

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sacred Heart Hospital

other names/site number Floyd Valley Apartments

2. Location

street & number 110 6th Avenue NE

N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town LeMars

N/A ☐ vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Plymouth code 149 zip code 51031

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 nationally statewide X locally.

Barbara A. Mitchell
Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

December 15 2009
Date

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

☒ entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register
See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of

2-3-10

Sacred Heart Hospital
Name of Property

Plymouth County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

☒ private
☐ public - local
☐ public - state
☐ public - Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

HEALTHCARE/ Hospital
EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
Stripped Classicism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: STONE
walls: BRICK
roof: ASPHALT
other: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

NARRATIVE

The Sacred Heart Hospital is located in LeMars, Iowa, within Plymouth County. The hospital is located on the northeast side of LeMars, near U.S. Highway 3 in Iowa. The hospital is located on the cross streets of Sixth Avenue NE and First Street NE (County Highway B45/Plymouth Street SE). The surrounding area to the west and southwest contains single-family dwellings. To the south was an old school, which was demolished in late 2008. Finally, to the north is the new Floyd Valley Hospital campus. The area to the east is undeveloped. Within LeMars, the Sacred Heart Hospital is on the east side of town toward the outskirts of the community.

Constructed in 1923, the Sacred Heart Hospital was designed by William LaBarthe Steele. Riesche & Sanborn of Sioux City had the general contract for \$203,000 and Thomas Rinehart received \$33,000 for the heating and plumbing. The building has classical details placed within a simple façade design. It is constructed of stone throughout, with matte-finish face brick and Bedford stone trim.¹ The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps noted that the building had steam heat, electric lights, fireproof construction, and reinforced brick bearing walls.²

Exterior Description

The building is bordered on two sides (west and north) by city streets. The building's front entrance on the west is landscaped, as is the east side of the building. The front door is reached from the street, the "T" sidewalk, or the circular drive. It is a five-story asymmetrical brick-and-stone building. The front entrance of the building is located about 105 feet from a sidewalk that runs parallel to the street. Stone steps rise from the sidewalk to the modern front door. A stone belt course runs along the top of the building on all sides, and between the second- and third-story windows is a simple brick accent that is visible on all sides. This stone belt course and brick accent, along with the slightly recessed windows with stone sills and the accentuated front entrance with columns, are the only major character-defining features.

The west façade consists of four sections. The first and third sections are slightly recessed from the second and fourth sections. The first and third sections consist of a row of four single windows on each floor, while the second and fourth sections each have a row of three double windows. Walking around the building from the front doors (west façade) going clock-wise, one finds that the building has a consistent simple design on all façades. The north façade has a row of three single windows and the south façade has a row of eight windows. The configuration of windows on the east façade is similar to that of the west façade.

¹ "Is Formally Opened: Hospital is Dedicated by Bishop E. Heelan," *LeMars Daily Sentinel*, (May 8, 1923).

² "Sisters of St. Francis Sacred Heart Hospital," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Map 14, June 1923 and June 1923-February 1947.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

Interior Description

Upon entering the front door, the interior of the building appears to be unaltered. In 1977, however, the Sacred Heart Hospital became Floyd Valley Apartments for senior living. The hallway and stair locations remain the same, but the hospital rooms have been adapted for apartment living.

The ground floor now contains apartments, a laundry room, and a community room. Floor Plan 1 shows the apartments, which are labeled A, B, D, G, I, J, L, M, N, and their relationship to auxiliary spaces such as the elevator, community room, and laundry room. Floor Plan 2 shows the apartments, which are labeled A, B, C, E, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, and the other spaces. Finally, Floor Plan 3 shows the apartment units, labeled A-M. All apartment units include bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, and living room. While there are apartments on all floors, the majority of them are on the second, third, and fourth floors. The floor and ceiling coverings have also been changed. The floors are mainly carpeting and tile, while the ceilings are primarily sheetrock.

Alterations

In 1966, Sacred Heart Hospital was turned over to the city of LeMars to become the Floyd Valley Hospital. In 1977, the Sacred Heart Hospital became the Floyd Valley Apartments, under the ownership of Sioux Falls Environmental Access, Inc. During this transition, the hospital underwent alterations from a hospital to a multi-unit dwelling for seniors. The building now has fifty-nine senior living apartment units: nine units on the ground floor; eleven on the first floor; and thirteen units each on second, third, and fourth floors.³

The changes to the building include c. 1935 exterior light fixtures, a modern front door, front steps, changes to some of the windows so that storm windows were not needed, and installation of permanent screens. It is hard to tell how many windows on the five-story building were changed; however, there are some original windows with c. 1970 storm windows. Additional changes were made c. 1960. These alterations include demolition of the detention hospital and laundry facility to make way for a senior center. The single-story senior center is on the east side of the original hospital; it is not attached to the Sacred Heart Hospital and is not contributing (see Site Plan 1).

The future plans for the building include rehabilitation of the windows and interior updating to meet current standards for senior living.

Integrity

There is a large amount of original material, design, workmanship, location, feeling, association, and setting still visible. The Sacred Heart Hospital possesses integrity of:

³ Plymouth County Assessor's Office, Property Record Card.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
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Location: The building is in its original location within LeMars, Iowa. The hospital maintains its full integrity of location.

Design: The original William L. Steele design is still evident in the hospital and the spatial organization for the site remains intact except for the alteration on the less-prominent east façade. The framework and intent of the original design scheme are evident in spite of this alteration.

Setting: The landscape surrounding the Sacred Heart Hospital remains virtually intact and appears much as it did during the significant period. The surrounding neighborhood has become more developed, with single-family dwellings to the west and southwest and the Floyd Valley Hospital to the north. The surrounding large coniferous trees continue to make up the landscape on the west, north, and south lawns. In addition, the circular drive on the west side continues to offer the same approach to the building as it did when first constructed.

Materials: The brick and stone materials of the Sacred Heart Hospital are entirely intact. These are the historic materials of the hospital building. The brick and window pattern, the simplistic elements in the stone belt course, and columns of the main entrance all remain unchanged. The only changes in materials are the c. 1935 lights on either side of the front door and the updated front door itself.

Workmanship: The Sacred Heart Hospital is an excellent example of stripped Classicism. The workmanship is evident in the simple design and use of brick and stone belt courses, minimal details in the stone pillars at the front entrance, and the light fixtures and front door.

Feeling: The Sacred Heart Hospital possesses the distinct character of stripped Classicism, a new and different style of architecture and one that fits with the rural prairie landscape. The building serves as an example of institutional design in the 1920s.

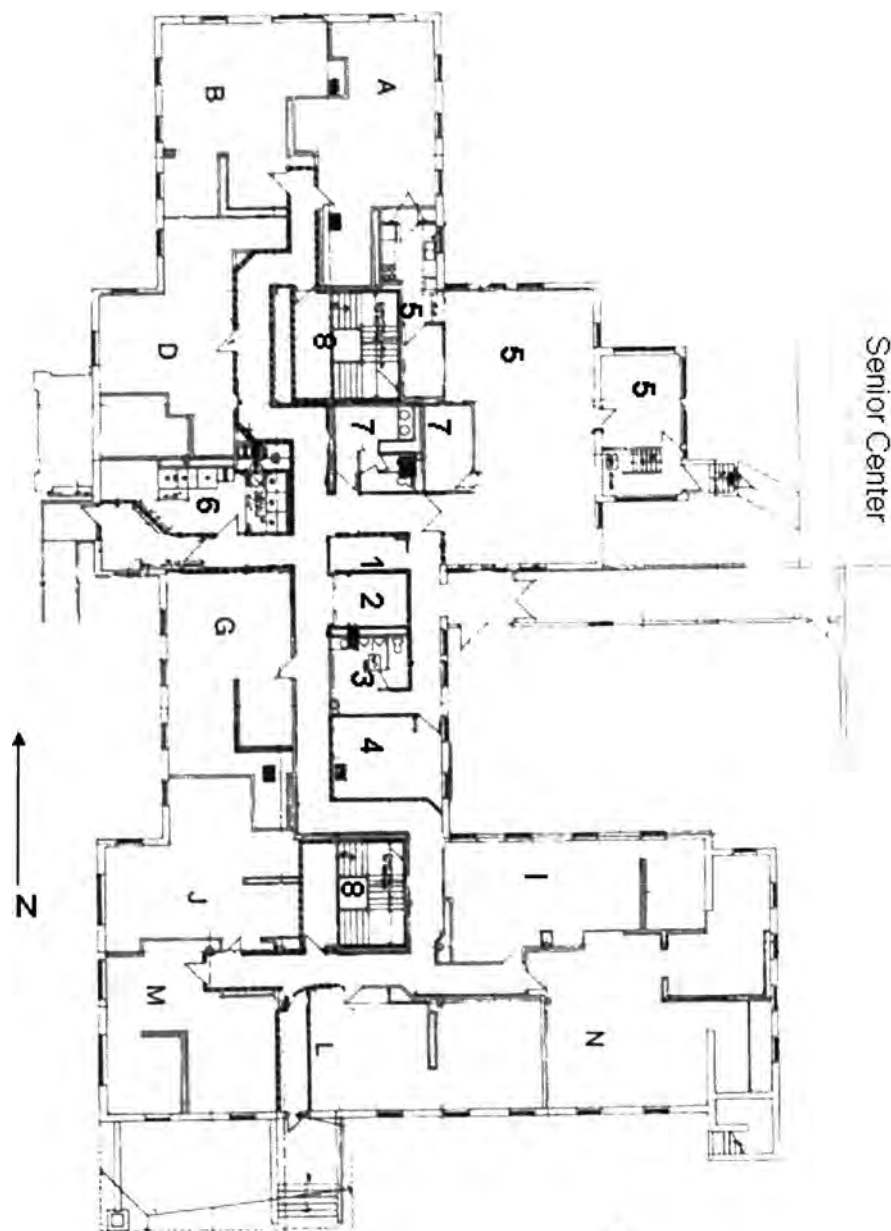
Association: The hospital is an important historical link between previous hospitals in LeMars and the current hospital. It still conveys to the onlooker that the building was once a hospital. It does this through its size, style, materials, and spatial organization.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



