UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS	USE ONLY		
RECEIVE	D		
DATEEN	ITEBEN		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW	TO COMPLETE NATIONA COMPLETE APPLICABL		S	
1 NAME	COMPLETE APPLICABL	E SECTIONS		
HISTORIC				
Pilgrim Holiness Church				
"Baled Hay Church"		(AT01-1)		
2 LOCATION				
Constant				
STREET & NUMBER		NOT FOR BURLIOATION		
CITY, TOWN		NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ICT	
Arthur	_ VICINITY OF	Third		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
Nohraska	31	Arthur	005	
CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE	
DISTRICTPUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	XMUSEUM	
XBUILDING(S) XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK	
STRUCTUREBOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC	
SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS	
OBJECTIN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC	
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION	
	NO	MILITARY	OTHER:	
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY				
SECONOMIA CONTRACTOR C				
NAME Arthur County Historical Societ	- 37			
STREET & NUMBER	y			
CITY, TOWN	FIRST Street Control of the Control	STATE		
Arthur	VICINITY OF	Nebraska		
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION			
COURTHOUSE.				
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerks Off	fice, Arthur County	Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN		STATE		
Arthur	**************************************	Nebraska		
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS			
TITLE				
Historic Preservation in Nebras	ska			
DATE	Y			
1971	FEDERAL AS	TATECOUNTYLOCAL		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS				
Nebraska State Histori	ical Society	STATE		
Lincoln		Nebraska		



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

__ALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

_XGOOD

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pilgrim Holiness Church at Arthur, Nebraska is a unique church structure built in 1928 of baled rye straw. The simple rectangular building is one-and-one-half stories in height and measures 9.65m by 17m (32 x 56 feet). The walls, which are 60cm (2 feet) thick, are made of rye straw bales which have been stuccoed on the outside and plastered on the inside (see photo #7). A small vestibule protrudes from the front or south facade of the church.

The interior of the church is simply furnished with seven rows of pews situated on a floor which slopes downward to the altar-platform (see photo #5). Behind the platform are two small rooms, one of which is a kitchen, the other a parlor. An enclosed stairway rises from the kitchen to two sleeping rooms above. According to local informant Joe Monhart, the rear part of the building served as the pastor's residence. Regular services are no longer held in the church which has attracted visitors from all over the world.

The Arthur County Historical Society owns the building and completed some restoration work on the exterior in 1976 with the assistance of a grant from the Nebraska Bicentennial Commission. A new wooden roof was laid and the exterior was re-stuccoed and painted.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __RELIGION __1400-1499 __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION __LAW __SCIENCE __AGRICULTURE __LITERATURE __SCULPTURE __1500-1599 __ECONOMICS XARCHITECTURE __1600-1699 __EDUCATION __MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN __1700-1799 __ART _ENGINEERING __MUSIC __THEATER __1800-1899 XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY __TRANSPORTATION __COMMERCE X 1900-__INDUSTRY __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __COMMUNICATIONS _OTHER (SPECIFY) __INVENTION SPECIFIC DATES 1928 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pilgrim Holiness Church represents a significant folk architectural response to the vast Nebraska Sandhills environment -- a distinct, semi-arid ecology of sand dunes stabilized by grass cover and characterized by the almost total lack of traditionally suitable building materials. While materials were available locally throughout the region for sod construction, the ecology in a general sense was not suitable for its use. In the words of Roger Welsch (1970, p. 17), the Sandhills

". . . magnified the difficulties of the previous homestead they were even more barren of trees and the weather was even more hostile. Furthermore, the sandy soil made poor construction sod, for if it did not disintegrate during cutting and handling, it would soon crumble after being laid up in walls."

Sandhills grasses, however, when cut and baled, and protected with stucco or plaster proved to be a suitable material capable of withstanding gross environmental stresses for a considerable if not indefinite length of time.

The era of baled hay construction was basically that of the Kinkaid Homestead, an era which saw the closing of the western Nebraska, high plains and Sandhills frontier. Lands available under the old Homestead Act were not sufficient for farming purposes in this semi-arid region. In 1904, through the leadership of Moses P. Kinkaid of O'Neill, Nebraska, President Roosevelt signed the Kinkaid Act which made homestead lands of 640 acres available to the public in 37 western Nebraska counties. As a result, homesteading and farming activities in the area increased substantially in the following decades (Olson: 1966, pp. 258-59).

