

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received **NOV 3 1980**  
date entered **DEC 3 1980**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic <sup>54</sup> Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 411 "L" Street \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Neligh \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Third  
state Nebraska code 31 county Antelope code 003

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ park</span>
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ private residence</span>
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ scientific</span>
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ transportation</span>
		___ no	___ military <span style="margin-left: 100px">___ other:</span>

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Right Reverend James Warner, Bishop of Nebraska, and  
street & number Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska, 200 North 62nd Street  
city, town Omaha \_\_\_ vicinity of state Nebraska

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Antelope County Courthouse  
street & number 102 East Fifth Street  
city, town Neligh \_\_\_ vicinity of state Nebraska

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Preservation in Nebraska has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date On-going \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local  
depository for survey records Nebraska State Historical Society  
city, town Lincoln \_\_\_ vicinity of state Nebraska

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## 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**

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, erected in 1887 and apparently built in accordance to ordered plans, is a one-story, frame structure with horizontal clapboard siding above the level of window sills and vertical tongue-and-groove siding below. The L-shaped building occupies the southeast corner of Fifth and "L" Streets in Neligh, a community of 1,764 (1970 census) in the center of Nebraska's northeastern quarter. Other church buildings are in the immediate vicinity, and in the center of the block northwest of Saint Peter's is the Antelope County Courthouse.

The Neligh Episcopal church is a simple Gothic Revival edifice consisting of a two-bay by four-bay nave, and a two-bay chancel centered on the nave's east. At the southeast is a lateral sacristy whose roof-ridge is aligned with the junction of the nave and chancel; at the southwest is a small entrance porch with a semi-circular-transomed door; and abutting the porch is a gabled stair enclosure leading to a basement excavated in the mid-1940s.

All roof sections are gabled -- end sections on the nave and chancel being clipped. Surmounting the west end of the nave is an open-framework belfry resting on a flared base and covered by a flared pyramidal roof.

All windows have pointed arches, excepting a wheel window in the upper portion of the west wall. An exterior brick chimney is centered on the chancel's east wall. The original roofing material was cedar shingles; in recent years this material was replaced with composition roofing.

The interior space consists of an aisleless nave and an articulated chancel. Plastered walls are above a continuous dado, and the ceiling is composed of thin wooden boards and a system of brackets and delicate rafters and collar arches with dripstone finials. Additional illumination is provided by three triangular lights in the ceiling which are created by the clipped gables. All windows, including the semi-circular transom over the south porch entrance, are filled with fine "Aesthetic" or "Eastlake" stained glass -- a type of glass recognized as being among the artistic splendors of the late 19th century. The focal artistic piece, however, is an oil-on-canvas reproduction of Plockhart's "Good Shepherd," installed behind the altar in the early 1900s.

Interior alterations have been limited to the removal of furniture in the choir, a replacement of the original organ in another position, and the substitution of electrical lighting fixtures.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

<b>Specific dates</b>	1887	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The tenets of 19th-century ecclesiology as they affected ecclesiastical architecture were by nature felt strongest in England, where the movement commenced in the 1840s as a return to medieval building modes. In America, to which the movement spread, greater flexibility was employed in churches of the United States' branch of the Anglican Communion, yet essentialities of ecclesiological theories were certainly maintained. Saint Peter's Church in Neligh, Nebraska, stands in a direct line of descent from the English parish church while still possessing an American identity, and in this position it attains architectural significance: in its location in heartland America, the building is an excellent expression of the Episcopal Church's respect for familiar building traditions combined with an ability to simplify and modify as local conditions necessitated.

The first Episcopal Church services in Neligh were conducted by the Rev. J. C. Eldred, general missionary, who arrived in the small village before the coming of the railroad. Reportedly, the priest "drove to the hotel where he began inquiry concerning members of the Church. The hotel proprietor [an Episcopalian, seemingly] interested several people in the matter, 'as though the honor of the city was at stake'" (History of Antelope County, p. 78).

In announcing the organization of a local congregation of "the British Church," the Neligh Advocate commented in its October 22, 1881, issue:

It will no doubt be a complete surprise to the citizens of Neligh and especially the members of the churches, when they see Doc Leas, Doc Morgan, Doc Doolittle, John Mead, Ed Clarkhuff, and Judge Willey [prominent citizens of the community] sit in the Amen corner and use their little books and respond with extreme unction to the minister, on next Sunday, a week . . .