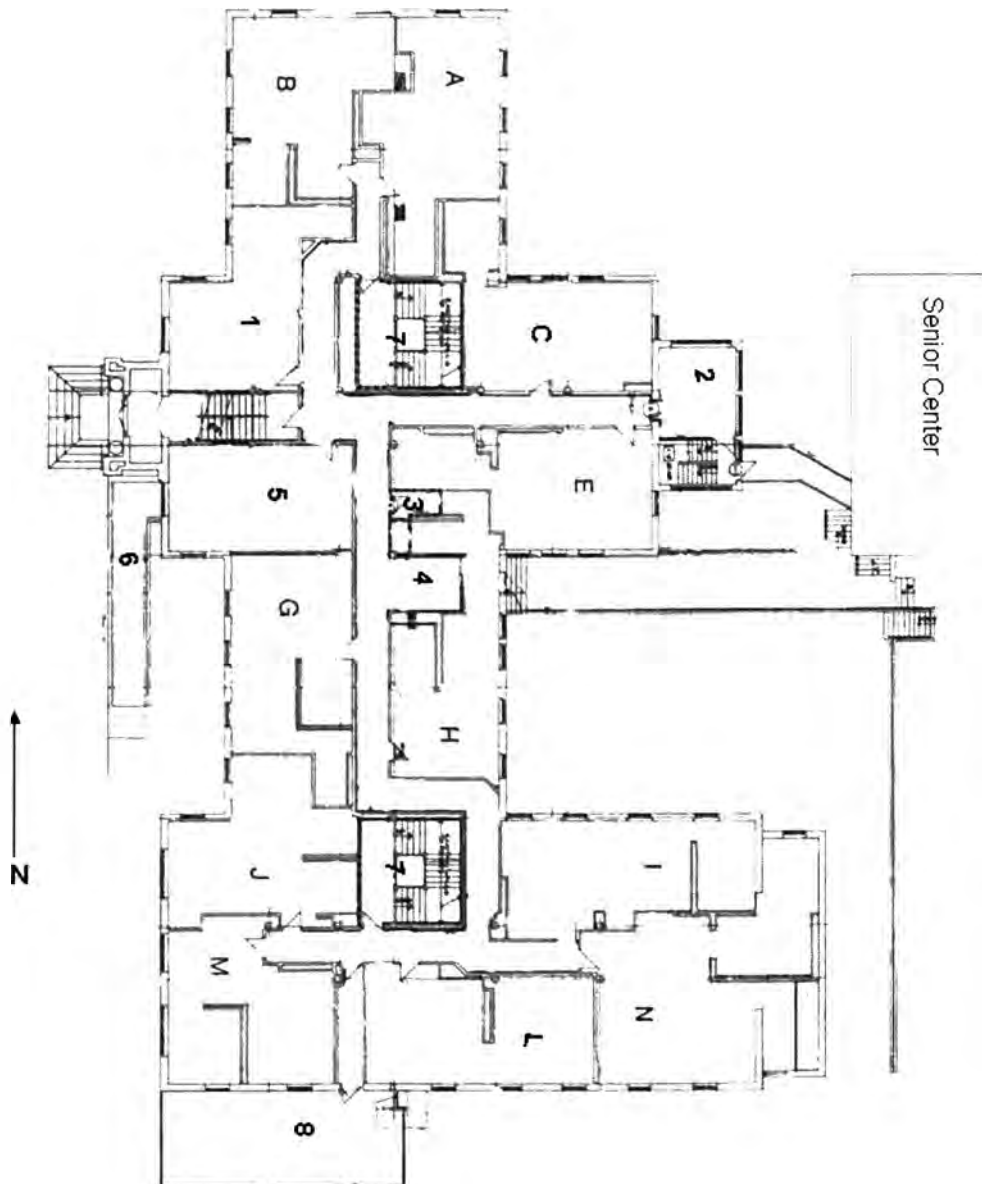
Floor Plan 1: Ground Floor. Apartments-A, B, D, G, I, J, L, M, N; 1-Trash; 2-Elevator; 3-Men's Restroom; 4-Mechanical Room; 5- Community Room (includes kitchen, storage, and access to a porch); 6-Laundry Room; 7-Women's Restroom and Elevator Equipment; 8-Stairwells. Plan courtesy of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. Scale is not exact on this document as the floor plan needed to be scaled down to fit; however, scale on the original was $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
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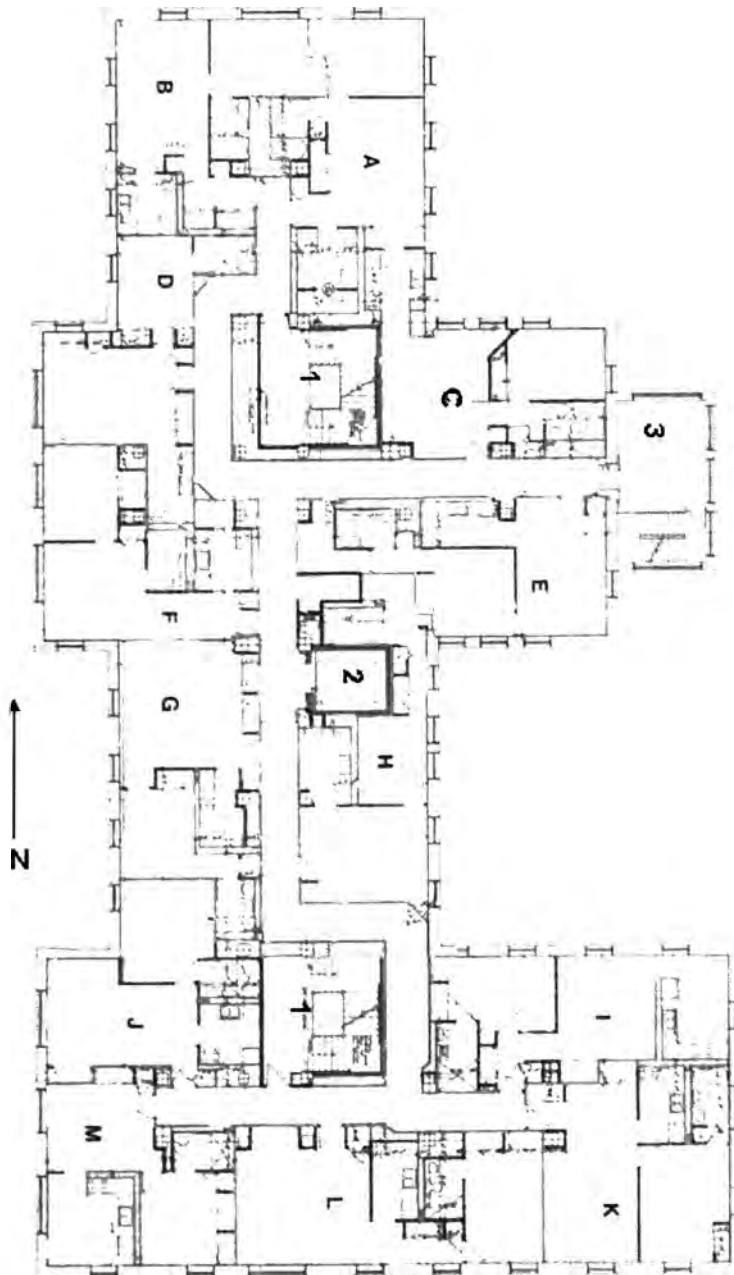
Floor Plan 2: First Floor. Apartments-A, B, C, E, G, H, I, J, L, M, N; 1-Administration; 2-Porch; 3-Trash; 4-Elevator; 5-Maintenance; 6-Ramp; 7-Stairwells; 8-Balcony. Plan courtesy of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. Scale is not exact on this document as the floor plan needed to be scaled down to fit; however, scale on the original was $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
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Floor Plan 3: Second, Third, and Fourth Floors. Apartment Units A-M (all units include bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, and living room); 1-Stairwell; 2-Elevator; 3-Porch. Plan courtesy of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. Scale is not exact on this document as the floor plan needed to be scaled down to fit; however, scale on the original was $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$.

