

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Little Stranger Church & Cemetery  
 Other names/site number Little Stranger Christian Church; A Christian Church at Little Stranger; KHRI # 103-614  
 Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number NE Corner of Intersection at Tonganoxie Road & Stranger Road  not for publication  
 City or town Leavenworth  vicinity  
 State Kansas Code KS County Leavenworth Code 103 Zip code 66048

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this x 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
     national      statewide x local Applicable National Register Criteria: x A      B x C      D

**SEE FILE**

Signature of certifying official/Title Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_

Kansas State Historical Society  
 State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. National Park Service Certification

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

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

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
2		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	0	<b>Total</b>

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

0

**6. Function or Use**

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

Religion: Church

Social: Clubhouse

Funerary: Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Work In Progress

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Vernacular

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone; Concrete

walls: Wood: weatherboard

\_\_\_\_\_

roof: Wood shingle; Asphalt

other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources, if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary

The Little Stranger Church, erected in early 1868, is located atop a small hill at the northeast corner of Stranger Road and Tonganoxie Road in Leavenworth County, Kansas, just southwest of Leavenworth and Fort Leavenworth. The area around the church is between the Missouri River bottoms to the east and the Stranger Creek bottoms to the west. A cemetery with over 100 graves wraps around the small wood church on the north and west sides. The vernacular church building features a front-facing gable roof and a symmetrical appearance. It has an older asphalt shingle roof, a wood lap siding exterior, and rests on a limestone foundation.

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### Elaboration

The church, cemetery, and associated outhouse are situated on a 1.3-acre parcel of land in the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 21, Township 9S, Range 22E (in High Prairie Township). The area remains rural in character, though the sprawling city of Leavenworth is only five miles to the northeast.

1. *Church Building (built 1868, contributing building)*

#### *Exterior*

The building faces south toward Stranger Road. It is a one-room building that measures 28'8" wide by 38'3" long. The rough-hewn cottonwood lumber framing is covered by horizontal clapboard siding. The clapboards are unpainted and many are missing – particularly on the east and west sides – leaving some of the framing exposed.<sup>1</sup> Wood was rather abundant in the Stranger Creek bottoms area where many of the early church members were residing when this building was built. They would have milled the wood themselves and hauled it to the site, as was typical with the construction of buildings in this area during this period. The building rests on a mortared limestone foundation. Cement mortar was added at a later date. There appears to be no evidence of foundation shifting, but the mortar joints are in need of attention.

There is a wood double-door entrance centered on the south elevation. The wood doors are constructed using the joinery method. Non-historic wood steps lead to the entrance. There is an exterior brick chimney (built in the 1920s) that is quite deteriorated on the west wall. The building has timber framing with up-and down-bracing at the corners.

The building has six windows – three each on the east and west sides. The tall window openings are currently boarded on the exterior to keep the building weather-tight and protect it from vandalism, since the building is not used on a regular basis. The window sashes are mostly gone, but they were double-hung wood sashes.

The front-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles, though it likely originally had wood shingles. The building may have had a metal roof at one point, though no photographs or other documentation have been uncovered to verify this. It is unclear if previous layers of roofing are beneath.

#### *Interior*

There is just one entrance into the building – a set of double-doors centered on the south side of the building. The entrance is accessed by a non-historic wood staircase. The interior is made up of one large room with a small platform spanning the north wall. It has exceptionally tall ceilings, wood floors, and plaster walls that have been clad in flush wood boards and a wood wainscot. The original wainscot is on the lower part of the walls, but the plaster above has been covered over (long ago) with simple painted wood panels running horizontal up the walls. The

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<sup>1</sup> Architect Stan Hernly of Lawrence, Kansas, suspects the building was at one point painted white.

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plaster ceiling has been covered with a grooved pine ceiling. Four globe light fixtures, likely added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, hang from long chains in each corner. The original plank floors have been covered with pine flooring.<sup>2</sup> There is a cast iron stove that was used to heat the building in later years. There are a few remaining pews, but they are not attached to the flooring and have been moved as the building's use has changed.