In March, 1887, Neligh Episcopalians purchased a conveniently located lot on the southeast corner of what were then Cottonwood and Main Streets, and in June of that same year a building committee was reported to be procuring designs for a church building from Eastern architects (Neligh Advocate, June 16, 1887). The name of the designer has not surfaced, although the local newspaper informed readers that "plans were received from architect Morrison, but due to some defect they were sent back" (Ibid., August 4, 1887). Saint Peter's Church was completed in late 1887 and was consecrated in March, 1888, by Bishop George Worthington, who pronounced it "the best small frame church in the diocese" (Ibid., March 22, 1888).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Neligh, Nebraska

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	5	8	0	3	5	0	4	6	6	4	3	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Eastern half of lots 17 and 18, Block 129, Original Town, Neligh, Nebraska.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society

date September, 1980

street & number 1500 "R" Street

telephone 402/471-3270

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

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marvin D Knott 10/20/80

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date

For HCRS use only

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

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/3/80

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date DEC 3 1980

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Antelope County

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

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In the 1940s, Saint Peter's Church was raised and a basement was excavated. This action did not affect the building's appearance, though, calling only for the addition of a stairway enclosure beside the south entrance porch. The interior is in a minimally altered state, and the church in total ranks as Neligh's best-preserved 19th-century building.

Architecturally, Saint Peter's falls into a significant type of American parish church that follows the prototypic Church of Saint James the Less, Philadelphia, 1846-48, built from drawings sent to the United States by the Cambridge Camden Society. Saint James the Less, as pointed out by architectural historian Phoebe Stanton, was the first American church erected under the direct supervision of the English ecclesiologists (The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture, p. 91).

Essential similarities shared by Saint James the Less and Saint Peter's are a one-story nave with a similarly shaped chancel, a south porch, and no frontal tower and spire; instead, in accordance with a small church there is a bell fixture. But Saint Peter's is a frame construction whereas the 40-year-earlier Philadelphia church has buttressed walls of stone construction. Also, the pitch of Saint Peter's gabled roof sections is considerably less steep, and its crowning element giving the final churchly appearance is an airy belfry instead of a somewhat two-dimensional bell cote. Further differentiating the Nebraska church are clipped gables -- rather unorthodox features for an American Gothic Revival building. The result is a pristine frame church that possesses an American spirit and successfully serves the needs of a small congregation observing liturgical worship.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

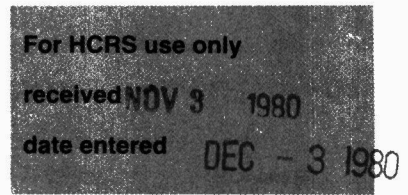
**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Antelope County

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1



History of Antelope County, Nebraska: 1883-1973. Neligh: Service Press, Inc., 1976.

Leach, A.J. A History of Antelope County, Nebraska. Neligh, 1909.

The Neligh Advocate. Neligh, Nebraska: issues from 1881 to 1888.

Neligh Centennial: 1873-1973. Neligh: Neligh Centennial Committee, 1973.

Pierson, William H., Jr. American Builders and Their Architects: Technology and the Picturesque, The Corporate and Early Gothic Styles. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Co., 1978.

"Saint Peter's Church, Neligh." Forward in Nebraska, Vol. 3, No. 2, Sept.-Oct., 1943.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture: An Episode in Taste, 1840-56. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968.

Property St. Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)

DUE 50002439  
1/3/81

State NB, Antelope Working Number 11.3.80.2731

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 5  
Maps 1

A finely preserved example of a Gothic Revival church in wood. The clipped gables, a somewhat unorthodox feature for American Gothic Revival, are distinctive.

**HISTORIAN**

accept  
12/2/80  
*Rankin*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

accept  
*Mr. Rankin*  
12/5/80

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC - 3 1980





St. Peters Episcopal Church  
Neligh, Nebr.  
Photo by Geo. Strassler 5/79

Photo # 1 of 5  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)  
411 "L" Street, Neligh, Antelope Co.,  
Nebraska.

NOV 3 1980

Exterior view; photographer facing  
east-southeast; George Strassler;  
May, 1979.

Negative filed with George Strassler,  
Neligh, Nebraska.