Sacred Heart Hospital
Name of Property

Plymouth County, Iowa
County and State

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance

1923

Significant Dates

1923

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 of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Steele, William LaBarthe
Riesche & Sanborn

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Plymouth County Historical Society and Floyd Valley Hospital

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sacred Heart Hospital is locally significant for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as the first large, modern, purpose-built hospital in LeMars and as an institutional example of architecture designed by William LaBarthe Steele. The building is evidence of the community of LeMars being progressive before and during the 1920s, especially when the country at large was experiencing the Great Depression.

While there are examples of Steele's work throughout Iowa, and especially concentrated in and around Sioux City, the Sacred Heart Hospital serves as an example of his institutional architecture within LeMars, Iowa.⁴ Although Steele designed several churches around LeMars, the Sacred Heart Hospital for the Sisters of Saint Francis appears to be the only nonresidential institutional building he designed in LeMars.⁵ The hospital is being nominated under National Register Criterion A with the understanding that it also meets Criterion Consideration A, since the building is being nominated for its association with hospitals in LeMars.

History of the Sacred Heart Hospital

The hospital's history began in 1900 when the Reverend Herman Meis purchased six acres of land (where the hospital was built and still stands) from Peter Gehlen, with the idea of building a hospital for the community. Monsignor F. X. Feuerstein succeeded Father Meis. He purchased the White House Bathing Palace, also known as the LeMars Natatorium, and converted it into the LeMars Hospital. It was used as such from 1892 to 1923.

Doctors Bellaire and Mammen, two LeMars physicians, purchased the hospital and operated it until the Sisters of Saint Francis of the Holy Family from Dubuque took it over in August 1917. The hospital was named Sacred Heart Hospital. During the 1918–1919 flu epidemic, the hospital could not accommodate all the patients, and seventy-two flu patients were cared for at St. Joseph's School, which was closed owing to the severity of the epidemic. This was one of the first major instances in which the need for a new hospital was clearly evident.⁶

In 1921, a local campaign was launched to raise funds for a new hospital. The campaign was managed by Mr. Zink and Mr. McCormick from Minneapolis. Frank Hentges was chairman of the men's organization, and Mrs. W. G. Bolser presided over the women's group. The Sisters of Saint

⁴ Wesley I. Shank, *Iowa's Historic Architects: A Biographical Dictionary* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1999), 157 (for a listing of some of Steele's Sioux City buildings).

⁵ Brian Charles Hughes, "Sermons in Stone: The Ecclesiastical Designs of William LaBarthe Steele" (master's thesis, University of Virginia, 1994), i–iv; and Iowa State Historic Preservation Office: Architects In Iowa, "William LaBarthe Steele," Reference Number 6025.

⁶ 1873–1923 *The Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's Parish* (LeMars, IA), 48–49.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
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Francis offered to match "dollar for dollar" up to \$150,000. No movement ever begun in LeMars gripped the public's interest as did the fundraising campaign for Sacred Heart Hospital.⁷ The campaign continued for the next six weeks under the management of Mr. Zink and Mr. McCormick. At the end of that time, they had achieved their goal. On August 17, 1921, a contract for the erection of the new hospital was awarded to Riesche and Sanborn of Sioux City.⁸

The Sacred Heart Hospital was completed in April 1923 on the six acres that were purchased by the Reverend Herman Meis. It was equipped with rooms for heliotherapeutic (the practice of exposing the body to sunlight), x-ray, laboratory, and pharmacy, and staffed with eleven nurses. The Sacred Heart medical staff was organized under the direction of Dr. W. L. Downing in 1923.⁹ The Sacred Heart Nursing School opened July 2, 1923, graduating sixty-four nurses before it closed in 1938. The school was placed on the standardized list of the American College of Surgeons in 1931. It closed because the limited population served by the hospital did not provide adequate clinical and medical experience for students to meet state requirements for nursing education.

The hospital was formally opened with a celebration on May 8, 1923, and was dedicated by Bishop Edmund Heelan. It was touted as one of the "finest hospitals in the Northwest."¹⁰ Specific rooms consisted of private rooms, a chapel, children's rooms, nursery, operating rooms, and sterilizing room. The nurses had their own living spaces within the hospital. These spaces included living room, bedrooms, library, dining room, and classrooms, as well as a garden on the hospital grounds.¹¹

According to their stated mission, the Sacred Heart Hospital and the Sisters of Saint Francis were "dedicated to Christ, the Divine Physician in the care of the sick, injured and aged."¹²

The hospital was operated by the Sisters of Saint Francis from Dubuque, Iowa, from its opening in 1923.¹³ The objectives of the hospital were to:

1. care for the aged and ill, treating them with sympathy, kindness, and understanding.
2. prevent illness and promote health in the local community.
3. exemplify to its fullest extent Christ's charity to the sick.
4. give expert nursing care and provide scientific aids to nursing and medical care.

⁷ "FVH Grew from Sacred Heart Roads," *LeMars Daily Sentinel* (November 25, 1991), 17B.

⁸ 1873-1923 *The Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's Parish* (LeMars, IA), 48-49.

⁹ "Sacred Heart Hospital," Celano Archives, Dubuque, IA.

¹⁰ "Is Formally Opened: Hospital is Dedicated by Bishop E. Heelan," *LeMars Daily Sentinel* (May 8, 1923).

¹¹ Sisters of St. Francis, *School for Nurses: Sacred Heart Hospital* (LeMars, IA) (Chicago: Physicians' Record Co., 1923), 3-15.

¹² Anietra Janssen (Clinical Administrative Assistant, Floyd Valley Hospital), telephone interview with Sheriffa Jones, May 20, 2008.

¹³ Ibid.

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5. improve the practice of medicine and nursing service.
6. promote love of God and neighbor in caring for all, especially the helpless and needy.
7. provide pleasant working conditions for employees.¹⁴

During 1933, the hospital cared for 855 patients, fifty more than the previous year. The hospital offered "free" services, which meant that the hospital was expected to and did provide treatment even when the patient did not or could not pay for services given to him/her. No patients were turned away even though they admitted that they couldn't pay. The hospital was guided by the motto, "whatsoever you have done to one of these, you have done to Me."¹⁵

The hospital drew its clientele from a large territory surrounding LeMars. Among the patients admitted in 1933 many states were represented including Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, and New Jersey. Most of the out-of-state patients were visitors to the area who ended up needing medical assistance.

The American College of Surgeons had fully approved the hospital and rated it as a "Class A" hospital. The American Medical Association had given the hospital its full approval as well. The hospital held membership in the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, the American Hospital Association, and the Iowa Hospital Association.¹⁶

Sacred Heart Hospital is important for serving the population of LeMars and its environs regardless of the patient's ability to pay. It is also significant as the first large, modern, purpose-built hospital in LeMars. Because it was operated by the Sisters of Saint Francis, and a facility where nurses were trained, the building is of great importance to local women's history and as an educational institution.

Design & Construction of the Sacred Heart Hospital

The Sacred Heart Hospital is a five-story building. It cost about \$350,000, which included the equipment and fireproof construction. It contained 101 beds, twelve of which were in wards. The ground floor had the storage and utility rooms, main kitchen, and dining rooms. The laundry and boiler rooms were in an annex. The first floor consisted of rooms that were used for patients who had contagious diseases and therefore needed to be quarantined.¹⁷

¹⁴ Janssen.

¹⁵ Elaine Rassel, "Compassion in the 1930s," *Marcus [IA] News* (c. 1990), 6.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "Is Formally Opened: Hospital is Dedicated by Bishop E. Heelan," *LeMars Daily Sentinel* (May 8, 1923).

