

**Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission**

P.O. Box 2646 • Salisbury, N.C. 28145-2646  
704-216-8588

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairman Mitchell and Rowan County Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Reid Walters, Historic Landmarks Commission  
**DATE:** August 22, 2011  
**RE:** **HLC 01-10:** *Zion Organ Lutheran Church*  
**Petitioner(s):** Congregation of Zion Organ Lutheran Church  
**Request:** Rowan County Historic Landmark Designation

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ACTION**

- Receive report
- Comments from petitioners
- Conduct public hearing
- Close hearing and discuss case
- Approve, Deny or Table request for HLC 01-10

**BACKGROUND**

The Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission (*HLC*) will present the application from the congregation of Zion Organ Lutheran Church to designate the stone church, Sunday school building, council building and cemetery of the *Zion Organ Lutheran Church* property Rowan County Historic Landmark. Zion Organ Lutheran Church is the oldest church structure in Rowan County and the oldest Lutheran Church in North Carolina. The church is located at 1515 Organ Church Road and is identified as parcel **374 004** on the Rowan County Tax Map.

**REQUEST**

The Rowan County ordinance that governs Landmark Designation states, "No property shall be recommended for designation as a 'Landmark' unless written consent from the property owner(s) is obtained and it is deemed and found by the Landmarks Commission to be of special significance in terms of its historical, pre-historical, architectural or cultural importance and to possess integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, character and/or association". The owners have given signed written consent and have provided all necessary and requested information as seen in *Attachment A*.

The *HLC* reviewed the application, complete with photos and maps, and conducted an on-site investigation of the property. After the investigation the *HLC* concluded that the

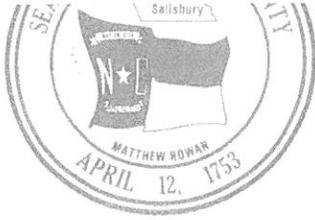
statements of description for both the surface land structures and the buildings have been accurately represented. Furthermore the *HLC* concluded that the:

- Historical significance had been accurately documented
- Architectural importance of the structures
- Design of each structure and the undisturbed arrangement of all buildings possess integrity and have retained the original setting
- Skilled craftsmanship and selection of the highest quality materials for the original buildings and land structures are obvious to the visitor and the restoration process by the current owners has maintained the highest standards resulting in a pristine farmstead with genuine character and authenticity

#### **HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION ACTION**

On September 15, 2010, the *HLC* received advisory comments on the proposed local designation of *Zion Organ Lutheran Church* from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office (See *Attachment C*). Based on these comments and the revised application, the *HLC* voted (4-0) on March 8, 2011 to recommend the approval of the structures and surrounding property as a historic landmark.

Attachment A-  
HLC Application



Rowan County Planning  
Department  
402 North Main Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144  
Phone (704) 216-8588  
Fax (704) 638-3130  
Web <http://www.co.rowan.nc.us>

Case # HLC 01-10  
Date Filed 7/13/2010  
Received By [Signature]  
Amount Paid \$50 ✓  
Office Use Only

## Historic Landmark Designation Application

1. Name of property Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church
2. Owner's name and address The Congregation  
1515 Organ Church Rd.  
Salisbury, N.C. 28146
3. Property location SW of Rockwell on SR 1006  
off SR 1221
4. Amount of land to be designated Original Ten Acres deeded  
August 16th, 1786
5. Interior to be designated Yes  No
6. Tax map 113 Rockwell Rural Parcel 374 004 & 375 035

**Please complete the following information on separate sheets:**

7. When was the structure erected? For Whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame.) Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.
8. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the structure (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.)? Do any architect's plans or building accounts exist? Where?
9. Do you have any old photographs of the structure? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?
10. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom (i.e., a quick chain of title)?

11. What was the structure's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.
12. What is the significance of this property? (Please be specific and to the point) Include a list of sources for your information.
13. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration? Was the restoration done under the supervision of any historic preservation organization? If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?
14. Is the property listed in any existing architectural or historical survey (i.e. the National Register of Historic Places)? If so, please give the title and date of the listing.

