

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

THOMAS L. KANE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

AND/OR COMMON

Kane Chapel

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

30 Chestnut Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Kane

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Pennsylvania

__ VICINITY OF

23rd

CODE

42

COUNTY

McKean

CODE

083

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Corporation of the President
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

STREET & NUMBER

47 East South Temple Street

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

McKean County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Smethport

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

November 27, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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

A small, one story gothic building erected 1876-1878, Kane Chapel is constructed of coursed cut native greyish-pink stone. The edifice is cruciform in design and its steep-pitched roof is capped by a centrally placed slender steeple. Its direction was carefully plotted by General Thomas L. Kane, prominent civil and military leader, who oversaw the lay-out and construction of the chapel. The head of the cross—serving as the chancel area—faces the East in order for the rising sun to pierce the small circular stained glass window visible directly above the pulpit in the building's interior. Basically, the materials used in the construction of Kane Chapel are subdued in both surface treatment and in color. The building's architect and builder, Henry J. Taylor of Philadelphia, may have been influenced in the employment of this monochrome effect by the earlier Gothic Revival style of architecture. Very early photographs confirm that the lack of ornamentation and decoration was deliberate; no apparent major exterior alterations have been made which affect its original appearance. Buttressing and very deep window and door reveals give the chapel a tangible heaviness while the twin entrance doors, the pairs and series of lancet-shaped stained glass windows, and the central steeple, convey a graceful symmetry which complements the cruciform design effectively.

The base of the cross in the cruciform design of Kane Chapel has twin protruding entranceways which flank a pair of lancet stained glass windows, beneath which is buried General Thomas L. Kane (whose grave is marked by a simple granite slab). The doors—whose main structural opening shapes (as are the windows) are 2 centre, pointed—feature herringbone construction (also defined as plain diagonal types). Above the pair of stained glass windows is a large decorative round stained glass panel with eight smaller windows circulating around the central panel.

Each arm of the crucifix is set with two pairs of twin lancet stained glass windows underscored by a thick continuous sill. The high gables are inset with a series of round stained glass openings similar to those employed in the front (or base) facade of the chapel. A small, one story, cinder block entranceway has been added to the gable end of the left arm of the cruciform design. Buttresses do not adorn these arms, but are used in the base and head areas of the building only. The wall of the head (or chancel) area features the series of windows found throughout the building; a round glass panel is set high in the steep gable above a series of stained glass lancet windows. The roof of the chapel, of asbestos shingle, supports a small inset steeple which is capped by a sharply pointed pyramidal roof. Each of the four square sides of this spire is cut with two gothic arches through which the church bell is visible. The spire is very short and dominated by its roof which complements the steepness of the high pitched gable roof.

The interior of the chapel is fitted with pews for 250 persons. Wainscotting reaches from the floor to the deep base openings of the stained glass windows. Interior door openings are 2 centre pointed, similar to the exterior window and door structural opening shapes. The large pipe organ rests on a nicely carved wooden base. Original native cherry wood—used throughout the building—panels the steep pitched ceiling which is supported, at its gable ends, by massive king-posts. Little has been done to remodel the interior of Kane Chapel; in 1908 the basement was finished, the heating system converted to steam, the lighting updated from gas to electric, new hardwood flooring laid, pews replaced, and the present organ installed.

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The chapel stands on land donated and surveyed by General Thomas L. Kane. The edifice was built on lines not conforming to any street or thoroughfare in the town so that the audience facing the pulpit geographically faces Jerusalem. General Kane, grandson of Elizabeth Coultas Gray Lieper and Thomas Leiper, in whose memory the chapel was erected, is buried in front of the building. He was interred there at his death in 1883. Originally a Presbyterian church, the chapel was purchased by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints as a memorial to General Kane, an ardent supporter of the Mormons during their territorial troubles in the West in the mid-1800s.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1876-1878

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry J. Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Kane Chapel, a small stone building employing architectural elements common to both the Early Gothic Revival and the later High Victorian Gothic styles of American architecture, merits inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural, religious, and military significance.

