

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number RR 2 (Georgetown)
city, town Albia
state Iowa code IA county Monroe code 133 zip code 52531
not for publication
vicinity

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing buildings 0, sites 0, structures 0, objects 0, Total 1
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: 3/16/92
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official:
Date:
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
entered in the National Register. (checked) See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Beth Boland
Date of Action: 5/6/92

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religious/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religious/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Vernacular

Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church of Georgetown, several miles west of Albia on U.S. Highway 34, is located on land platted for the village of Georgetown (see maps one through four). This vernacular Gothic Revival building is constructed of local sandstone and features a centrally located entrance and belfry. The church, of rectangular form, measures 100 feet by 60 feet. Pointed arches curve above the central entrance, each flanking entrance, the stained glass windows on the west, east, and south elevations, and the openings in the belfry. Non load-bearing buttresses grace the front (south) facade as well as the southeast and southwest corners of the east and west elevations, respectively.

The front (south) facade features a centrally located pair of wood doors that open to five steps leading up to the main aisle. On each side of the main entrance there is to be found a single wood door. Above all doors, and set within a Gothic arch, are stained glass windows, the centrally located window being the most ornate and featuring the name of the church. Above the flanking entrances are single windows also set within pointed arches. High above the double doors is a group of three stained glass windows, the central window being the larger of the three. These windows are also set within Gothic arches. Crowning the south facade is the belfry. Square in shape and Romanesque in style, it continues the theme set by the windows and doors by featuring pointed arch openings. Atop the belfry is a Latin Cross.

The east and west elevations feature symmetrical fenestration. Six stained glass windows in pointed arches grace the church. At the southeast corner of the east side and the southwest corner of the west side non load-bearing buttresses appear.

The north elevation features a prominently displayed rose window of stained glass. A one-story boiler room, measuring 30 feet by 10 feet, is centered within this gable end. This addition is constructed of glazed tile block and offers an entrance on the east elevation. Entry into the church can also be gained through a door just inside the boiler room entrance.

The stone of Saint Patrick's Church is of varied color, ranging

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Ethnic Heritage/European
Architecture

1869

1869
1903

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect: Fr, Timothy Clifford

Contractor: Carr & Cullen

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Saint Patrick's at Georgetown is locally significant under criteria A as the marker pointing to the influx of Irish settlers into Monroe County during the mid to late 19th century and under criteria C as a good example of a vernacular Gothic Revival executed in local stone. Significance under these criteria meets Criteria Consideration A. Irish immigrants from the Eastern United States and Ireland settled in Monroe County in the late 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s bringing with them a deep religious faith and a familiarity with the ecclesiastical architecture in their homeland.

As early as 1843 Irish immigrants began claiming land in Monroe County. Years passed and the number of Irish settlers grew, so much so that a priest from Keokuk began saying mass in the area in 1848. By 1853 the Reverend John Kreckel of Ottumwa began making monthly trips to Monroe County to minister to the spiritual needs of the Catholics in the vicinity. Fr. Kreckel continued satisfying the religious needs of the early settlers until 1856 when the Reverend John Mitchell assumed his duties in Monroe County. Two years later the Catholics of Guilford township, Monroe County, could boast of their first house of worship: a log church dedicated to Saint Gregory.⁶

The efforts of the earliest Irish-Catholic settlers in Monroe County to establish a Catholic church do not stand without precedent. Irish-Catholics in the Dubuque area set about raising funds for the construction of a church in early 1833. Settlement of Garryowen, located in Jackson County, began in 1838 and by 1840 the Irish-Catholics had their first church: a simple log structure. At the behest of Bishop Loras of the Dubuque Diocese, a community of Irish Cistercian monks arrived in Iowa in late 1849 to staff the newly formed monastery at New Melleary.⁷

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albia Union 1862-1869, volumes 1-7.

Andreas' Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa

Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1875.

Anonymous, untitled, undated essay in manuscript form.

"Catholicity in Monroe County" anonymous, undated essay.

Champneys, A.C. Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture London:

G.Bell and Sons, 1910.

Des Moines Tribune 24 April 1964.

de Breffney, Brian (ed.) Ireland: A Cultural Encyclopedia

London: Thames and Hudson, 1983.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.7

UTM References

A

1	5	5	0	3	7	4	0	4	5	4	0	2	5	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church is located on lots 17 and 19 of the Georgetown E division.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church are those that, historically, have been associated with the nominated property, essentially the church and it's immediate surroundings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Schultes

organization _____ date 10 Dec. 1991

street & number 500 West Ashland telephone 515-961-2977

city or town Indianola state IA zip code 50125

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from brown to beige. Roughly cut, the stone blocks measure from 8 to 20 inches in length and 6 to 10 inches in width.

