title Jeff Mansell, Historic Beaufort Foundation & Donna Alley, City of Beaufort  
organization Historic Beaufort Foundation date 1 March 2002  
street & number Post Office Box 11 telephone 843-524-6334  
city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901

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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Charleston Atlantic Presbytery/ Stoney Creek Presbyterian Foundation  
street & number P. O. Box 1229 telephone 843-524-3535  
city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State: Hampton County, South Carolina

**Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
Narrative Description**

Constructed ca. 1833, Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel is the only pre-Civil War structure remaining in the village of McPhersonville. Built by the planters of Prince William Parish who resided in the village during the summer months, the frame building is in the Greek Revival style with later Victorian features. The chapel clearly reflects the popularity of the Greek Revival style for religious as well as private, public and governmental buildings in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since it was created as a summer chapel, Stoney Creek is plain and austere, as one would expect for a Presbyterian congregation. Indeed, the hallmark of Stoney Creek Presbyterian Chapel is its relative simplicity.

Basically, rectangular in shape, the one-story frame chapel faces southwest and rests on a foundation of brick piers. The exterior wall material is simple weatherboarding. The chapel has a front-facing pedimented gable roof resting over a full-width recessed porch supported by four Doric columns. Crafted of solid heart pine, the columns rest on solid wooden plinths. The three-bay façade consists of a central double-leaf arched entrance flanked by 4/4 sash windows capped by two-light semi-elliptical transoms. The two-panel main entrance doors and all windows are flanked by operable, louvered arched shutters. Located above the entrance is a multi-pane round window with stained-glass lights. An octagonal steeple was added in 1890. The lantern of the steeple features arched 6-light windows on four sides. A small wooden finial rests atop the conical roof.

The northwest and southeast elevations are identical and feature five bays. Each bay consists of a 4/4 sash window capped by a two-light semi-elliptical transom. The rear or northeast elevation consists of a small projecting semi-hexagonal bay with two smaller 4/4 sash arched windows in the side walls. A two-panel arched door is located on the rear elevation, north of the projecting bay.

As one would expect from a Presbyterian church, the interior is very simple with plain plaster walls, original wooden pews, and wide pine floors. A two-tiered elevated platform is located at the rear of the church, extending into the projecting semi-hexagonal bay. A late 19<sup>th</sup> century Farrand and Votney pump organ is located directly in front of the rear door. The organ is screened from the sanctuary by a paneled wooden balustrade. Turned posts are located at each end of and rise above the balustrade. They support a privacy cloth, hiding the organist from the congregation. A painted paneled wooden pulpit rests on the dais with a painted communion table resting directly in front. The original kerosene hanging lamps have been converted to electricity.

Today, the Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel is well-maintained by the First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort and remains an excellent example of mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival architecture of the McPhersonville community.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section 8 Page 2

Name of Property: Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State: Hampton County, South Carolina

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**Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
Hampton County, South Carolina**

**Criterion C: Architecture**

Constructed ca. 1833, Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C – Architecture as a locally significant example of the Greek Revival style. The simple one-story frame church is well preserved and carefully maintained. Boasting an imposing façade with four Doric columns supporting a pedimented roof, sash windows with semi-elliptical transoms, a round stained-glass window, the chapel has not been altered. It retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, craftsmanship, materials, feeling, association and sense of place.

**Historical Narrative**

In the early part of the eighteenth-century, a number of influential Christian evangelists traveled to the Beaufort District. Two of the most prominent evangelists to visit Beaufort were John Wesley and George Whitefield. George Whitefield, in particular, had a lasting effect on both the white planters and black slaves of the area. This time was known as “The Great Awakening” in Colonial America. This revival is believed to be the origin of America’s unique forms of Protestant enthusiasm. When George Whitefield arrived in the Beaufort District, he had already established a respected reputation in Europe as an inspirational orator. Whitefield’s influence was tremendous among settlers in the Beaufort District. Whitefield was a guide and mentor of the Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Church. In 1740, Whitefield was visited in Savannah by some of the most prominent men in the Beaufort District--Hugh Bryan, Jonathan Bryan, Nathaniel Barnwell, Reverend Lewis Jones, and Reverend William Tilly. During this visit, Jonathan Bryan came to Whitefield to make a personal confession of sin. The Bryan Brothers returned to Beaufort to spread Whitefield’s enthusiastic message (Rowland et al, pp. 132-33).