***In addition to the written application, the following materials must be submitted simultaneously:***

- \* Digital color images showing all sides of the main structure and any outbuildings (may include architectural details, interior and exterior, which add to the property's significance).
- \* A tax map showing the location of the property, including any buildings and appurtenant features.

(Please label the above materials with the name of the property owner)

**APPLICATION FEE - \$50.00 (Payable to Rowan County)**

The information contained herein this application is true and to the best of my knowledge.

7-12-2010  
Date

Jane Brown Hird, Chair  
Signature of Property Owner  
Organ Historical Comm.

Mailing Address:  
1515 Organ Church Rd.  
Salisbury, NC  
28146

Telephone: 704-279-3096

7. When was the structure erected? For Whom? (If you don't know the exact date, please give a general time frame.) Have there been additions or modifications? If so, describe and give dates.

Although sources disagree, the most authoritative source, Pastor C.A.G. Storch, wrote on December 19, 1791: "The congregation of the Organ Church will erect a new building next summer, and to be specific, it will be a stone church." Then as to its completion, we read from another letter by Pastor Storch, dated February 25, 1796, the following: "The stone church of my congregation on Second Creek was completed last autumn and will be consecrated on Easter of this year.

While Rev. W. R. Brown was pastor of Organ Church, 1886-1894, the old flagstone floor of the church was replaced by a wooden floor, and the high pulpit was taken down and a smaller one installed. At the same time the old pipe organ was removed from the church and allowed to be destroyed. Then, about 1906, while Rev. C. A. Brown was the pastor, the roof of the church was made steeper, and a stone tower was built. When erected, the tower faced the road, but later the road was relocated to the opposite side of the church, so that now the tower is in the back of the building.

A stone building for Sunday School purposes was put up in 1928, while Rev. Paul L. Miller was pastor there. It is a two story building with basement, all fitted out with class rooms and assembly halls. This building replaced what is now known as the old council building which had been moved outside the stone walls of the church. In 2008, the old council building was restored and moved inside the stone walls, near the educational building.

8. Do you know the names of any of the craftsmen who worked on the structure (i.e., architects, carpenters, contractors, landscape designers, etc.)? Do any architect's plans or building accounts exist? Where?

The following carpenters and craftsmen, church members, are credited with the construction of Organ Church. It should be remembered that while the construction period spanned the years 1792-1795, the men took time away from the enterprise, as needed, to keep their farms going and their families fed.

George Lewis Siffert

Wendel Miller

Peter Eddleman

John Stirewalt

Michael Goodman

Christopher Pless

Leonard Siffert

Jacob Klein

Anthony Kuhn

George Henry Berges

Christopher Goodman

John Rendleman

John Eagle

Nothing remains of the plans for the building of the stone church. What is known, including the list of men above is documented in the writings of Reverend

C.A.G. Storch, who served Organ from 1788 to 1823. A letter from Reverend Storch, dated December 19, 1791 to his mentor in Germany, Dr. Velthusen, includes the following: "The Congregation of Organ Church will erect a new building next summer, and to be specific, it will be a stone church."

A second letter from Storch to Velthusen dated February 25, 1796 states, "The stone church of my congregaton on Second Creek was completed last Autumn and will be consecrated on Easter of this year. It is fifty feet long, forty feet wide, and about twenty feet high. It cost 1100-1200 Spanish taler."

**9. Do you have any old photographs of the structure? If so, do you know the dates of the photographs?**

**There are many old photographs of Organ Church. A couple of them are displayed in the narthex of our new church and date before the addition of the Bell Tower in 1906.**

**Another photograph is displayed in the Rowan Museum in Salisbury and shows young adults riding their bicycles around the church. Again the Bell Tower is not shown which dates the picture to before 1906.**

**A current member, Ben Brown, has a number of old photographs of the church.**

10. How has the building been passed down through the years, from whom to whom (i.e., a quick chain of title)?

All Organ Church properties, including historic Organ Church have passed from generation to generation over the centuries of time. Each generation has accepted the responsibilities that go with such a precious inheritance. Each generation continues to maintain and make repairs as needed to keep all church properties in excellent condition.