Along with the homesteaders came the need to build suitable houses and farm buildings. As stated above, baled-hay proved suitable and became a significant construction material, widely known and used particularly throughout the Kinkaid Sandhills (Welsch: 1970, p. 14). Pilgrim Holiness Church stands as the only known church built of the material anywhere and exists as a structure significant to the folk architectural traditions of Nebraska.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1ess tha	n one acre	
QUADRANGLE NAME Arthur		QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500
UTM REFERENCES A 1 14 2 7 15 8 15 10 4 16 10 15 14	0.01 в	.
ZONE EASTING NORTHING		ONE EASTING NORTHING
EL LILILI	FL FL	
G	П Н	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR F	PROPERTIES OVER	APPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
STATE COI	DE COUNT	CODE
STATE COI	DE COUNT	CODE
FORM PREPARED BY		
NAME / TITLE		
Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural	Historian; D	Murphy, Survey Architect
ORGANIZATION		DATE
Nebraska State Historical Societ	У	May, 1979
STREET & NUMBER 1500 R Street		TELEPHONE 402/471-3270
CITY OR TOWN		STATE
Lincoln		Nebraska
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVA	TION OFFI	CER CERTIFICATION
TOTAL CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY		PERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL	STATE_X_	LOCAL
		toric Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I
		I certify that it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park	Service.	197 1 1 176
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE	Marin	To Kevett 5/3/1/
TITLE Director, Nebraska State His	storical Socie	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INC	CLUDED IN THE NA	TIONAL REGISTER
		DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER ATTEST:		DATE
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION		
G.1.1. 0. N.2001.		

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

Arthur County Historical Society, informants, Arthur, Nebraska

Monhart, Joe, informant, Arthur, Nebraska, 1978

Olson, James C. <u>History of Nebraska</u>. Second Edition. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966.

Pilgrim Holiness Church Scrapbook, Arthur County Historical Society, Arthur, Nebraska

Welsch, Roger L. "Sandhill Baled-Hay Construction." <u>Keystone</u> Folklore Quarterly (Spring, 1970), pp. 16-34.

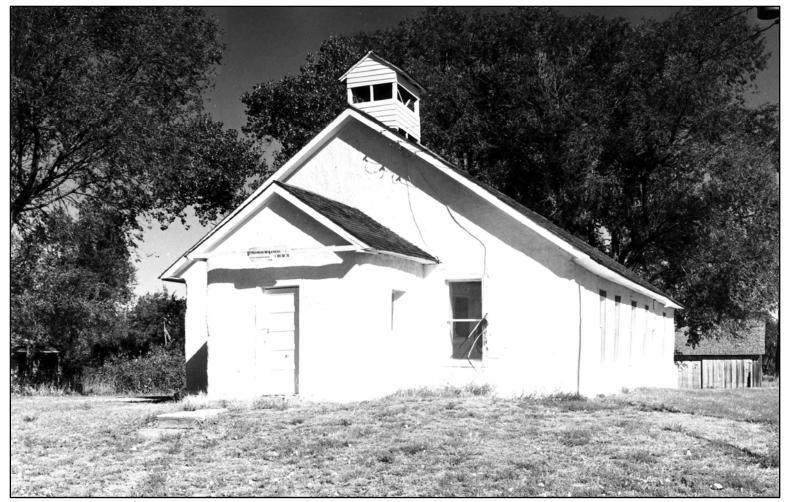


Photo 1 — south & east facades Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/8:24)

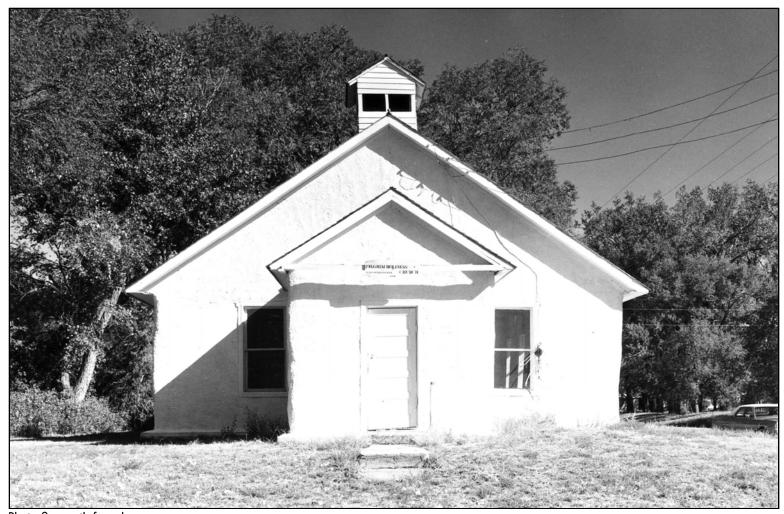


Photo 2 – south facade Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/8:21)