In 1743, some of the most prominent of George Whitefield’s converts broke away from St. Helena’s Church and on May 20, established the Stoney Creek meeting house beside the King’s Highway on the banks of the Pocotaligo River. The local planters who organized this church were Hugh Bryan, Jonathan Bryan, William Gilbert, Robert Ogle, James Rowland, Joseph Bryan, and Stephen Bull, Jr. (son of Burnaby Bull and son-in-law of Joseph Bryan). The first minister they called, William Hutson of New York, was also a convert of George Whitefield. Hugh and Jonathan Bryan became leaders in the Stoney Creek Church. The Bryan Brothers were responsible for initiating the evangelical mission to the growing slave population of the Beaufort District. The conversion of slaves to Christianity was one of the most important events in South Carolina history, and the particular form of evangelical Christianity practiced by many black Americans to this day may have begun with George Whitefield, the Great Awakening, and the Bryan Brothers of Beaufort ( Rowland et al, pp. 134-35).

William Hutson served as minister until 1756 when he became pastor of the Circular Church in Charleston. The Stoney Creek Church was reorganized in 1772, and all voting members were required to be landholders and slaveholders. At that time the church purchased a number of slaves, managed by John Cuthbert, to hire out to produce income for the organization. On March 17, 1785, the Stoney Creek congregation was incorporated as the Independent Presbyterian Church of Prince William Parish (Rowland et al, p. 117).

During the antebellum years, many Prince William Parish rice-planting families established summer homes in McPhersonville in northern Beaufort County. This village was built on high ground away from the rice fields in the midst of a tall pine forest. It

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8, 9 Page 3

Name of Property: Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State: Hampton County, South Carolina

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was here that many plantation owners and their families had summer residences where they retreated to escape the unhealthy lowlands during the hotter months of mosquito infestation. Among the settlers were many prominent families, such as the Draytons, McCleods, Mackeys, Brailsfords, Palmers, DeSaussures, Colcoks, Hutsons, and Gregories. Virtually all local planters of the day were devoted to the cultivation of rice crops that thrived when swamps were drained, diked and properly sluiced. The plantation owners weren't able to leave the malaria infested coastal area for months at a time for business reasons. They needed to be nearby to maintain their crops yet retreat to a safer distance for their health. In 1832, the old Stoney Creek Presbyterian congregation built the summer chapel, Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel. Many of the planters in the region gave up portions of their property to form one 210-foot-square acre on which the chapel was built, thereby providing a place of worship for the summer months. U. S. Geological Survey maps indicate that the site of the chapel is approximately eighty-two feet above sea level with neighboring sites within a mile at just seventeen feet above. This difference in elevation was most important to the physical health of the residents who had little in the way of medical treatments. (Rowland et al, p. 386 ; Stoney Creek, pp. 9-11)

Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel is the only structure which was built prior to the Civil War still standing in the village of McPhersonville; it was used as a hospital and the grounds for a campsite by Federal troops. Although all other churches in the entire area were burned, the parent church at Stoney Creek was gradually dismantled over a four year period while Union troops were stationed in the area. Portions were used to construct bridges and to augment living quarters. (Stoney Creek, pp. 9-11)

The cemetery, at the site of the parent church, contains the graves of many prominent South Carolinians. Regular worship at the chapel dwindled due to the economy and lack of growth in the community. As a result, the Congregation was dissolved in 1967. The Charleston Presbytery assigned custodianship to the First Presbyterian Church of Beaufort, South Carolina, which serves as the permanent caretaker of this historic church. (Stoney Creek, pp. 9-11)

**Bibliography**

Rowland, Lawrence, Alexander Moore and George C. Rogers, Jr. *The History of Beaufort County, South Carolina, Volume 1, 1514-1861*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1986.

