

In 1978, St. Michael's Catholic Church donated the church building to the Rock County Historical Society and was accepted as a pioneer religious building. The Church is considered non-denominational and is available for private use. Contact Kelly at the Whistle Stop for details. Call 402-684-3327

*Thank you for visiting  
St. Michael's and the  
Rock County Historical  
Society Complex*



**Support the  
Rock County  
Historical Society  
with your membership**

**Individuals & Family  
\$25.00 / year  
Business & Organizations  
\$50.00 / year**

**St. Michael's  
Catholic Church**



Located  
**West Highway 20**  
In the  
**ROCK COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MUSEUM COMPLEX**  
Bassett, Nebraska

## St. Michael's Catholic Church

The early settlers sought the solution that all pioneers faced; making a living and satisfying their religious needs. They adapted to the land and made a living. The religious needs were not easily met. The early settlers made use of the services of traveling ministers or when possible joint-ed their neighbors for worship. In 1886 Atkinson received its first resident priest and services were held whenever possible. As the St. Boniface parish grew the need and desire for a suitable church grew. In 1896 it was decided to build a frame church. The formal dedication was held in 1898. It was a frame structure with a tall spire. It was 46 feet by 32 feet and a five by six foot vestibule. The cost was around \$2,400.00. The church did not have a bell

and probably the tower was not built to house one.

The church served the parish well but as the parish grew a new church was needed. The old frame church was sold in 1911 to the Newport parish for \$510.00, moving expenses to be assumed by buyer. The steeple was removed and the church was jacked up, placed on beams and supported by four specially built wagons. Although four tractors were used they could not pull the load through the sand and the church stood stranded until the following spring when Mr. Charles Turpin was lured to move it on to Newport with horses. A new steeple was built and the church was rededicated as St. Michael's Church in honor of Floyd Lackaff's brother who had drowned while attending school in Spaulding. The Church served St. Michael's Parish until it closed and the building was donated to the

Rock County Historical Society.

Once again the steeple came off and the church this time pulled by a truck down highway 20 to its current site. It was moved about the same distance as its first move but in one morning for a cost of about \$4,000.00.

The alter, the statues, the pews and kneeling rails and the organ are all original furnishings. Most of the original stained glass has been replaced. In 2006-2007, a new system of beams was placed under the church to strengthen and straighten the sagging floor.

We invite you to sit, relax and reflect. Remember those who came before, those who settled this region, their sacrifices, their ingenuity, and their hard work.