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The boiler room contained two large boilers, which supplied the heating plant, and a high-pressure boiler (extant) which supplied water for the laundry and sterilizing. In the boiler room was also a large water softener with 14,000-gallons-a-day capacity.¹⁸

The main offices, dispensary, and reception rooms were on the first floor, which also contained a large number of rooms for patients. The second and third floors were given over entirely to patients' rooms. The front of the fourth floor was occupied by a series of operating rooms connected by a passage way. The operating rooms had both skylights and artificial lights and the very latest equipment for the work for which they were used. A special portion was set apart for maternity cases, and an adjoining nursery could accommodate the care of babies.¹⁹

A complete signal system was installed. It would ring a buzzer and light a call lamp in the chart room when a patient pressed a button. At the same time, it would turn on a red light in front of the door of the room calling. The lights could not be turned off without going to the patient's room.²⁰ An automatic elevator large enough to hold a bed or stretcher connected the five floors and was handled by the operator pressing a button indicating the floor wanted. This cost \$6,000; it was automatic and supplied with the latest safety devices.²¹

Only about half the rooms were furnished in May of 1923, but furniture was being added for the others as they were needed. The patients were moved from the old hospital to the new hospital ten days prior to the opening of the new hospital. It was thought that the old hospital would be rented or sold.²²

School for Nurses: Sacred Heart Hospital

The School for Nurses was organized on July 1, 1923, for the purpose of educating young women in the "noble" and "useful" profession of nursing. The teaching was in accordance with state regulations and its aim was to send out qualified nurses who were able to cope with the daily emergencies of their profession. The School of Nurses was fully accredited, and complied with the requirements of the State Board of Examiners for Registered Nurses and with the laws governing the practice of nursing in the State of Iowa. By February 1924, the school was accredited by the Iowa State Board of Nursing in Des Moines.²³

¹⁸ "Is Formally Opened: Hospital is Dedicated by Bishop E. Heelan."

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.

²³ 1873-1923 *The Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's Parish* (LeMars, IA), 49.

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There were a number of requirements for admission to the School for Nurses. The applicant was to be at least eighteen years old, have a high school education, and be in good physical condition as attested to by both a physician and a dentist. Her "moral character" was also to be vouched for by at least three people, "two of whom should be her pastor and one of her teachers." The applicant was to submit a letter of application in her own handwriting, stating the extent of her experience.²⁴

The school also had an established term of probation, or preparatory period. It was three months, but could be lengthened in individual cases, at the discretion of the superintendent of nurses. The object of this period was to give the applicant an opportunity to familiarize herself with the work of caring for the sick so that she might be better able to determine whether her newly chosen field of work was agreeable to her and whether she was capable of meeting the requirements of a nurse. The final decision, however, regarding the fitness of each applicant rested with the superintendent of nurses, who would have observed the applicant's work during this probation, reserving the right to retain or dismiss her.²⁵

Duty and Vacation

The average daily time on duty was about eight hours. Day nurses went on duty at 7:00 a.m. and were required to remain on duty until 7:00 p.m., with three hours off duty and a half hour for meals. Night nurses went on duty at 7:00 p.m. and were required to remain until 7:00 a.m., with two hours off duty. One half-holiday a week was given to each nurse; half-days were granted on Sunday when possible. During the three years' course, students received two weeks vacation per year. Time lost through illness or other causes was to be made up by the student at the end of the course. Except in extreme emergencies, students were expected not to be absent for the purpose of caring for sick relatives or for other personal reasons.²⁶

No student was to be called to the telephone while on duty or during class or lecture periods. If a call was urgent, the superintendent of nurses was consulted, and would use her discretion in regard to the message. Frequent calls were seen as a source of distraction to the students, and were considered detrimental to their progress.²⁷

The prospective student was required to bring with her at least the return fare to her home. She received board, room, and a reasonable amount of laundering. If she was accepted at the end of the period of probation, she received a monthly allowance, from which "breakage charges" would be

²⁴ Sisters of St. Francis, *School for Nurses: Sacred Heart Hospital* (LeMars, IA) (Chicago: Physicians' Record Co., 1923), 9-10, and "Sacred Heart Hospital," Celano Archives, Dubuque, IA.

²⁵ Sisters of St. Francis, 11.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

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deducted. The student furnished her textbooks, uniforms, and necessary equipment. Other expenses depended upon her individual tastes and habits. She was requested to keep an exact account of her expenditures, and to send a monthly statement to her parents or guardian.²⁸

After a student's acceptance, the authorities of the school could terminate her connection with the school at any time for misconduct, inefficiency, neglect of duty, insubordination, disregard of school or hospital rules, or failure in class work. A student was expected to perform cheerfully at all times any work that was assigned to her by the superintendent of nurses or by any nurse under whom she worked.²⁹

Course of Instruction

The course of instruction began the first week of September. The complete courses necessary for graduation extended over three years, and consisted of:

1. Preliminary Term (four months)
2. Freshman Term (eight months)
3. Junior Term (twelve months)
4. Senior Term (twelve months)

The students were given practical and theoretical instruction in the classroom as well as in the wards. Their practical work was carefully supervised. It included care of medical and surgical cases involving men, women, and children, and of maternity patients; training in operating room technique and isolation technique; private and general duty; and the study of special diets.

The students had the advantage of study in various departments in the hospital. It was the intention of the school to develop their abilities with a view to aid them in acquiring a comprehensive knowledge of the details of their chosen profession.

The theoretical course was extensive, and included all subjects considered necessary or desirable for the 1923 nursing school graduate. The course of study outlined by the Division of Nursing Education in Iowa was adhered to closely. A series of lectures were delivered in the classroom by members of the staff or other qualified physicians, by the superintendent of nurses, or by other department heads. There were neither classes nor lectures during the summer months, but more intensive practical training.³⁰

²⁸ Sisters of St. Francis, 13.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid., 14.

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When the full term of three years was completed and by their conduct, service, and examinations, students had met the requirements of the school, they were awarded a diploma and class pin.

The Alumnae Association

The Alumnae Association of the School of Nursing of Sacred Heart Hospital was organized in May 1927, with the following aims: to unite in interest and affection the graduates of the school, to deepen and broaden their professional knowledge, to promote a high ethical standard in their profession, and to assist in the work of reconstruction going on in the world.³¹

The graduate nurse had a splendid preparation for life . . . Her opportunities for public services were almost unlimited: in private duty; army and navy nursing; office nursing; mental nursing; public health work in all its various branches.³²

The School for Nurses at Sacred Heart Hospital had a great impact on the services and care available at the hospital for decades, long after the school dissolved.

William LaBarthe Steele

William LaBarthe Steele was born May 2, 1875. After graduating from the University of Illinois, he worked for Louis Sullivan in Chicago and for a short time in Pittsburgh before coming to Iowa. Steele worked for several other architectural firms before moving to Sioux City to work as a draftsman for Wilfred W. Beach. In 1905, the firm of Beach & Steele was formed. This partnership lasted until 1907, when Steele left to practice independently. He joined the American Institute of Architects and stayed current with the latest architectural styles, which included Arts and Crafts and Prairie. He designed a large number of commercial buildings, churches, synagogues, homes, schools, and government buildings in the greater Sioux City area. With the design of the Woodbury County Courthouse, built 1916–1918, he associated with Prairie School architects Purcell & Elmslie of Minneapolis.³³

Steele was a member of the Knights of Columbus (fourth degree) and a devout Catholic. His fraternal and professional associations were many. They included Sigma Chi fraternity, American Institute of Architects (Fellow Member), Nebraska State Board of Examiners of Professional Engineers and Architects, Home Owners Loan Corp. (state architectural advisor), and American Inter-Professional Institute.

According to Wesley Shank in *Iowa's Historic Architects*, in 1908 Steele delivered a paper called "Fads" at the annual conference of the Iowa chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In his paper, he

³¹ Sisters of St. Francis, 15.

³² *Ibid.*, 14.

³³ Shank, 156–157.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

stated that he considered the historic succession of architectural styles to be mere fads. "The profession was then in the throes of Mission and a bungalow fad and had recently seen the Arts and Crafts, Art Nouveau, and the Chateau fads." Steele advocated that architects look further: "'let us not be blinded by what the great men *did* to what they *thought* and had faith in.'"³⁴ With this belief, Steele tested his own style, one that was formed from his education, professional experience, and new ideas—a stripped Classicism architectural style. This style had elements that were reminiscent of other styles, but was stripped of the details. Steele was experimenting with his own style, just as he had advocated that other architects attempt to do.