A Historical Properties Committee, a Historical Committee and a small army of volunteers focus their attention on our historic properties. This past year (2009) their keen foresight and that of the congregation, along with generous contributions resulted in the restoration of an additional historic structure, "The Old Council Building."

Prior to the addition of the Old Sunday School Building to the Old Church, The Council Building had been attached to the church near its northeast corner for more than a century. The building was so named because through the decades it was the favorite meeting place for the Church Council, our ruling body. In addition, it also served as a small Sunday School Building, a meeting place for the Luther League, as well as a dressing facility for pastors prior to their entry into the sanctuary for services.

Under the leadership of Reverend Paul Miller the present Old Sunday School Building (which is attached to the Old Church at two entries) was completed in 1929. The cornerstone for it was laid May 20, 1929. It was first put into service on December 1, 1929.

Sometime prior to beginning of the construction of the present Old Sunday School Building, the Old Council Building was dragged some 60 yards (likely by teams of horses) to the edge of a wooded area on the Church's property. As various times it was used for Church Council Meetings, Sunday-School classes, Vacation Bible School classes, a Boy Scout Hut, and most recently as a storage building for "Newspaper Drives."

Research on the building's restoration began May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000 when the Historical Properties Committee of Organ Church met with Paul E. Fomberg, Senior Restoration Specialist with the N.C. Division of Archives and History.

We have not been unable to find any documentation of the building's age. Concerning this, Dr. Fomberg said the following, "The council house appears to date from the 1830's-1850's period, and was apparently built as a frame addition to the old church building."

During this visit and in a follow up letter of July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Dr. Fomberg gave his assessment of the building's condition and offered his suggestions for restoration, including appropriate methods and materials. Dr. Fomberg also suggested that the Council Building be moved back within the walls of the cemetery, nearer its original location.

During this move, Dr. Fomberg also suggested that it be rotated 180 degrees, putting it back into the correct position in which it was attached to the church. This move and rotation was accomplished later that year.

As mentioned earlier, the restoration of our second oldest historic structure was completed in 2009. Future plans for the building include furnishing it with historical relics and materials from our collection, so that it serves us as a rather smallish museum. It has already become a part of our presentation to tour groups visiting our historical properties.

**11. What was the structure's original use, if different from today? Has the building ever been moved? List the sources of your information.**

**The building's original use was for worship as it is today during the summer months for 8:30 services. Occasional other special services are held in the building such as weddings and Easter Sunrise services.**

**The building has never been moved.**

**Sources:**

**History of the Lutheran Church in North Carolina by edited by Jacob L. Morgan, LL.D., Bachman S. Brown, Jr. D.D., and John Hall, D.D.**

**"History of Organ Evangelical Lutheran Church", by Z.A. Kluttz, The Carolina Watchman, August 24, 1930.**

12. What is the significance of the property? (Please be specific and to the point) Include a list of sources for your information.

(Please note that information including a description of Zion Church, including its history and significance are attached. It follows this question. This information was originally submitted to The National Register in 1971 as a part of the nomination process.)

In his book, "The Architecture of Rowan County", David Foard Hood makes a number of observations. "All churches under discussion, except Cleveland Presbyterian Church, are rectangular in plan with aisles running parallel to the long sides of the rectangle. Entrances are set in one short end opposite the liturgical (east) wall with secondary entrances at other locations. The oldest of the churches have a two-story elevation . . . The interior floor plans are relatively simple with either a single aisle through the center of the church or a pair of aisles separating three rows of seating. Frequently a second, cross aisle, leading from the church's side entrance and separating the seating area from the chancel, was also a feature . . . Stairs to the gallery were enclosed in the rear corners of the church, sometimes to the side of a shallow vestibule. The arrangement of balconies on three sides of the interior seen at Third Creek, Back Creek, Organ, and Lower Stone was largely discontinued after the war, when, if built, they carried across the rear elevation . . . Two stone churches built by Germans remain. The oldest of these, Zion, also called Organ Church was begun in 1792 and completed in 1795 . . . it is not only the oldest church structure in Rowan County but is also the oldest Lutheran church in North Carolina." (Hood. Pgs. 75, 76.)