2. *Cemetery (established ca. 1868, contributing site)*

The cemetery partially wraps around the church on the north and west sides. The tree-filled cemetery includes over 100 marked graves and is arranged in both rows and family plots. The grave stones range in size from small and simple to large and grand, and they are in varying states of repair. Some have been toppled, while it appears some burials are unmarked. A survey of the extant markers reveals the following information:<sup>3</sup>

1850s: 1 burial	1920s: 2 burials
1860s: 6 burials	1930s: 3 burials
1870s: 24 burials	1940s: 1 burial
1880s: 22 burials	1950s: 0 burials
1890s: 17 burials	1960s: 2 burials
1900s: 18 burials	
1910s: 7 burials	Unknown: 3 burials

The earliest grave markers pre-date the construction of the church. It is possible the cemetery was established prior to the construction of the church, though the land was not deeded to the congregation until December 3, 1867. Another possible explanation is that these burials were re-interred in this cemetery at a later date.

3. *Outhouse (date unknown, contributing building)*

There is one wood-frame outhouse located alongside the north side of the church. It has a shed roof, horizontal wood siding, and is accessed by a hinged vertical wood-plank door that opens outward.

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<sup>2</sup> According to Phyllis Gable, a 94 year-old resident of Leavenworth, her father was asked to cover the original planks because the children liked to roll their coins in the cracks.

<sup>3</sup> Much of the cemetery has been surveyed and photos uploaded by the public to the website findagrave.com. Search "Little Stranger Cemetery." Accessed 10 September 2014.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**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.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

Exploration/settlement

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1867-1919

**Significant Dates**

1867, 1919

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Church members

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1867 when the congregation acquired the land and soon after began construction on the church. The period of significance ends in 1919 when the church closed its doors.

**Criteria Considerations (justification)**

Little Stranger Church meets the registration requirements for Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from its architecture and association with the settlement of the area. The property does not derive its primary significance from associations with religious doctrine. The property meets the registration requirements for Criteria Consideration D: Cemeteries because of its age in the context of Kansas history and its association with the Little Stranger Church community.

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## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

### Summary

Little Stranger Church, built in 1868, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement, for its association with the early settlement of the area and, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its significance as a good local example of an early vernacular wood building.

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### Elaboration

#### *Early Settlement and Church Founding*

Leavenworth is one of the 33 original counties established by the Kansas Territorial Legislature in 1855. The first Euro-American settlers of Leavenworth County were associated with Fort Leavenworth, established in 1827, and missionaries seeking to convert American Indians to Christianity. These early settlers lived on limited lands set aside by the federal government, while much of the surrounding area remained with the Delaware Indians. This limited settlement occurred before the United States opened Kansas Territory to all settlement in 1854, at which time the Delaware lands continued to shrink as more settlers arrived.<sup>4</sup>

The U.S. government sold the land on which the nominated building sits in 1858 to Rufus Hall. Hall purchased 160 acres of former Delaware land that had been ceded to the U.S. Government at the General Land Office at Fort Leavenworth on October 1, 1858.<sup>5</sup> It is not known how long Hall owned this land, but it does not appear to have been very long. Property records document John and Elizabeth Tangaman (or Tangeman) transferring two acres of this land at the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 21, Township 9S, Range 22E (in High Prairie Township) to the Little Stranger Christian Church on December 3, 1867. The church paid thirty dollars for the land.<sup>6</sup>

The roots of the congregation can be traced back to a group of settlers who migrated across the Missouri River to Leavenworth County from Farley, Missouri in 1858.<sup>7</sup> They were members of a Christian church in Farley that had been established in 1832.<sup>8</sup> They arrived in the area during the period of rapid settlement before the Civil War. Congress had approved the Kansas-Nebraska Act, opening the territory to settlement, just four years prior to their arrival. Between 1854 and 1860, approximately 100,000 people crossed the Missouri border into northeast Kansas,<sup>9</sup> but settlement in Kansas was nearly halted by the Civil War (1861-1865). Settlement resumed after the war with aid from the construction of railroads.<sup>10</sup> By 1870, the population of Kansas totaled 364,399.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> This is evidenced by a large sale of Delaware Trust Lands in 1856, following a treaty between the U.S. Government and Delaware Tribe in 1854. See *Lands of the Delaware Indians (Trust Lands) in the Territory of Kansas*, November 17, 1856, Kansas State Historical Society collections. Accessed online 10 September 2014 <<http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/209846>>.