Steele was not the only architect that expanded into other architectural styles. From 1911 to 1930 (the second phase of Sullivan-esque), Louis Sullivan himself, William Purcell, George Elmslie, and Steele began producing a small number of plans that were high-quality designs in "undistinguished" cities and small towns.³⁵ After Steele designed the Woodbury County Courthouse, he found greater acceptance of his progressive designs. He was able to obtain commissions that enabled him to apply his interpretation of the Sullivan-esque style.³⁶

William L. Steele not only designed commercial and government buildings and houses, but he also designed numerous religious buildings connected with the Roman Catholic Church. He has many churches to his credit. He was a very close friend of the Bishop of Sioux City and the diocese. As a result, his reputation preceded him.³⁷

The Sacred Heart Hospital was designed and built in LeMars, Iowa, for the Sisters of Saint Francis from Dubuque, Iowa. Steele's use of dark brick and matching mortar in many of his other Catholic buildings is close to that of Sacred Heart Hospital. In this case, however, the brick is dark, while the mortar is white. The door is marked and supported by stone columns. It is similar to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Sioux City in that both exhibit simplified forms with minimal ornamentation. According to Fr. Hughes, "[Steele's] use of brick and simple stone trim was a reflection of a deeply held conviction that only unpretentious material should be used in church architecture."³⁸

The design of Sacred Heart Hospital is an example of Steele's nonconventional stripped Classicism phase, as the building has limited ornamentation. Steele was coming out of the Arts and Crafts period

³⁴ Shank, 156–157.

³⁵ Ronald E. Schmitt, *Sullivan-esque: Urban Architecture and Ornamentation* (Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2002), 52.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, 125–126.

³⁷ Hughes, 5.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 43.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

and came to the Sullivanesque style as a student. In this project and other buildings, his designs were very American, and the only ornamentation is on the columns. It is as though Steele was creating a style that was not Prairie School, Arts and Crafts, Sullivanesque, or one with European influence; he was creating a style that was his own – a stripped Classicism architectural style. Steele realized that rural Iowa was a conservative place with an expansive prairie and that the style should therefore fit the rural landscape and community. His designs, specifically the design of Sacred Heart Hospital, demonstrate his interest in simplified forms and minimal ornamentation.

During the design and construction of the Sacred Heart Hospital, it appears that Steele was working on his own.³⁹ Then, from 1926 to 1928, Steele was joined in partnership with longtime colleague, George B. Hilgers. By 1928, Steele had moved to Omaha and entered into partnership with Thomas R. Kimball. William L. Steele died on March 4, 1949.⁴⁰

Roman Catholic Projects

William L. Steele broadened the range of architectural expression in rural Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. While one of his most important pieces is the Woodbury County Courthouse in Sioux City, Iowa, he designed numerous churches, schools, hospitals, and college academic buildings.⁴¹

According to (Father) Brian Hughes,

Many of the projects that Steele completed for the Catholic Church represented a different style as well as social concerns. The issue of architectural style in the American Catholic church buildings reveals the subtle vestiges of a conflict which had brewed throughout the American Catholic Church in the years prior to 1900.⁴²

Specifically, Hughes notes that in the late 1800s and early 1900s a controversy called "Americanism" arose among Roman Catholic bishops and priests. The dispute centered on the relationship between European and American Catholic cultural life. One group of bishops and clergy believed that it was necessary for the American church to establish its own customs, traditions, and styles. Bishop Phillip Garrigan, the first bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City and one of William Steele's most important clients, was closely tied to the liberal Irish prelates who proposed a church life with a more American character. According to Hughes:

³⁹ Shank, 156–157.

⁴⁰ "William LaBarthe Steele" (obituary), *Clark County Press* [Neillsville, Clark Co., WI] (March 10, 1949.)

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

In the years following [1900], American Catholic ecclesiastical architecture almost exclusively employed the various revivals of European styles . . . the work of William L. Steele can be seen as an attempt to build church buildings which were part of the European Catholic tradition and yet were expressions of the Prairie School . . .⁴³

At the time there was controversy over architectural style in the Catholic Church. Steele's new ideas about what church architecture should or should not be and the rural environment in which he was practicing led him to begin to design some of his buildings in a conservative style. In some of his writings he discussed the ways in which "the personality of the architect had practically vanished and in his work there is nothing that speaks of the spirit of a people or of a locality."⁴⁴ Steele began to relate his designs to the community in which the building would be built as well as its surrounding (rural) landscape. Steele's new sense of the power of place and landscape had a great impact on the design for the Sacred Heart Hospital. In contrast to the designs of actual churches, the design of a church related building was greatly simplified. It was stripped of much iconic symbolism from the top to bottom. This is evident in the roof line, lack of stained glass windows, buttresses, and elevated entrance.

Some of the other buildings that Steele was working on during the design of Sacred Heart Hospital includes:

- Fairmont Park Branch Library, Sioux City, Iowa-1927
- St. Joseph Church, Milford, Iowa-1920-1921
- Sacred Heart Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa-1920-1921
- St. Joseph Church, Lincoln Township, Plymouth County, Iowa-1925-1926
- St. Joseph Church, Salix, Iowa-1925-1926
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Sioux City, Iowa-1925
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City, Iowa-1928

Significant Date

The significant date for Sacred Heart Hospital is 1923, which is the year the building was dedicated, opened, and Sacred Heart Nursing School opened.

SUMMARY

The Sacred Heart Hospital is located in LeMars, Iowa, within Plymouth County. It was constructed in 1923 and was designed by William LaBarthe Steele. While there were a few alterations to the building in the late 1960s and early 1970s, there is still a large amount of original material, design, workmanship, location, feeling, association, and setting still visible.

⁴³ Hughes, 5-6.

⁴⁴ Ibid., 20.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

The Sacred Heart Hospital is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as the first large, modern, purpose-built hospital in LeMars. It is also a locally significant example of architecture designed by William LaBarthe Steele. The Sacred Heart Hospital serves as an example of a piece of architecture commissioned by the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Sioux City. The hospital was operated by the Sisters of Saint Francis, who were responsible for the care of the patients and, for fifteen years, the education of future nurses.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

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_____. January 11, 1921.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Name of Property

Plymouth County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 14 732482 4741589
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sheriffa M. Jones, Architectural Historian siones@iowalakesrcd.org
organization Rural Preservation Partners date March 14, 2009
street & number PO BOX 265, 203 10th Street SW telephone (712) 262-2083
city or town Spencer state Iowa zip code 51301

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name City of LeMars
street & number 40 Central Avenue SE, PO BOX 1130 telephone (712) 546-7018
city or town LeMars state Iowa zip code 51031

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 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The 1923 Sacred Heart Hospital is located in Section 9, Township 92 North, Range 45 West of the 5th P.M. in the City of LeMars in Plymouth County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries conform to the historic boundaries associated with this property.

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Section number Additional Page 21

Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

PHOTOGRAPHS

Sheriffa Jones was the photographer for the black-and-white images. All negatives for the black-and-white photos are held at the Iowa Lakes RC&D office, 203 Tenth Street SW, Spencer, Iowa 51301. The black-and-white photos date from May 2008 and depict the 1923 Sacred Heart Hospital, LeMars, Iowa, Plymouth County.

Black & White Print Photos

- #1 Looking east to the west façade.
- #2 Looking southeast to the west and north façades.
- #3 Looking southwest to the east and north façades.
- #4 Looking southwest to the east façade.
- #5 Looking northwest to the south and east façades.
- #6 Looking northwest to the south façade.
- #7 Looking northeast to the west and south façades.
- #8 Looking southeast to the west and north façades.
- #9 Looking east to the west front door and steps.