Organ Church derived its name from a pipe organ built by member Johannas Stirewalt sometime prior to 1786. Originally installed in the congregation's earlier Dutch Creek Meeting House, it was relocated in the new church upon its completion in 1795. The significance of the organ is explained as follows: "It was built in the house entirely by hand by Mr. Stirewalt, a member of the congregation, and was one amongst the very first pipe organs ever built in America, and the first of any kind in any church in North Carolina." (Z.A. Kluttz)

Additionally the congregations of Organ and Saint Johns, Cabarrus County, sent representatives, Christopher Rintelmann (from Organ) and Christopher Layrely (of St. Johns) to Germany to secure a minister and a school teacher. As a result of their trip, "Rev. Adolphus Nussman was sent as pastor and Mr. John Godfried Arndt as school teacher, and also pledged the institution (the Consistory of Hannover) to serve the brethren in North Carolina in the future, by sending them additional ministers upon application." (Kluttz)

Organ served a major role in the spread of Lutheranism and the development of new congregations in piedmont North Carolina. This becomes clear as a result of the amazing efforts of their children's teacher, who, after two years, became the first Lutheran minister ordained in North Carolina – Reverend Arends. His contributions were extensive in founding and serving new congregations. "In a biography prepared by the Rev. George W. Shuford, the author found connections between Arends and 20 churches and felt his list was incomplete . . . in the truest sense Arends must have been an early Lutheran 'Circuit Rider' . . ." (Raynor, pg. 31)

Reverend Nussman died in 1794 and is buried in the cemetery of St. Johns of Cabarrus County. Reverend Arends, totally blind by age 62 (1803) was aided in his ministry by his daughter Elizabeth, who read the scripture for him. Arends died in 1807 and is buried in the cemetery of Emmanuel Church in Lincolnton. Having moved fifty miles south of Organ in 1785, he became known as the, "father of the Lutheran Church beyond the Catawba River." (LCA Synod, pg. 33)

"Reverend Carl Augustus Gottlieb Storch, who came from Germany and was pastor of Organ, St. John's and other Lutheran Churches in this vicinity for 35 years, made and kept a diary of all his doings, including marriage records." (LCA Synod, pg. 13)

It should be noted that Storch was the first pastor to preach in the new stone church and the first to leave detailed written records of the times. Soon after his arrival in 1788, he mentioned that of the churches he served, Zion was the largest with some 87 families.

Hood, Davyd Foard: "The Architecture of Rowan County, Glover Printing Inc. 1983.

Kluttz, Z.A.: "The Carolina Watchman Newspaper", (August 24, 1934)

Synod, The Lutheran Church in America: "Foundations of Lutheranism in North Carolina", 1974.

Raynor, George: "Religion and Education in Piedmont Carolina", Salisbury Printing, Inc. 1991.

\* Attachment

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)
	<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	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.

- 13. Describe the architecture and present condition of the structure, also including any outbuildings or other appurtenant features to be included in the designation. If the property has been restored, what were the dates of restoration? Was the restoration done under the supervision of any historic preservation organization? If the property has not been restored, is any restoration planned for the property?**

**“The church is a two-story building of uncoursed stone set on a high water table with large stones used as quoins at the buildings corners; segmental arches occur above the windows and doors on the first story. The original front entrance is set in the center of a three-bay south elevation. About 1900 a number of changes substantially altered the appearance of the church and redirected the orientation from north-south to east-west. A three-level tower was added to the east gable end; its lower two levels are of stone while the third story-the belfry is covered with imbricated shingles.” Architecture of Rowan County by Davyd Foard Hood, pp.266-267.**