The gothic chapel remains in excellent condition. Constructed completely by local labor of native greyish-pink stone and outfitted with native cherry wood, the chapel's design is reportedly based on an English model at Kent (from where the English branch of the Kane family originated), and on a small parish church at Alsace, France. According to early accounts, each stone and piece of wood was cut and dressed to shape before its final placement in the edifice—an endeavor purposely conceived to carry out Solomon's principle of building the great temple at Jerusalem. Henry J. Taylor, Philadelphia architect and builder, was a nephew of Ann Gray Thomas, benefactress who initiated construction of the chapel, and, in addition to serving as architect for this project, also rendered valuable assistance in arranging for the actual erection of the building.

Less than two years after the Wellsborough Presbytery (held at Carlisle, Pennsylvania) granted permission for church organization at Kane, construction of the chapel began in 1876. Financed by Ann Gray Thomas, a wealthy Philadelphian who established a fund of \$12,500. to erect the building in memory of her family—the prominent Leipers of Philadelphia—the chapel, McKean County's first Presbyterian church, was built on land donated by Thomas L. Kane. Kane, a nephew of Ann Gray Thomas, was a distinguished humanitarian, civil and military leader, entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Born February 27, 1822 in Philadelphia, a descendant of several of the oldest pre-Revolutionary War families in the northern colonies, Thomas L. Kane received formal education in Paris, France, but returned to Philadelphia and accepted a position with the federal government under his father, John K. Kane, a judge of the United States District Court. He also studied law in his native city.

The cause of the anti-slavery movement attracted his attention and Thomas Kane resigned his commissionership, not solely because his position would have demanded his obedience of the Fugitive Slave Law, but because he became a director to the "Underground Railroad" which enabled many of the runaway black slaves to escape to Canada and to freedom.

In the late 1840s Thomas Kane persuaded President James K. Polk and the War Department to accept the enlistment of the 500-member Mormon Battalion which aided in establishing American sovereignty in Southern California. He also assisted the Mormons by helping their church obtain federal help in the immigration of Mormon pioneers to the West. Through his generous efforts he became a close friend and confidant of Brigham Young, then the controversial leader of the religious sect.

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Thomas L. Kane made his initial visit to the general area of Elk County as an agent for the McKean & Elk Land Improvement Company. With a survey party of scouts, prospectors, and woodsmen, Kane, acting in a secondary role as city director of the Sunbury & Erie Railroad, gathered extensive information on the mineral and timber resources of the region.

It wasn't until two years after his first exploration in the Elk County area that Kane returned to Northwestern Pennsylvania. An unofficial adviser to early Mormon church officials and close friend of Brigham Young's, Kane resigned his clerkship with the District Court at Philadelphia to embark on a special mission that averted a possible Mormon rebellion in the West. Following their settlement at Salt Lake City, Utah, the Mormons elected Brigham Young not only their church leader but named him governor of the territory. When James Buchanan assumed the presidency of the United States in 1857, he appointed Alfred Cummings to replace Young as the territorial governor. Cummings, accompanied by a detachment of 2,500 troops, approached the Utah capitol and the Mormons threatened war. To avoid an open rebellion and wholesale bloodshed, Brigham Young entreated Thomas Kane (whose own political influence was augmented by his powerful father's) to intervene. Thomas Kane took up the matter and settled the differences between the Mormons, who were wrongly accused of inhabiting the territory in hostile opposition, and the federal forces. In two months, after much consultation with the White House, and at his own expense, Kane reconciled the opposing factions. For his successful intervention he earned the title of "peace-maker." An heroic sized statue of Kane occupies the central spot of prominence in the rotunda of the Utah State Capitol. A county in Utah bears his name in honor.