*The Stoney Creek Recipe Collection: A Treasury of Culinary Favorites and Historical Vignettes*. Franklin, Tennessee: Providence House Publishers, 1994.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 4

Name of Property: Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State: Hampton County, South Carolina

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**Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

"All that certain piece, parcel or tract of land, with the church located thereon, known as Stoney Creek Presbyterian Church, situate, lying and being at McPhersonville, Hampton County, South Carolina; such tract of land containing one (1) acre and being shown on a plat prepared by W. L. Gaillard, Surveyor, dated June 1984 by which plat the said parcel is shown to measure and bound as follows, to-wit: Commencing at the point of beginning which is a pipe located one-hundred thirty-eight (138') feet of a pipe at the Northeast corner of the two and five tenth (2.5) acre lot of R. E. Williams; from said point of beginning thence S770E a distance of two hundred ten (210') feet to a pipe; thence S13000W for a distance of two hundred (210') feet to a pipe; then N77000W for a distance of two hundred ten (210') feet to a pipe; thence N13000E for a distance of two hundred (210') feet to the point of beginning."

Deed Book D-82, Page 679-682, Hampton County, South Carolina

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were drawn to include the boundaries of the Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel.



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 5

Name of Property: Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel  
County and State: Hampton County, South Carolina

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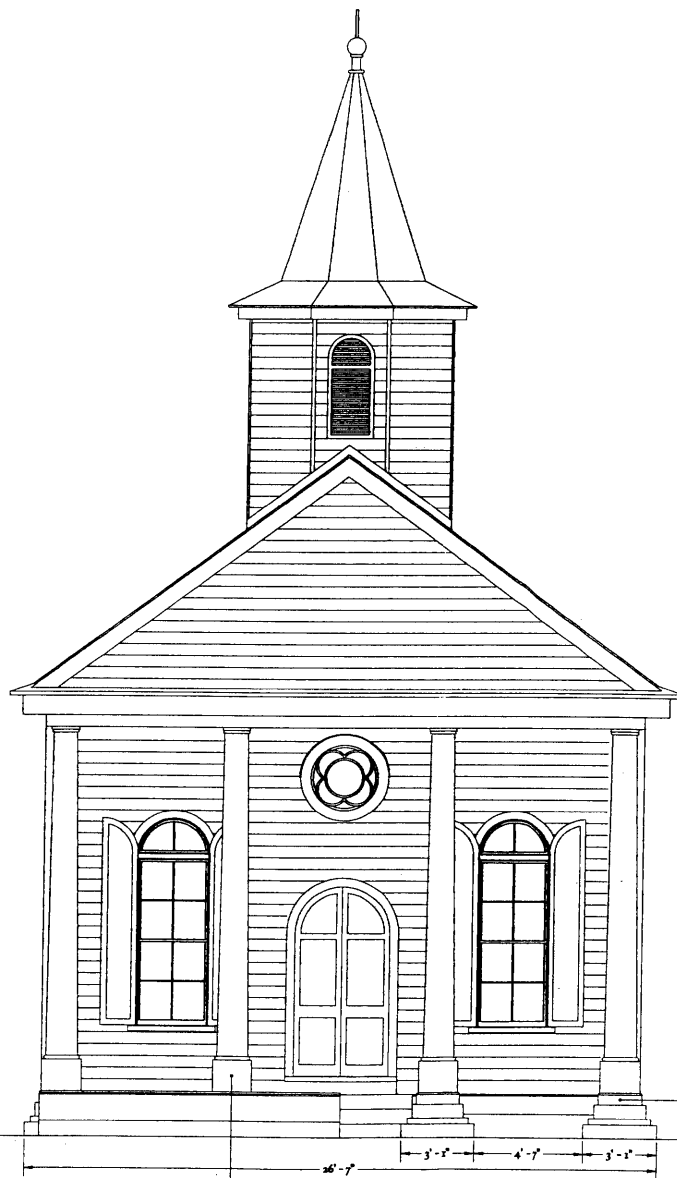
Items for #1-5 is the same for all photographs

1. Stoney Creek Independent Presbyterian Chapel
2. Hampton County, South Carolina
3. Negatives on file, South Carolina Archives & History
4. Jeff Mansell, photographer
5. January, 2001
6. Photograph #1
7. façade, camera facing northeast
  