<sup>5</sup> Bureau of Land Management, "Land Patent Search," digital images, *General Land Office Records* (<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/search/> : accessed 10 September 2014), Rufus Hall (Leavenworth County, Kansas), Kansas Land Trust no. 1226. The 1859 Territorial Census notes Rufus Hall having settled in Stranger Township on April 26, 1856. Ancestry.com. *Kansas State Census Collection, 1855-1925*[database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Deed of Sale from J.H. Tangaman and wife Elizabeth to The Christian Church of Little Stranger (filed December 3, 1867), Leavenworth County, Kansas, Deed Book 15, page 606. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>7</sup> Hazel Walden, "Long Theme: A Country Church," April 24, 1933. Hand-written manuscript. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Dale Nimz, "Identifying the Earliest Buildings in Kansas, 1820-1861," *Kansas Preservation* 34, no. 1 (2012): 3. Available online at: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/ks\\_preservation/2012v34n1.pdf](http://www.kshs.org/resource/ks_preservation/2012v34n1.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> E.R. DeZurko, "Early Kansas Churches," *Kansas State College Bulletin* 33, no. 5 (1949): 24.

<sup>11</sup> University of Virginia Library, "Historical Census Browser," database (<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/> : accessed 10 September 2014).

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The group's first religious meeting was held in Leavenworth County on February 7, 1858 in a log schoolhouse located on Little Stranger Creek.<sup>12</sup> Meetings were held at the schoolhouse for almost ten years. During this period in Kansas, religious services were often held in any convenient shelter including schools, houses, and stores.<sup>13</sup> The congregation constructed its new building in early 1868. The cottonwood lumber used for the construction of the church was cut from neighboring farms and prepared in a local sawmill; no professional carpenters were hired. Church members donated money for furniture and finishing lumber and came together to construct the building using their own tools.<sup>14</sup>

The first service was held on May 12, 1868 with 85 people in attendance.<sup>15</sup> Newspapers from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century document some of the activities at the Little Stranger Church, and frequent announcements in the newspapers regarding various guest preachers suggest the church may have relied on the assistance of area churches for Sunday sermons. Examples include guest sermons by Charles D. Poole in 1888;<sup>16</sup> Sumner T. Martin, pastor of the Christian church in Leavenworth, in 1889;<sup>17</sup> Reverend William Ireland of Topeka in 1894;<sup>18</sup> Reverend I. A. Wilson in 1899;<sup>19</sup> and Reverend Frank Posten of DeSoto in 1911.<sup>20</sup> Other newspaper announcements suggest there was an active Ladies' Aid Society within the church in the 1910s, a period during which there was an especially active congregation with Sunday morning Bible school, Sunday morning and evening church services, and men's and women's classes on some Sunday evenings.<sup>21</sup> And, a letter from J. F. Powers published in the *Saint Louis Christian Evangelist* on November 11, 1909 shows that the church was quite active during this same period. He wrote: "I closed a meeting at Little Stranger Church yesterday. Thirty-two were added—30 by confession and baptism. Some of them were more than fifty years of age."<sup>22</sup>

The associated cemetery includes more than 100 known graves, with the earliest death dates from the late 1850s and early 1860s, suggesting the cemetery may have pre-dated the construction of the church.<sup>23</sup> A series of obituaries published in Leavenworth and Lawrence area papers document the use of the cemetery well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>24</sup> A survey of visible and legible gravestones in the cemetery reveals the cemetery's most active years to have been 1870 to 1910, with the last burials in the 1960s.

Despite the apparent success of the church in the 1910s, the church closed in 1919 during the flu epidemic, never to reconvene again. A survey of the gravestones reveals only two deaths during the influenza epidemic, though it is not known if influenza was their cause of death.