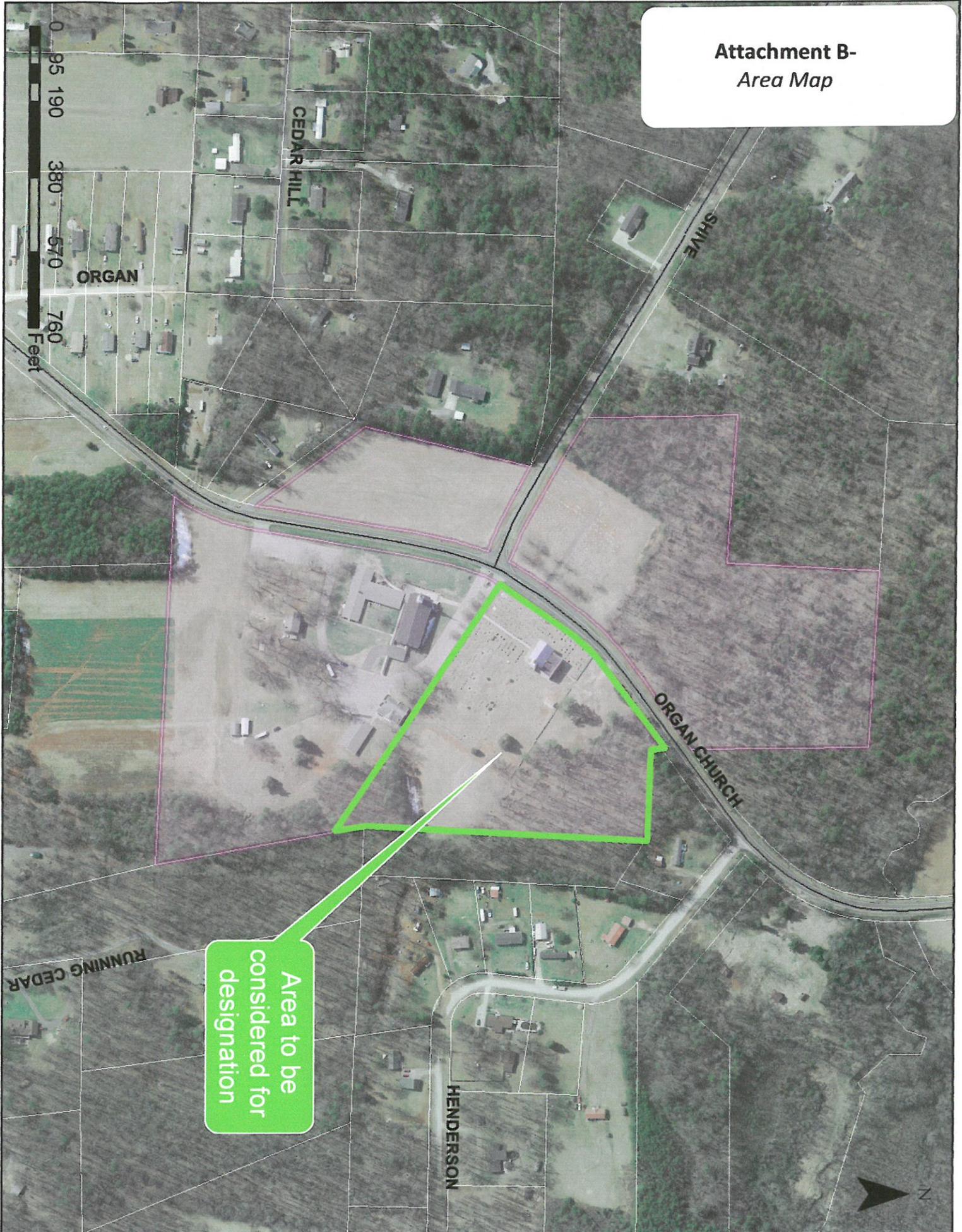
**As indicated in question #7, a stone building for Sunday School purposes was built in 1928. It is a two story building with basement, all fitted out with class rooms and assembly halls. The previous building which adjoined the church was called the council building and was removed when this stone building was being built. The so-called Old Council Building was restored in 2008 and placed inside the stone walls near the educational building.**

**About 25 years ago, Harry Sifford formed a committee to consider restoring certain features of the old church. These features included the old flagstone floor which was covered over by a wooden floor and restoring the high pulpit which was taken down and replaced by a smaller one. Although presently there is an Organ Church History Fund, the amount of money to do major restoration work seems to be prohibitive. The Fund does provide money for general maintenance such as problems with mold found under the pulpit. Money was also provided from this Fund to restore the Old Council Building.**

14. Is the property listed in any existing architectural or historical survey (i. e. the National Register of Historic Places)? If so, please give the title and date of the listing.