6. Photograph #2
7. façade, camera facing northeast
  
6. Photograph #3
7. façade, camera facing east
  
6. Photograph #4
7. northwest elevation, camera facing southwest
  
6. Photograph #5
7. southwest elevation, camera facing northwest
  
6. Photograph #6
7. northeast (rear) elevation, camera facing southwest
  
6. Photograph #7
7. steeple, camera facing southwest
  
6. Photograph #8
7. entrance, camera facing northeast
  
6. Photograph #9
7. detail of round window, camera facing northeast
  
6. Photograph #10
7. interior, southwest wall, camera facing southwest
  
6. Photograph #11
7. interior, pulpit arrangement, camera facing northwest
  
6. Photograph #12
7. interior, rear (northeast) wall, camera facing northeast
  
6. Photograph #13
7. interior, raised platform and rear door
  
6. Photograph #14
7. interior, chapel organ and privacy cloth, camera facing northwest

**STONEY**

06.26.99

**STONEY CREEK  
SUMMER CHAPEL**  
STONEY CREEK  
PRESBYTERIAN  
FOUNDATION INC.  
McPHERSONVILLE, SC

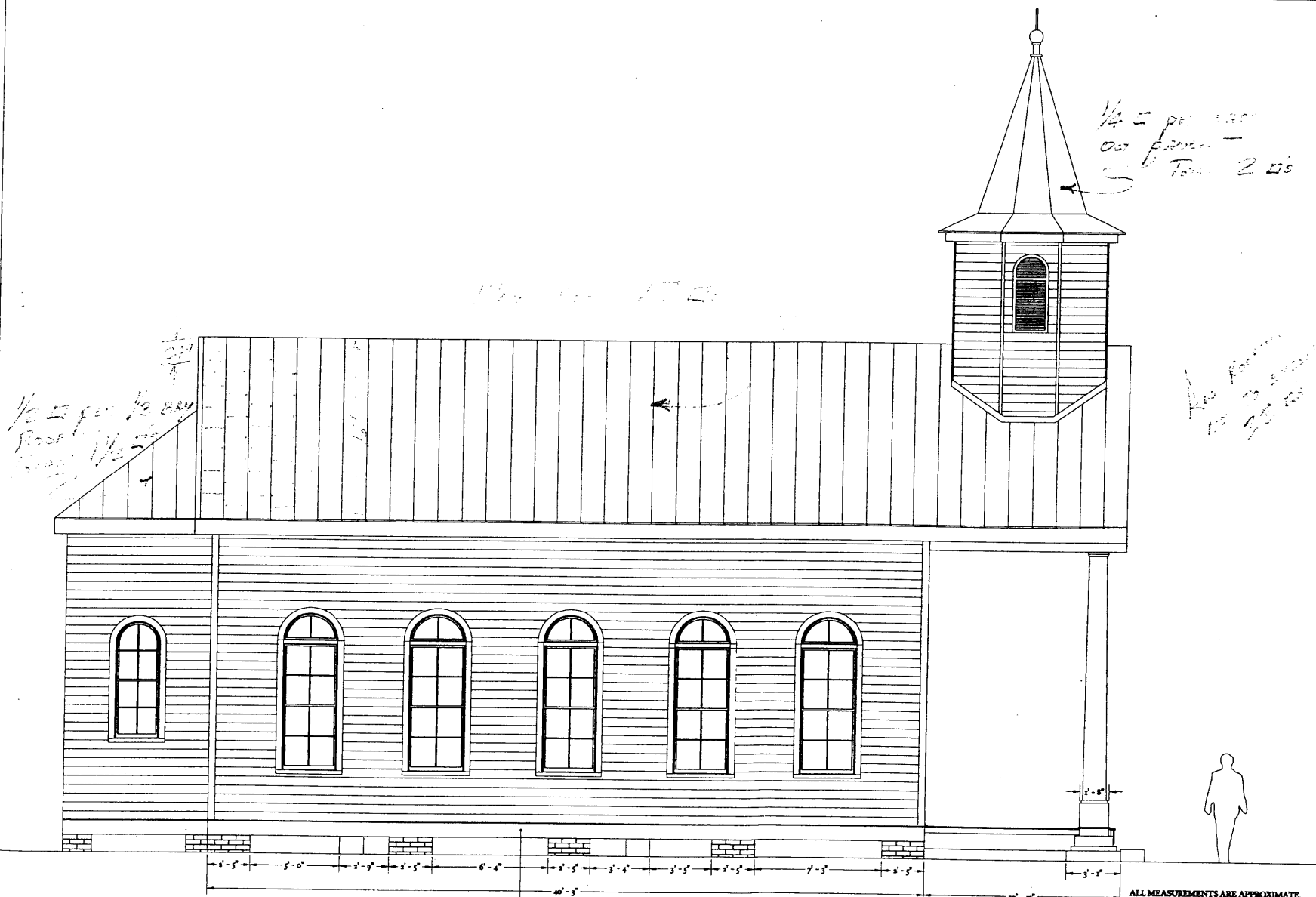


ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE.