Thomas L. Kane was finally able to return to the wilderness of McKean County, unencumbered by governmental positions and duties, in 1858. By 1860 construction began on his house, but this project was abandoned when he volunteered his services to the Union forces at the outbreak of the Civil War. He organized and commanded Northwestern Pennsylvania's famed "Bucktail Regiment." Thrice-wounded and held prisoner for two months, Kane was commissioned Brigadier-General in September of 1862. In recognition of his loyalty to the Union cause, he was named Major-General in 1863, the year he resigned from active duty because of ill health. At the age of 41, and now a semi-invalid, General Kane once again journeyed to the sparsely inhabited Allegheny wilds in 1863 to found the town that bears his name today. Construction of his house, known for generations following as the "Old Homestead," (completely destroyed by fire ten years after the general's demise) resumed while the general diligently planned the lay-out of his settlement which officially began bearing his name (through the United States Post Office's designation) in 1864.

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General Thomas L. Kane originally planned his settlement as a "Prohibition Borough," his idea of a 'model town' in which the sale of liquor was forbidden by law. The original act of incorporation was passed by the early townsmen but never received the governor's signature. (Presumably it was lost en route from Kane to Harrisburg.) His strict regulation concerning the sale of liquor, however, was never strictly adhered to, mainly because there existed no legal document to support General Kane's prohibitionist beliefs.

Many of the sites for schools, churches, parks, highways, right-of-ways for railroad lines were provided by General Kane—both as an individual promoter and as agent for the land improvement company. Several important state roads were established through his local patriotism, legislative influence, and engineering skill. Regarded as one of the most powerful men in the promotion of rail lines in Northwestern Pennsylvania, he designated the routes of the Philadelphia & Erie Railroad, the Pittsburgh & Western Railroad, the Ridgway & Clearfield Railroad, and the New York, Lake Erie, & Western Coal Railroad. He was an organizer of the New York, Lake Erie, & Western Coal Railroad and, while serving as its president, directed in 1882 the construction of what was for many years to follow the largest railroad bridge in the world, the 2,053 feet long viaduct which spanned the 301 feet deep Kinzua Creek Valley, not far from Kane.

In addition to his hearty promotion of Kane and surrounding McKean County, General Kane was actively involved in politics. In 1880 he represented his congressional district at the Chicago Republican Convention. He served as the Republican state party leader and actively campaigned for President Ulysses S. Grant who visited his ardent supporter in Kane. His political doctrines were liberal and unorthodox; he supported women suffrage and the higher education of women.

Five years after the completion of the Kane Chapel, whose work he personally supervised (and allegedly assisted in the laying of the heavy cut stones), General Thomas L. Kane died in Philadelphia on December 26, 1883. By his own request he was buried by his family between the two front stairways leading to the chapel, behind a simple iron fence. He was interred before the chapel despite some opposition by members of the Presbyterian congregation who thought he was too much of a Mormon to be a good Christian. Other than his grave, little exists memorializing the general in the town he founded.

Kane Chapel was acquired by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 1970, four years after it was vacated by its original Presbyterian congregation (which merged with another church to form the First United Church of Kane). It was purchased primarily by the Mormons to provide perpetual care of General Kane's grave and to serve as an official memorial to him. Mementoes of his life, and papers (including his extensive correspondence with leaders of the nation in the mid 1800s) will be placed on display as they are made available by family and friends.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henretta, J.E., Kane and the Upper Allegheny. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company, 1929.

Leeson, Michael A., History of the County of McKean, Elk, Cameron & Potter, Pennsylvania
Chicago: J. H. Beers & Company, 1890.

Stone, Rufus Barret. McKean, The Governors County. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co. 1926
Donovan, Maurice R. Kane, Pennsylvania: Centennial Program, 1864-1964. Kane, Pa., Hooper
Productions, 1964.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2/3 arce

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	7	6	8	2	4	3	0	4	6	1	3	8	5	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Michael J. O'Malley

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henretta, J.E., Kane and the Upper Allegheny. Philadelphia: The John C. Winston Company, 1929.

Leeson, Michael A., History of the County of McKean, Elk, Cameron & Potter, Pennsylvania
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ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2/3 arce

UTM REFERENCES

A

17	682430	4613850
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael J. O'Malley

ORGANIZATION

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

WILLIAM J. WEWER, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

9/10/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KANE CHAPEL
McKean County

ZONE: 17 682430 4613 850