The building remained closed until 1929 when a 4-H club that was looking for a place to hold its meetings requested to use it. The community came together to clean up and renovate the church. Local families donated money, furniture, and the stove that still exists inside the church today. In 1931, a Sunday School resumed classes in the building, averaging 25 attendants. Reverend William Hart, the pastor at the Leavenworth Christian Church, held a series of meetings at the Little Stranger Church from 1938 to 1940. By 1952, the building was being used by the

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<sup>12</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book, 1852 - ?. Hand-written manuscript. Copy on file with nomination. Photographs available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/7vjhoi8853z5l0v/little-stranger-church-records.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> "Kansas Preservation Plan: Study Unit On the Period of Exploration and Settlement (1820s-1880s)", (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1987): 60. Available online at: [https://www.kshs.org/preserve/pdfs/studyunit1\\_1820\\_1880s.pdf](https://www.kshs.org/preserve/pdfs/studyunit1_1820_1880s.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Walden.

<sup>15</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>16</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 4 July 1888, page 4.

<sup>17</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 6 July 1889, page 4.

<sup>18</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 27 June 1894, page 5. Ireland worked as a temporary pastor at the church for one year, according to the October 4, 1894 edition of the *Saint Louis Christian Evangelist* (page 9). Accessed 10 September 2014 <<http://newspaperarchive.com/us/missouri/st-louis/>>

<sup>19</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 5 May 1899, page 5.

<sup>20</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 17 March 1911, page 6.

<sup>21</sup> *Leavenworth Times*, 28 March 1914, page 3.

<sup>22</sup> *Saint Louis Christian Evangelist*, 11 November 1909, page 22. Accessed 4 July 2014: <<http://newspaperarchive.com/us/missouri/st-louis/>>

<sup>23</sup> It is possible, however, that these early interments could have been made later.

<sup>24</sup> For example: *Leavenworth Times*, 14 January 1909, page 4; *Leavenworth Times*, 21 September 1916, page 4; *Lawrence Journal World*, March 26, 1917, page 3.

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following community organizations: Farm Bureau Canning Club, 4-H Club, Community Canning Club, Kansas Grange Chapter, Royal Neighbors, Monthly Family Night, Boling Masons, and Election precinct.<sup>25</sup> It was also used for family gatherings, wedding receptions, bridal showers, and baby showers. Several *Leavenworth Times* articles document frequent Canning Club and 4-H meetings at the building in the 1960s and 1970s. A former Leavenworth County resident recalls there was a 4-H community cleanup at the church grounds in 1980 or 1981.

*Early and Influential Church Members*

Several early members of Little Stranger Church were well-respected citizens in the area, and some were featured in William G. Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* for their contribution to the growth and development of Leavenworth County and the state of Kansas.<sup>26</sup> Many of these names also are noted on the 1878 *Atlas Map of Leavenworth County*.<sup>27</sup> (Figure 3) Noted below are a few of these significant figures.<sup>28</sup>

**William S. Yohe (1819 – 1901)**

William S. Yohe, a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer, was a captain in the United States Army who was honorably discharged at Fort Leavenworth in 1845.<sup>29</sup> He was the leader and first minister of the First Christian Church congregation in Leavenworth and was an organizer of the Little Stranger Church through his ministry.<sup>30</sup> He was an elder of Little Stranger Church and present at the first meeting in the new building on May 12, 1868.<sup>31</sup> He served as a minister to the congregation until 1897.<sup>32</sup> Cutler notes that Yohe as active in developing resources of the county and holding several local offices.

**Joseph P. Bauserman (1840 – ?)**

Joseph P. Bauserman served in the Kansas House of Representatives in 1865 and in the State Senate in 1874. Other offices he held include Superintendent of Public Instruction, President of the Board of the Commissioners of the Topeka Insane Asylum, and member of the Board of Trustees of the State Charitable Institution. He later became a senior member of a respected Leavenworth drug store, according to Cutler. He also owned and managed a farm in High Prairie Township. He is listed as an elder in the church record book under the heading *Stranger Church Reorganized May 12<sup>th</sup> 1868 at New Church Building*.<sup>33</sup> He married the daughter of Ellen and C.C. Ehart, a Leavenworth County farmer. The Eharts are buried in Little Stranger Cemetery.