**WEST ELEVATION**

**SHEET 1**

**STONEY CREEK  
SUMMER CHAPEL  
STONEY CREEK  
PRESBYTERIAN  
FOUNDATION INC.  
McPHERSONVILLE, SC**



2'-5" 5'-0" 2'-9" 2'-5" 6'-4" 2'-5" 3'-4" 3'-5" 2'-5" 7'-5" 2'-5"

2  
SPEC  
IMAGE  
2

ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE.

**NORTH ELEVATION**

**SHEET 2**

# STONEY

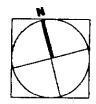
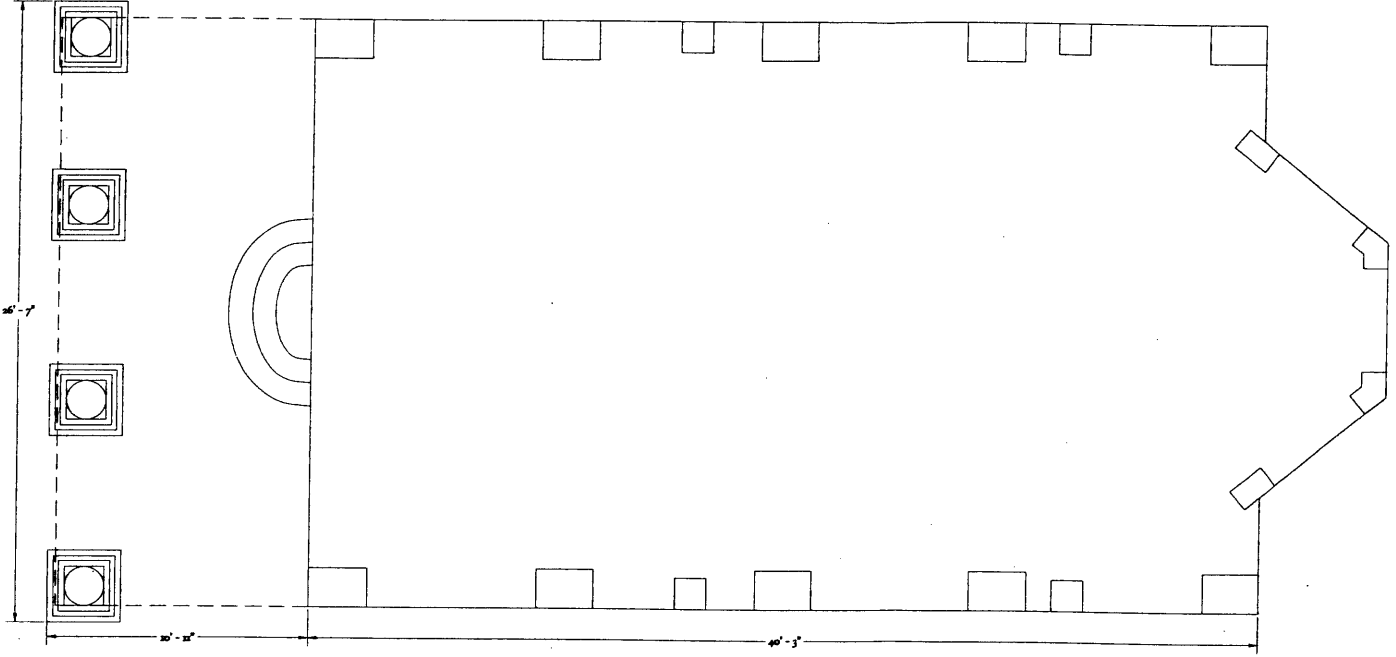
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**STONEY CREEK  
SUMMER CHAPEL**  
STONEY CREEK  
PRESBYTERIAN  
FOUNDATION INC.  
McPHERSONVILLE, SC


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**PLAN SHEET 5**



ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATE.

**PLAN**