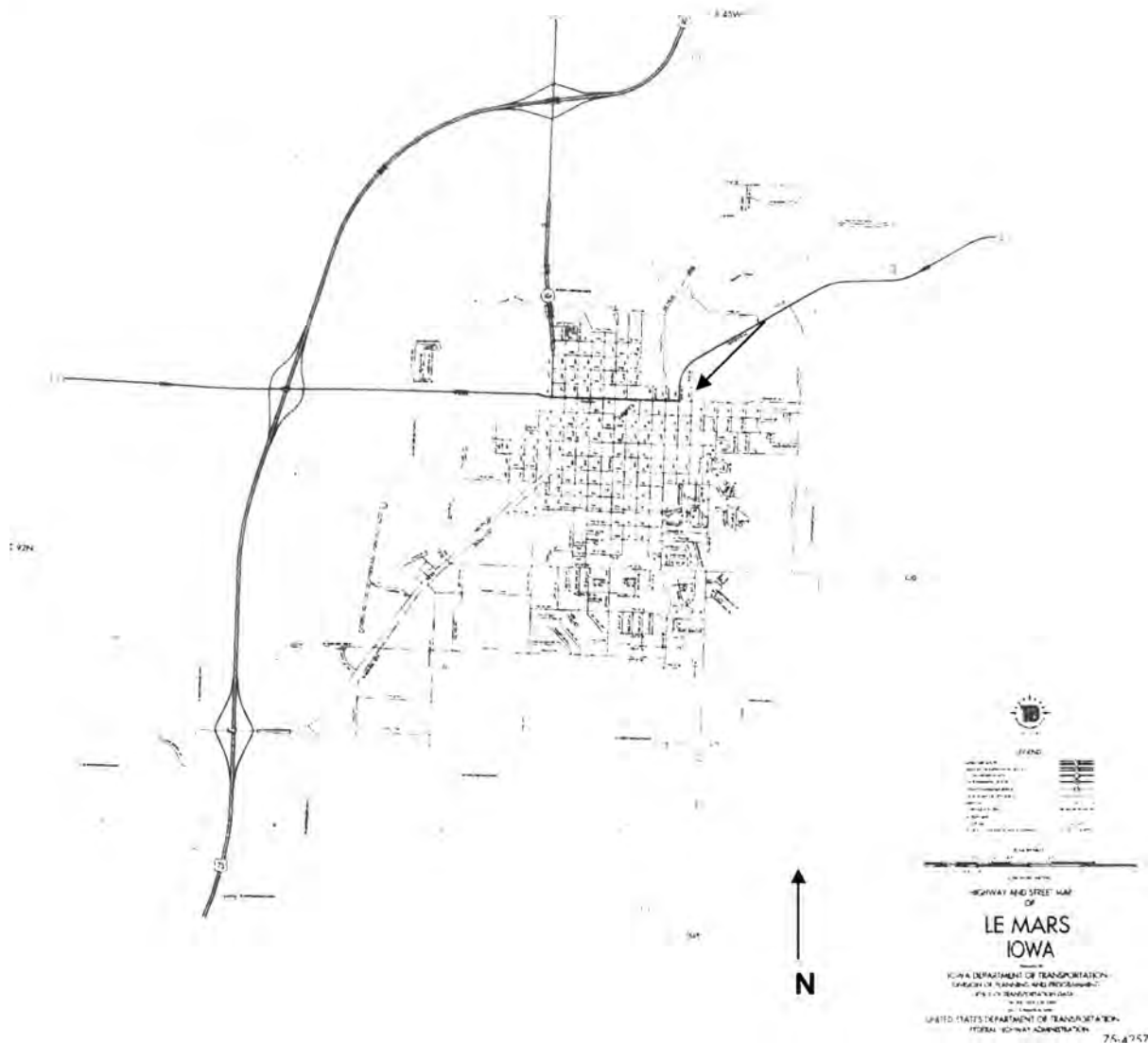
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National Park Service

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Section number Additional Page 22

Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa

MAPS



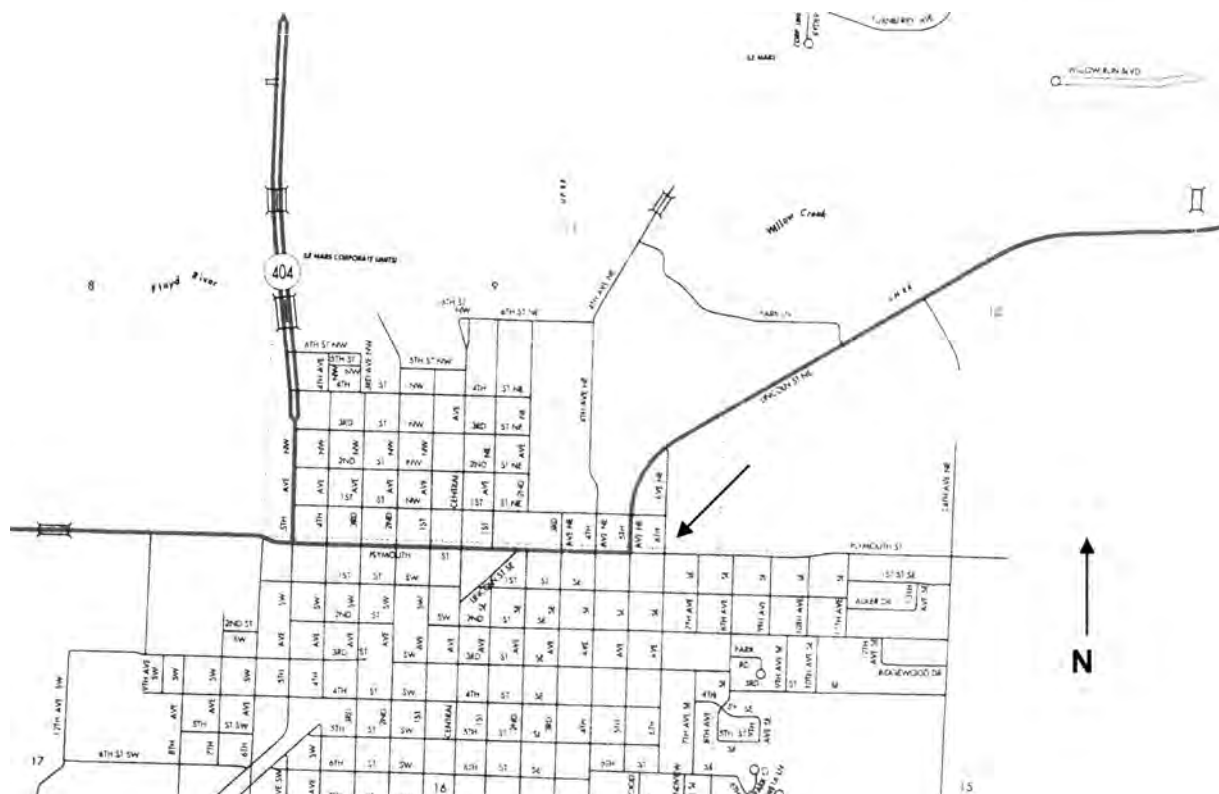
MAP 1: Iowa Department of Transportation, 2008. www.iowadotmaps.com (accessed October 21, 2009). LeMars, Iowa. Location of Sacred Heart Hospital noted with an arrow.

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National Park Service

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



MAP 2: Iowa Department of Transportation, 2008. www.iowadotmaps.com (accessed October 21, 2009). LeMars, Iowa. Location of Sacred Heart Hospital noted with an arrow. Approximate scale twelve city blocks equals one mile.

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Section number Additional Page 24

Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



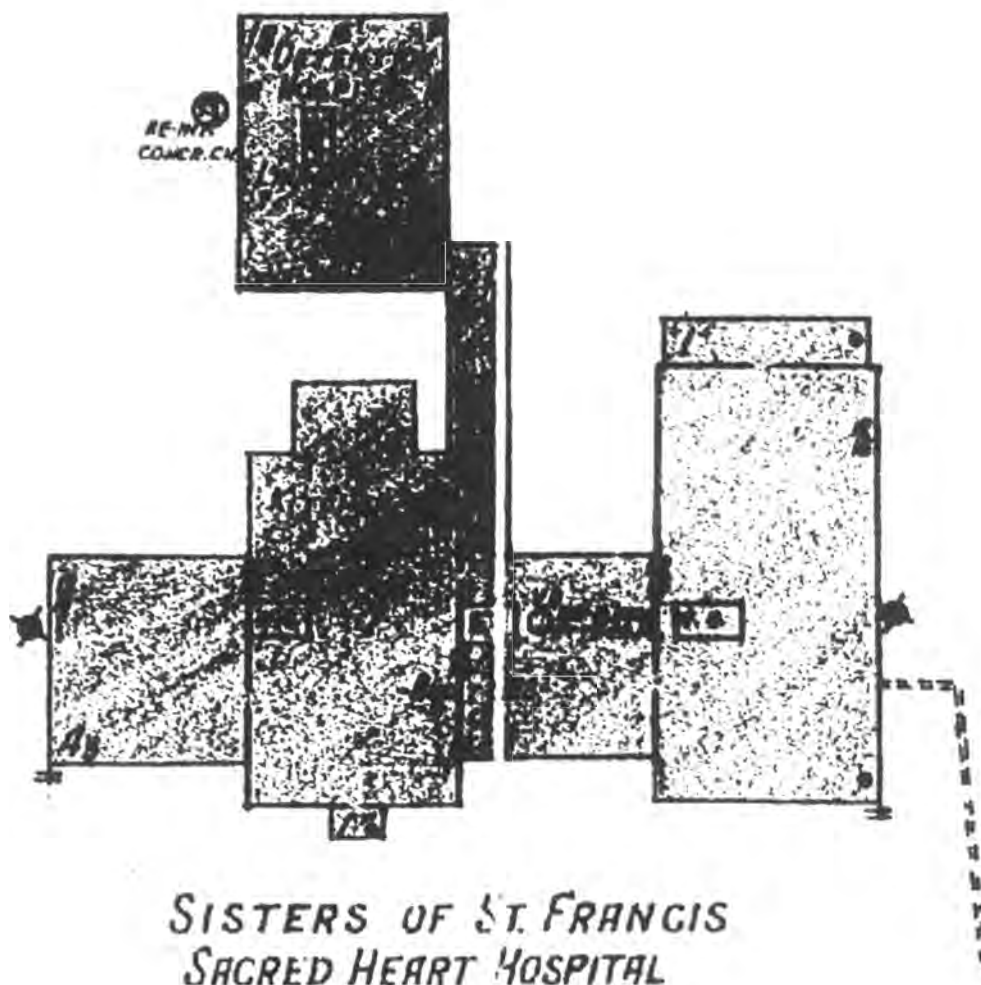
Aerial Photo: Sacred Heart Hospital in background, east and north façades. Photo courtesy of Floyd Valley Hospital, 2008.