**John K. Faulkner (1829 – 1900)**

John K. Faulkner, a native of Virginia, settled in High Prairie Township in 1862, having previously lived in Farley, Missouri. Cutler notes that he had engaged in freighting, cattle driving, and farming. He was a member of the local school board for 20 years and served three terms in the Kansas House of Representatives. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. W. K. Faulkner, penned a letter to John Zimmerman on December 1, 1952 noting that Little Stranger Church was an important part of the Faulkner family over multiple generations: "The church has been part of my entire (eighty years) life and my husband's, the late W. K. Faulkner [John K. Faulkner's son]... He lived all his life in Little Stranger neighborhood and the church

<sup>25</sup> Letter from Mrs. W.K. Faulkner to John Zimmerman, dated December 1, 1952. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>26</sup> William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas, vol. 1* (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1883), 456-458. Available online at: [www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/leavenworth/leavenworth-co-p31.html](http://www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/leavenworth/leavenworth-co-p31.html)

<sup>27</sup> *Atlas Map of Leavenworth County Kansas*, 21.

<sup>28</sup> All information about the listed individuals is from Cutler's *History of the State of Kansas* unless cited otherwise.

<sup>29</sup> Jesse A. Hall and LeRoy T. Hand, *History of Leavenworth County Kansas* (Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1921), 224. Available online at: <http://goo.gl/SwZAcY> ; 1870 United States Census for William S. Yohe, Leavenworth County, Kansas.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>32</sup> "Church History (1855-2006)," *First Christian Church of Leavenworth County*, accessed August 2, 2014, <http://my.spinsite.com/CHURCHHISTORY/index/Welcome>.

<sup>33</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book. Copy on file with nomination.



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was his first interest—spiritually, officially, financially.”<sup>34</sup> William K. Faulkner served as Superintendent of the Sunday School at Little Stranger Church for 25 years.<sup>35</sup>

**John C. Gist (1826 – ?)**

John C. Gist, a native of Maryland, staked out and occupied the first land on the present-day site of Leavenworth County after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed.<sup>36</sup> Noted by Cutler as one of the oldest and respected citizens of Leavenworth County, he served on the Board of County Commissioners starting in January 1868.<sup>37</sup> His son, Charles Gist, is listed as a Deacon of Little Stranger Christian Church on February 8, 1908.<sup>38</sup>

**John Hobbs (1836 – 1916)**

John Hobbs, a native of Kentucky, served on the 41<sup>st</sup> Ohio Infantry in the Civil War. He died on September 27, 1916 and is buried in Little Stranger Cemetery; his grave is marked with an iconic white marble Veterans' headstone. There are several Hobbs listed in the church record book.<sup>39</sup>

**George W. Seymour (1813 – 1895)**

George W. Seymour was a Justice of the Peace for several years, and a Postmaster at Boling. Noted by Cutler as a “strong Union man and a war Democrat,” he was ordered out of Texas on account of his Union-leaning principles. At the time of Cutler’s publication in 1883, he was one of the oldest and most respected citizens of High Prairie Township. He was present at the first church meeting in the new building on May 12, 1868.<sup>40</sup> He is buried in Little Stranger Cemetery alongside his wife, Susan Seymour.

*Architecture*

The Little Stranger Church stands as a reminder of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century building techniques. It has a simple, rectangular form and a front-gabled roof that presents a straight-forward image of utilitarian design. Historic accounts make no mention of an architect or the names of builders associated with the Little Stranger Church. An account suggests cottonwood lumber was harvested from neighboring farms was used in the construction of the church.<sup>41</sup> It was typical during this early period of development in Kansas for congregations to construct their own buildings with local labor and materials.<sup>42</sup> Often, volunteers donated their services and only a stone mason or carpenter and their assistants received pay.

