

Congregational Church  
Kendall County  
Lisbon, Illinois

HABS Ill. 148

HABS

ILL,

47-LisB,

1-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District No. Ill.1.

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Earl H. Reed, District Officer  
435 North Michigan Ave., Chicago

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Lisbon, Kendall County, Illinois

Owner:

Date of Erection: 1850

Architect: John Sidlow.

Builder: John Sidlow.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: One.

Materials of Construction: Stone exterior.

Other Existing Records: Photographs.

Additional Data: (see following pages).

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
KENDALL COUNTY  
LISBON, ILLINOIS

HABS  
ILL,  
47-LisB,  
1-

DISTRICT NO. ILL.1.  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED  
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. Ill.148

Edward F. Jansson

Sources

Mrs. Mary  
Sherrill  
Shufelt  
Minooka, Ill.  
Grundy County

This Church was erected during the year 1850, by local workmen under the guidance of John Sidlow, an English stone mason, who is likewise responsible for the old high school building then known as the Lisbon Academy, and the old stone hotel, now a farm house, but for many years known as the Lisbon House.

Materials at hand dictated the style of construction. The stone was quarried from a local farm, located just north of town, near the present cemetery, where out-cropping of rock is still evident in the road.

The church was built on land belonging to Horace Moore, Sr., and deeded to the Congregational Church Society for so long a time as it should be used for church purposes. When the church was closed in 1890, the title reverted to the Moore heirs, and later the property was sold by them in 1908 to Peter Anderson.

In December 1934 the church building was sold to the Lisbon School Board, together with the west half of the original church lot. Alterations have been made (June 1935) to the interior, the pews, balcony and rostrum having been taken out and will be sawed up for next winter's fuel supply. The steeple has been removed and the old Menelly Bell, dated 1855, has been reset in the recently built Community Church across the street.

Mr. Cyrus Lloyd,  
Yorkville, Ill.      The town of Lisbon was a thriving center ninety years ago. It was on the old Ottawa Pike, and served as a shipping and shopping center for people from miles around. A gravel pit and a stone quarry were operated in that early day. The Congregational Church had a resident minister, which is some indication of

the prominence the little town enjoyed. It is said that the sheds for buggies were never large enough to afford cover for all who attended Sunday services, and even though additions were made to the sheds, many rigs remained out in the open, for the early arrivals were, of course, rewarded with a place under the roof.

The old Pike led into Chicago on Ogden Avenue and was a much travelled highway. A stage company hotel called "Lisbon House" still stands, although its smithy has disappeared as has the barn for one-hundred horses with hostlers quarters. The old hotel was a major stopping place, with twelve rooms upstairs and large bar-room taking up all the room in the basement, except that required for the bake ovens.

Mrs. Mary  
Sherrill  
Shufelt.

This thriving atmosphere attracted Mr. Sidlow, a builder of excellent taste, who is responsible for the design of the hotel and the church, as well as several others in town.

An effort was made by the Survey to interest the school board in a movement to preserve the old building as an example Early American design. It could easily be restored to its original form for only interior fittings have been touched in its change of ownership.

Restoration seems remote, however, for already a plan is being considered that will require the complete removal of the west wall to provide bleacher seats for spectators at the games.

By Edward F. Jansson

Approved Edward F. Jansson