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National Park Service

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Section number Additional Page 25

Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



HEAT: STEAM - LIGHTS: FLEC -
Fireproof Construct on
BRICK BEARING WALLS RE-INFORCED
CONCRETE 600-1/2" C & L. HOSE.

← N

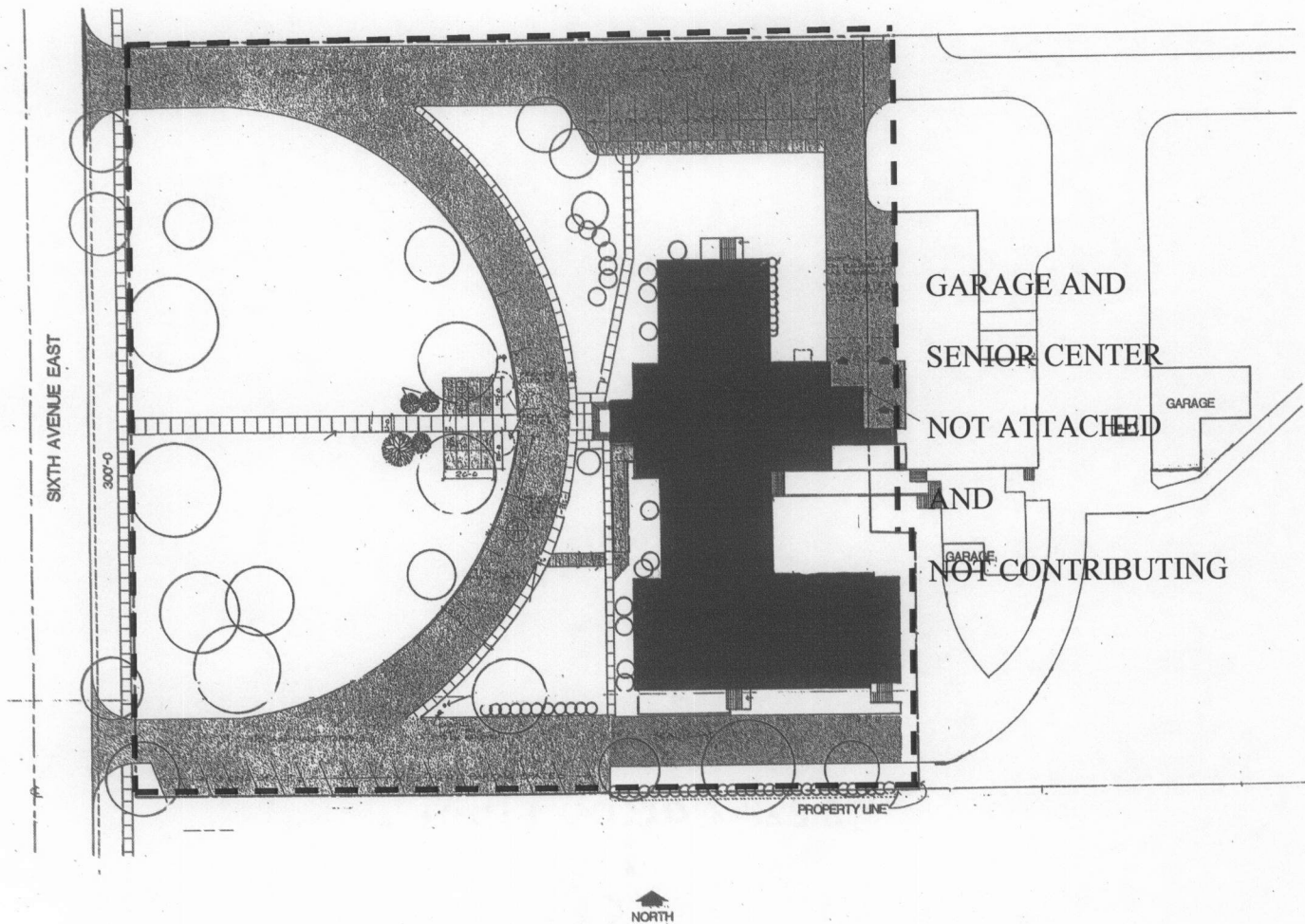
Site Plan 1: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, June 1923. The top part, which was the detention hospital and laundry (far east) was removed, date unknown, and the space is now occupied with a c. 1960 single-story addition for the senior center.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



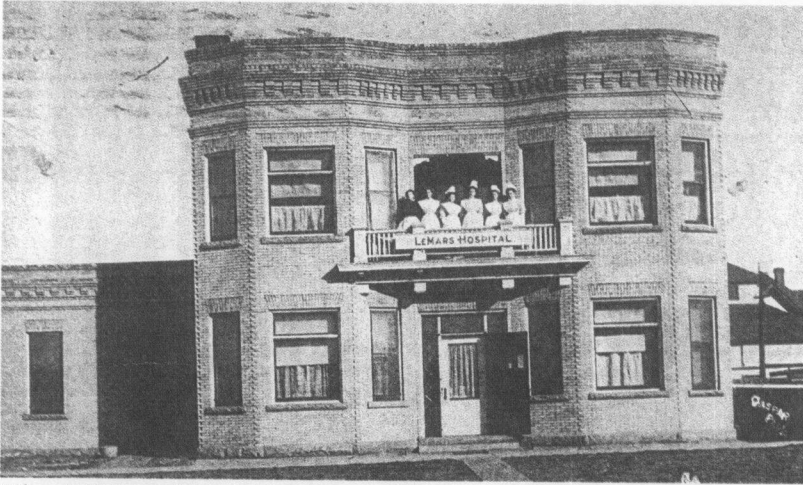
Site Plan 2: Sacred Heart Hospital, 2008. Property boundary depicted with the dashed line. The garage and senior center are not attached to the nominated building and they are noncontributing. Plan courtesy of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co.

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National Park Service

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Section number Additional Page 27

Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



The White House Bathing Palace, also known as the LeMars Natatorium converted into the LeMars Hospital and was used from 1892 to 1923. In 1921, the campaign for a new hospital started and the Sacred Heart Hospital was built in 1923. Date of photo unknown. From the Plymouth County Historical Society, *Plymouth County Heritage* (LeMars, IA: Plymouth County Historical Society, 1996), 43.



Sacred Heart Hospital upon completion, 1923. From the Plymouth County Historical Society, *Plymouth County Heritage* (LeMars, IA: Plymouth County Historical Society, 1996), 42.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



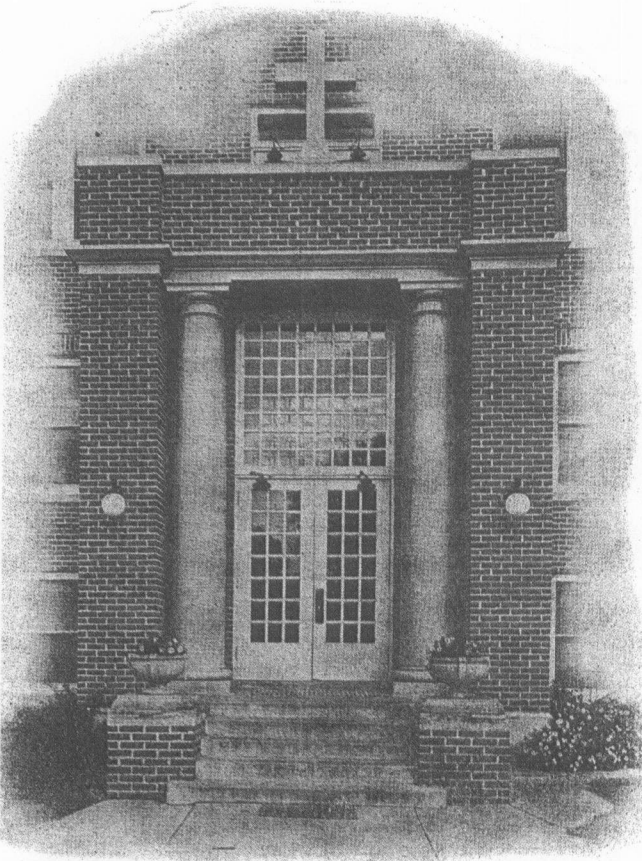
Sacred Heart Hospital, c. 1949. This image was a post card.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



Front door of the Sacred Heart Hospital, c. 1923. From the front cover of the *School for Nurses Sacred Heart Hospital*.