Because of its early construction, utilitarian nature, and use of local building materials, this building is classified as Vernacular, though it does have a very few classical elements (namely the building’s corner boards). Architectural historian E. R. Dezurko notes that, “churches of the eighteen sixties in Kansas were frequently a curious mixture of classic and Gothic details.”<sup>43</sup> As the craftsmanship suggests, wood frame buildings constructed in this fashion were highly valued in Kansas during early settlement.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Mrs. W.K. Faulkner to John Zimmerman, December 1, 1952. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>35</sup> “William Kennedy Faulkner,” *Find a Grave*, accessed August 1, 2014, <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=27485078>.

<sup>36</sup> Hall and Hand, 159.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 188.

<sup>38</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> Little Stranger Christian Church record book. Copy on file with nomination.

<sup>41</sup> Walden.

<sup>42</sup> “Kansas Preservation Plan: Study Unit on the Period of Exploration and Settlement (1820s-1880s)”, 60.

<sup>43</sup> E. R. Dezurko, *Early Kansas Churches*, (Manhattan, KS: Kansas State College, 1949), 21.

<sup>44</sup> Nimz, 4.

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Ancestry.com. 1870 U.S. Census.

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DeZurko, E. R. "Early Kansas Churches." *Kansas State College Bulletin* 33, no. 5 (1949).

Faulkner, Mrs. W.K. Letter to John Zimmerman. December 1, 1952. Copy on file with nomination.

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Little Stranger Christian Church record book, 1852 - ?. Hand-written manuscript. Copy on file with nomination. Photographs available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/7vjhoi8853z5l0v/little-stranger-church-records.pdf>

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*Saint Louis Christian Evangelist*, 4 October 1894; 11 November 1909.

University of Virginia Library. "Historical Census Browser." Database (<http://mapserver.lib.virginia.edu/> : accessed 10 September 2014).

Walden, Hazel. "Long Theme: A Country Church." Unpublished manuscript, April 24, 1933. Copy on file with nomination.

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: State Historical Society

Little Stranger Church & Cemetery  
Name of Property

Leavenworth County, Kansas  
County and State

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 1.3 acres

**Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.**  
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.245056</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.973733</u> Longitude:	3	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:
2	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:	4	_____ Latitude:	_____ Longitude:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property includes 1.3 acres described as follows (according to Leavenworth County property records): S208.56' OF W417.78' OF SW1/4 LESS ROW EXC A TRACT BEG 277.78'E 20'N SW COR,N75', E2190',S75',W140' TO POB (also, BEG 277.78'E 20'N SW COR; N75' E140', S75', W140' TO POB )

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated land and resources include those historically associated with the Little Stranger Church & Cemetery.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Tara Sloan

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 344 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue Unit B telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98122

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner:** (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Christian Church of Little Stranger

street & number N/A telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Little Stranger Church & Cemetery  
Name of Property

Leavenworth County, Kansas  
County and State

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photograph Log**

Name of Property: Little Stranger Church & Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Leavenworth vicinity

County: Leavenworth State: Kansas

Photographer: Amanda Loughlin

Date Photographed: 20 August 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11 South (front) elevation of church, camera facing N
- 2 of 11 Southwest corner of church, camera facing NE
- 3 of 11 West (side) façade, camera facing ENE
- 4 of 11 Cemetery in foreground, west side of church in background, camera facing SE
- 5 of 11 Cemetery in foreground, church and outhouse in background, camera facing SW
- 6 of 11 East and south facades of church, with cemetery in background, camera facing NW
- 7 of 11 Double-door entrance on south façade, camera facing N
- 8 of 11 Interior, double-door entrance, camera facing SSE
- 9 of 11 Interior, view toward door, camera facing S
- 10 of 11 Interior, view toward raised stage area at north end, camera facing N
- 11 of 11 Interior, view of west wall with raised stage at right, camera facing W