The church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under the title of Zion Lutheran Church, its original name. It entered the Register on January 20th, 1971 as a result of the efforts of Davyd Foard Hood, author of the book, "The Architecture of Rowan County".

**Attachment B-  
Area Map**



Area to be considered for designation

0 95 190 380 570 760 Feet

N



**Attachment C-**  
**SHPO Letter**

**North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Peter B. Sandbeck, Administrator

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor  
Linda A. Carlisle, Secretary  
Jeffrey J. Crow, Deputy Secretary

Office of Archives and History  
Division of Historical Resources  
David Brook, Director

September 15, 2010

Andrew Goodall, Planner  
Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission  
Rowan County Planning and Development Department  
402 North Main Street  
Salisbury, NC 28144

Re: **Landmark designation report for Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church, 1515 Organ Church Road, Salisbury, Rowan County**

Dear Mr. Coutu:

Thank you for the landmark designation report for the **Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church, 1515 Organ Church Road, Salisbury, Rowan County**. We have reviewed the information in the report and offer the following comments in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-400.6

The construction of the Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church was completed in 1795, and it is an architecturally significant eighteenth-century masonry church design in North Carolina. The later, turn-of-the-century bell tower addition, interior finishes, and the late 1920s Sunday school stone addition also contribute to the property's architectural significance. The church stands as the oldest Lutheran church in North Carolina, and its important association with the spread of the sect in the state is acknowledged. The church was listed in the National Register in 1971 for its statewide level of significance.

We have made suggestions to the staff for additional physical description for all the historic buildings and the cemetery. Additional historical information is also recommended for the building known as the old council building and the cemetery. Photographs of the interior of the Sunday school building and the old council building are also needed, as the report notes that interiors are to be designated. Finally, we strongly recommend that the boundary of the designated property encompass only the intact historic church setting and exclude the modern church complex acreage to the south. Only after this additional information is provided in the report do we think that the designation report will provide the Rowan County Historic Landmark Commission and the Rowan County Board of Commissioners adequate information to determine that the house has the requisite special significance and integrity for landmark designation.

Landmark designation means the community recognizes this property as an important historic resource worthy of preservation. Any substantial exterior design changes to a designated landmark are subject to design review procedures of the Rowan County Historic Landmark Commission. The owner may apply for an annual

Andrew Goodall  
September 15, 2010  
Page 2

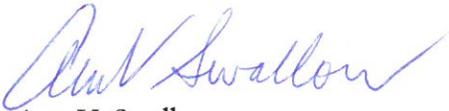
deferral of fifty percent of the property taxes for as long as the property is designated and retains significance and integrity.

Please note that the architectural descriptions prepared for landmark designation reports should address interiors regardless of the proposed extent of the commission's review authority. In order to assess a property's integrity fully and thus have a full understanding of the resources, all aspects of the property should be described. If the local governing board wishes to extend the Commission's design review authority to significant features of the interior, the owner must give written consent. The designation ordinance must specify the features and describe the nature of the Commission's design review authority over them.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the report. Our comments are advisory only. Once the necessary public hearing or hearings have been held, the Rowan County Board of Commissioners may proceed with the designation decision. When the Rowan County Board of Commissioners has concluded its action on the designation ordinance, please complete and return the confirmation form enclosed with this letter.

This letter serves as our comments on the proposed local designation of the Zion (Organ) Lutheran Church. Should you have any questions about our comments, please feel free to contact me at 919-807-6587.

Sincerely,



Ann V. Swallow  
National Register Coordinator  
On behalf of the Preservation Commission Services program

Enclosure