A class of nurses, date of photo unknown. From the *School for Nurses Sacred Heart Hospital* 8.

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Sacred Heart Hospital
Plymouth County, Iowa



Nurses outside the hospital, date of the photo unknown. From "Sacred Heart Hospital," Celano Archives, Dubuque, IA.



Sisters Deborah and Francis in the nursery, date of the photo unknown. From "Sacred Heart Hospital," Celano Archives, Dubuque, IA.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sacred Heart Hospital
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Plymouth

DATE RECEIVED: 12/24/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/19/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/03/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/07/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001303

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2.3.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#1



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#2



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#3



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#4



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#5



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#6



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#7



SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#8



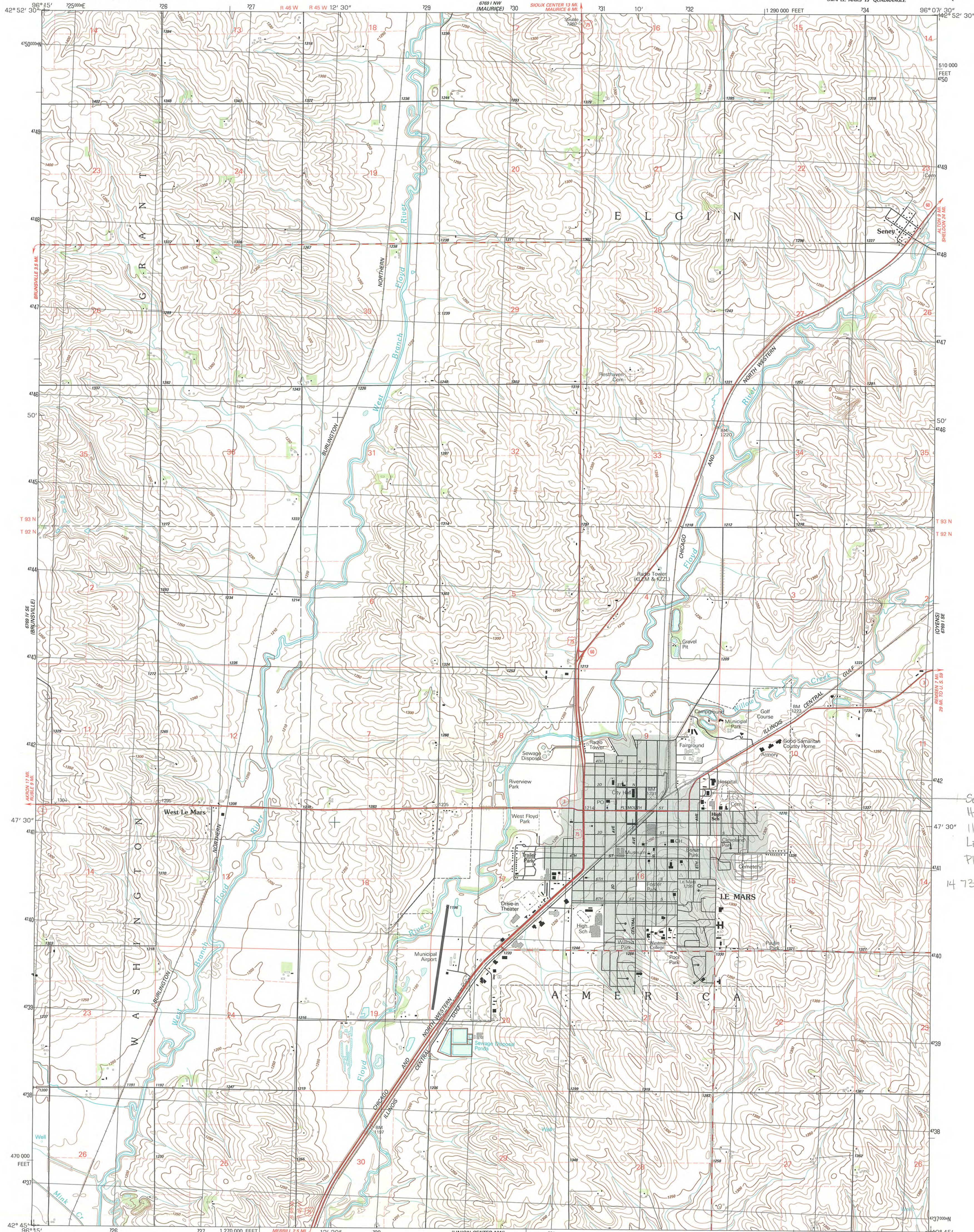
SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

LEMARS, IOWA

#9

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LE MARS QUADRANGLE
IOWA-PLYMOUTH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW 4 LE MARS 15' QUADRANGLE



Sacred Heart
Hospital
110 6th Ave NE
LE MARS, IOWA
PLYMOUTH COUNTY
4 732482 4741589

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

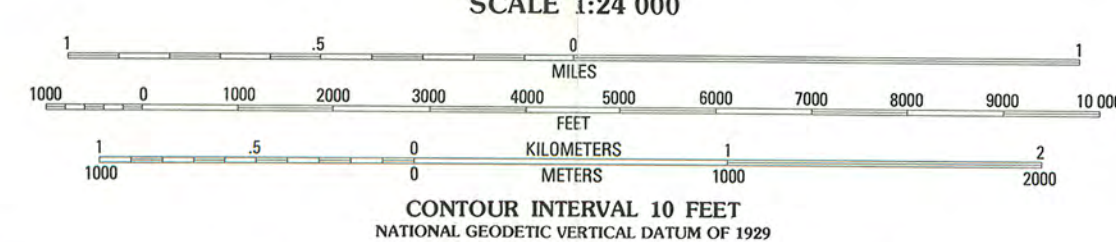
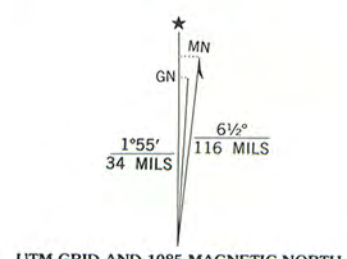
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1955. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1983
Field checked 1985. Map edited 1985

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Iowa coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14
1927 North American Datum

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters north and
25 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, Light-duty road, hard or
hard surface improved surface
Secondary highway, Unimproved road
hard surface
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

LE MARS, IOWA
SW 4 LE MARS 15' QUADRANGLE
42096-G2-TF-024

1985

DMA 6769 1 SW-SERIES V876

MAY 18 2009

CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name Le Mars Date of Public Meeting

Property Name Sacred Heart Hospital, 110 6th Avenue NE, LeMars, Plymouth County

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- ☒ Recommendation of National Register eligibility
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Iris Hemmingson Date 5/13/09

Print Name IRIS HEMMINGSON

Title Chair, LeMars Historic Preservation Commission

Reason(s) for recommendation:

This property has had major impact on the community through the years and continues to provide services through low cost housing.

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- ☒ Recommendation of National Register eligibility
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Dick Kirchoff Date 5/13/09

Print Name DICK KIRCHOFF

Title Mayor

Reason(s) for recommendation:

*Excellent group of personal to work with on this project
They certainly have done their research.*

3. Professional Evaluation:

- ☐ Recommendation of National Register eligibility
☐ Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Paula Mohr Date 5/27/09

Print Name Paula Mohr

Title Architectural historian

Reason(s) for recommendation:



November 19, 2009

J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- Sacred Heart Hospital, 110 6th Avenue NE, LeMars, Plymouth County, Iowa
- Miller, Alex and Ola (Viola) (Babcock), House, 429 S. Marion Ave., Washington, Washington County, Iowa
- Red Oak Grove Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, 751 King Ave., Tipton vicinity, Cedar County, Iowa

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill
Tax Incentive Programs Manager/
National Register Coordinator