**Little Stranger Church & Cemetery**

**Leavenworth County, Kansas**

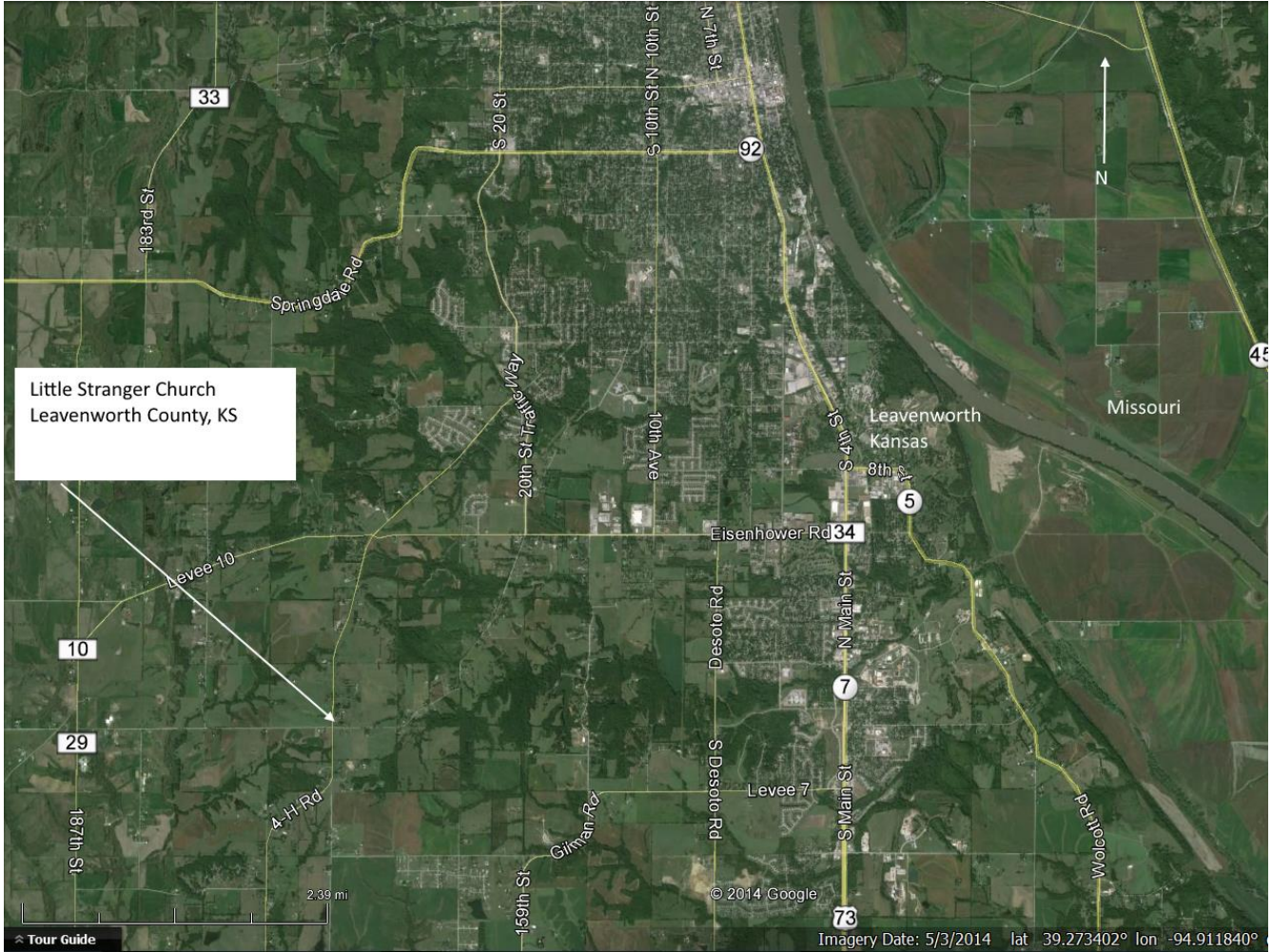
Name of Property

County and State

**Figures**

Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Figure 1: Contextual Aerial Image, Google Earth, 2014.





Little Stranger Church & Cemetery  
Name of Property

Leavenworth County, Kansas  
County and State

Figure 2: Close-In Aerial Image, Google Earth, 2014.



Little Stranger Church & Cemetery  
Name of Property

Leavenworth County, Kansas  
County and State

Figure 3: Atlas Map of Leavenworth County. Missouri Publishing Co., 1878. Source: <http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/223967>