DEC - 3 1980



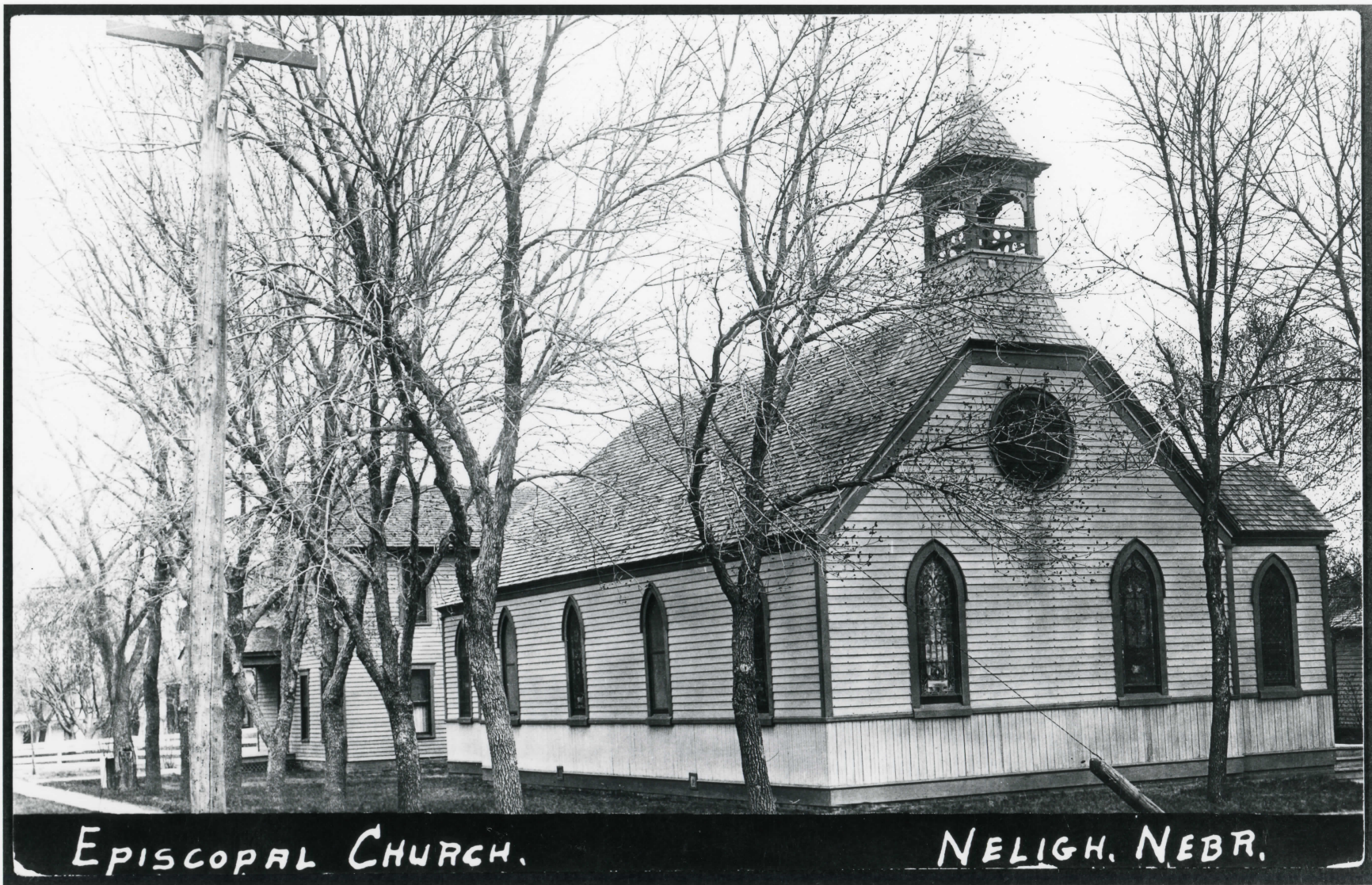
St. Peters Episcopal Church  
Neligh, Nebr.  
Photo by Geo. Strassler 5/79

DEC - 3 1980  
NOV 3 1980

Photo # 2 of 5  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)  
411 "L" Street, Neligh, Antelope Co.,  
Nebraska.

Exterior view; photographer facing  
northeast; George Strassler; May, 1979.

Negative filed with George Strassler,  
Neligh, Nebraska.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

NELIGH, NEBR.

A627

Episcopal Church  
Neligh, Nebraska  
Antelope County

099  
MS-15

Photo # 3 of 5

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)  
411 "L" Street, Neligh, Antelope Co.,  
Nebraska.

Historic exterior view, ca. 1910,  
photographer unknown; photographer  
facing southeast.