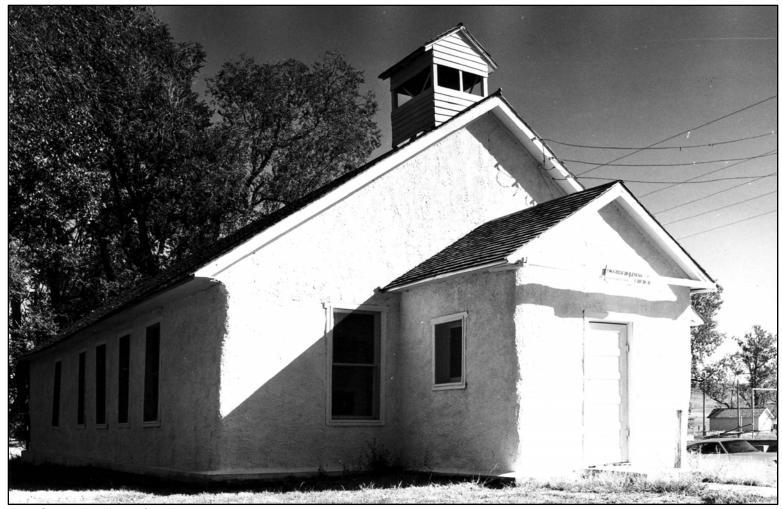


Photo 3 – south and west facades Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/8:19)

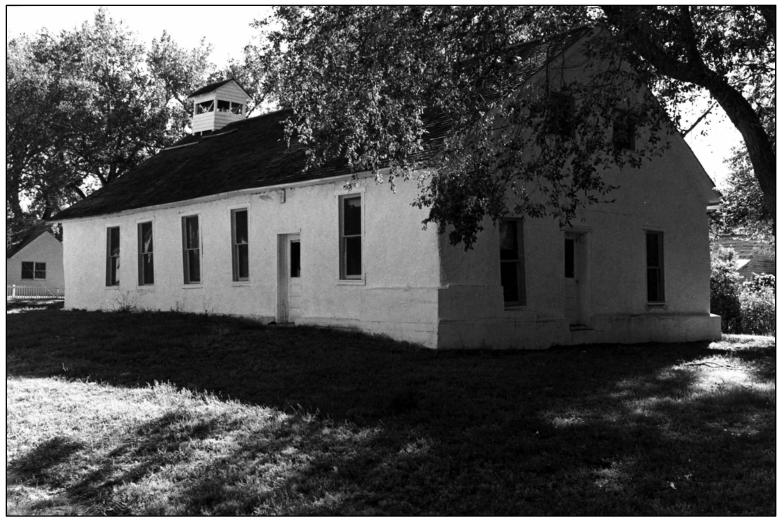


Photo 4 – north and east facades Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/9:20)



Photo 5 — interior looking north Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/8:34)

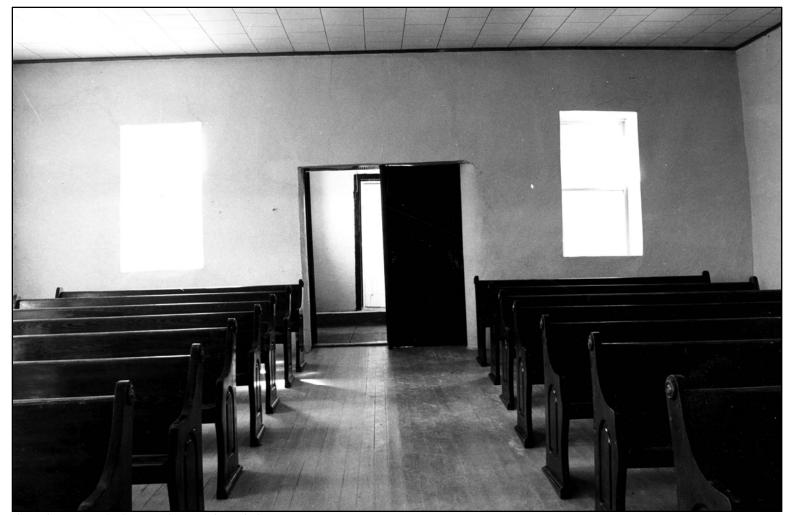


Photo 6 – interior looking south toward vestibule Photo by Janet Jeffries Spencer, 1978, NSHS (7809/8:37)