Nebraska State Historical Society  
Photograph Collection  
A627

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Interior, St. Peters Episcopal  
Church  
Neligh, Nebr.  
Photo by Geo. Strassler 5/79

Photo # 4 of 5  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)  
411 "L" Street, Neligh, Antelope Co.,  
Nebraska.

Interior view; May, 1979, George Strassler,  
Photographer facing east.

Negative filed with George Strassler,  
Neligh, Nebraska.

NOV 3 1980  
DEC - 3 1980

W 228 - 228W





W855-836  
Church Interior

423

Photo # 5 of 5  
Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (AP04-5)  
411 "L" Street, Neligh, Antelope Co.,  
Nebraska.

Historic interior view; ca. 1910,  
photographer unknown; view facing east.

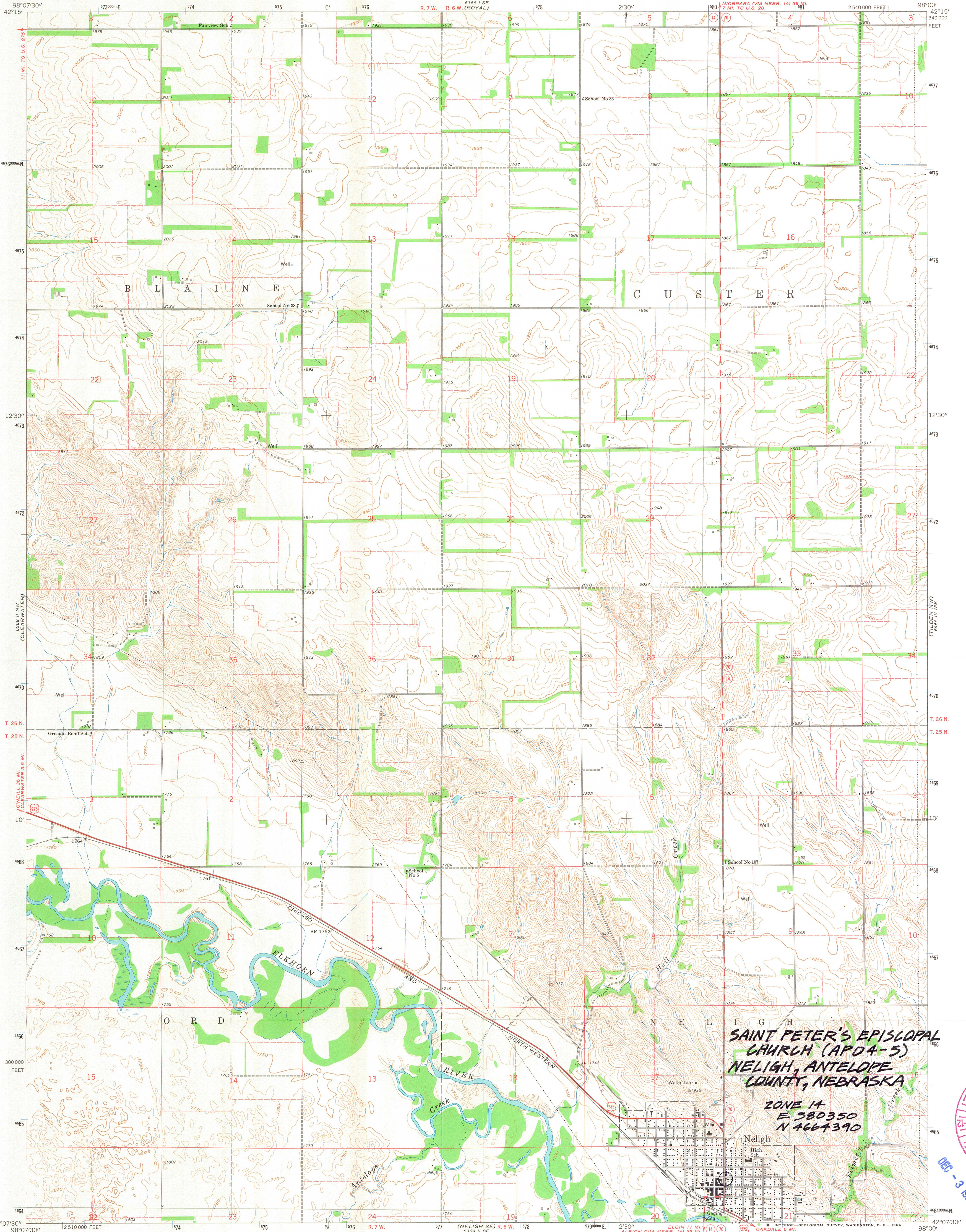
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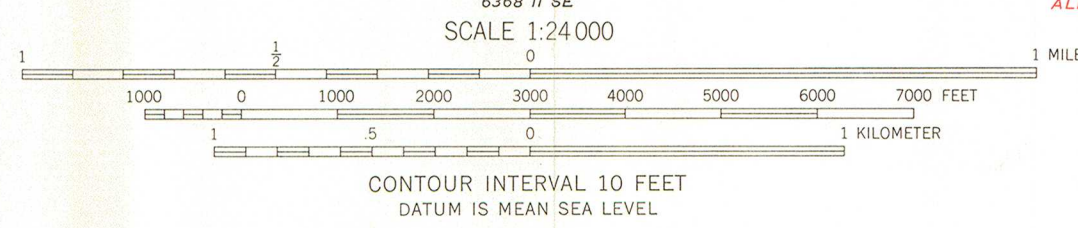
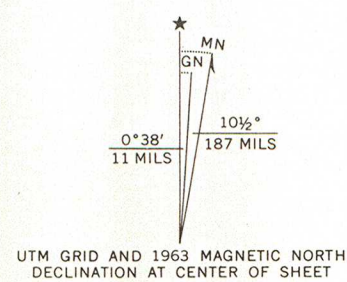
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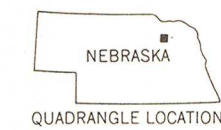
Nebraska State Historical Society



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963  
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Nebraska coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

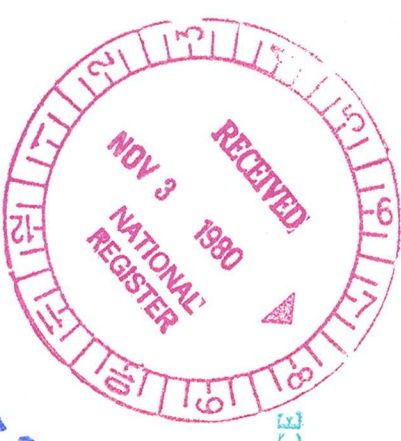
NELIGH, NEBR.  
N4207.5-W9800/7.5

1963  
AMS 6368 II NE-SERIES V875

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

**SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (APD4-5)  
NELIGH, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

**ZONE 14  
E 580350  
N 4664390**

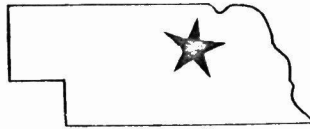


DEC - 3 1960

Nebraska State Historical Society  
State Historic Preservation Office  
PERMANENT FILE COPY  
DO NOT REMOVE FROM THIS OFFICE

# CITY OF NELIGH

NELIGH, NEBRASKA 68756



H.T.

October 14, 1980

Marvin F. Kivett  
State of Nebraska  
State of Historical Society  
1500 R. Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Mr. Kivett:

Your letter of consideration of nominating the St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Neligh, Nebraska to the National Register of Historic Places has been received by the Mayor and City Council.

At the regular City Council Meeting last evening, the City Council was very much in favor of considering this nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your concern in preserving historic places as this.

Yours truly,

*Elaine Hamm*

Elaine Hamm, City Clerk  
City of Neligh, Nebraska

DEC 3 1980



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ELECTED MEMBERS

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MARVIN F. KIVETT  
DIRECTOR-SECRETARY



Phone (402) 471-3270

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Supreme Court of Nebraska  
  
LORAL JOHNSON, PRESIDENT  
Nebraska Press Association

1500 R STREET  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

October 16, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for the Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Neligh, Antelope County, Nebraska. This nomination has been reviewed and approved by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Board in accordance with 36 CFR 1202.12 as amended.

If there are any questions concerning this nomination, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Marvin F. Kivett*  
Marvin F. Kivett  
State Historic Preservation Officer

MFK:dbm

Enclosures

NOV 3 1980



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    NEBRASKA

Date Entered    DEC 3 1980

Name

Location

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Neligh  
Antelope County

Antelope County Courthouse

Neligh  
Antelope County

Also Notified

Honorable John J. Exon, Jr.  
Honorable Edward Zorinsky  
Honorable Virginia Smith

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Marvin F. Kivett  
Director, The Nebraska State  
Historical Society  
1500 R Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

NR

Byers/jrb/12-31-80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.