The exterior of Saint Patrick's Church has remained true to its original design. The only exception to this statement is to be found when considering the belfry. Added in 1903, it was raised to house a bell purchased by the congregation in 1896.¹

A series of remodelling projects have altered the appearance of the interior of Saint Patrick's Church. The first of these remodelling projects occurred in 1892 when the parishioners saw fit to redecorate the church by replacing the original glazed glass with stained glass.²

The first major interior renovation occurred shortly after the turn of the century. Between September 1905 and February 1906 an inclined floor was added, new pews were installed, and up-to-date altars and statuary graced the interior of Saint Patrick's. The most substantial change came as a pressed tin ceiling was hung. The original plaster was removed from the ceiling and the new tin ceiling was put in place.³

A second major renovation of the interior came during the mid 1950s and early 1960s. In 1956 a drop ceiling was installed that lowered the ceiling to a level below the rose window, thus obscuring it from the view of worshippers. The rose window was also hidden by the construction of a community room. The rear wall of the sacristy was moved outward approximately 16 feet to provide room for the interior addition. The years 1959 and 1960 brought about further changes to the interior as the flanking entrances on the south facade were closed and new interior walls on two inch furring strips were placed over the original plaster.⁴

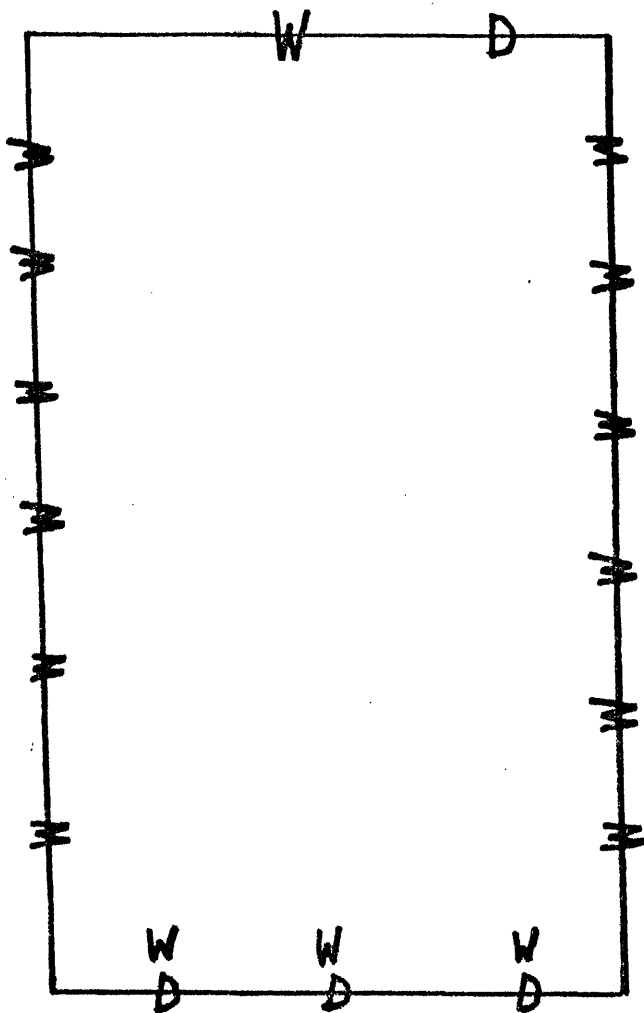
Members of the congregation again redecorated their church in the late 1980s. The changes included the addition of a stencilled border around window openings and the refurbishing of all statues and altars. The pipe organ, installed in 1924, was professionally restored at the time.⁵ All of the changes made to Saint Patrick's throughout the years are entirely reversible due to their cosmetic nature.

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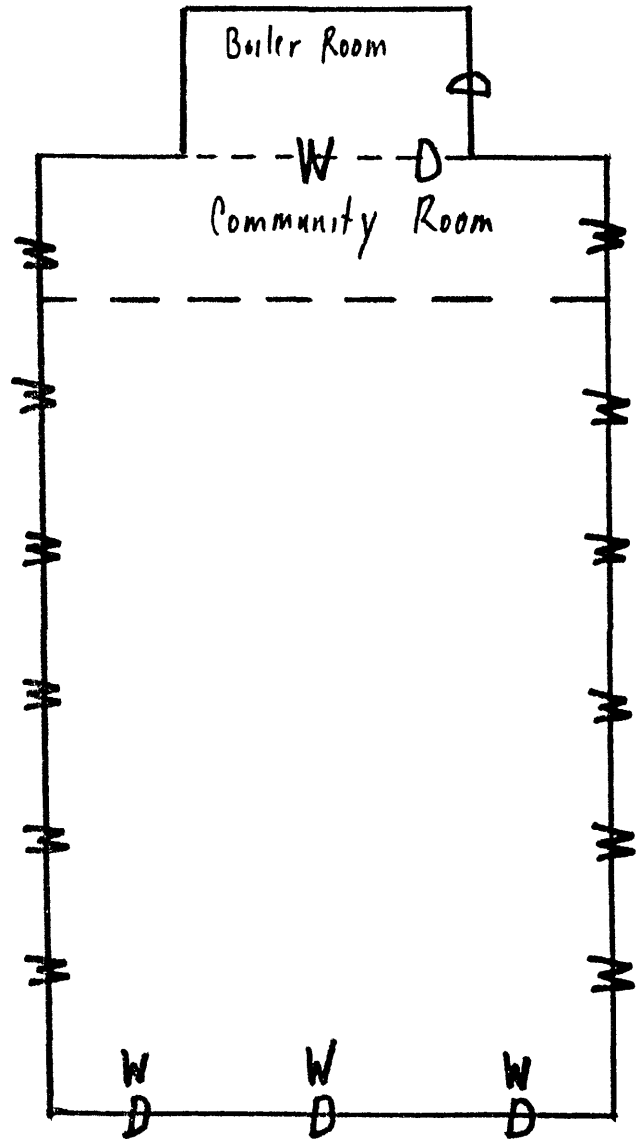
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Floor Plan
1869



Floor Plan
1991

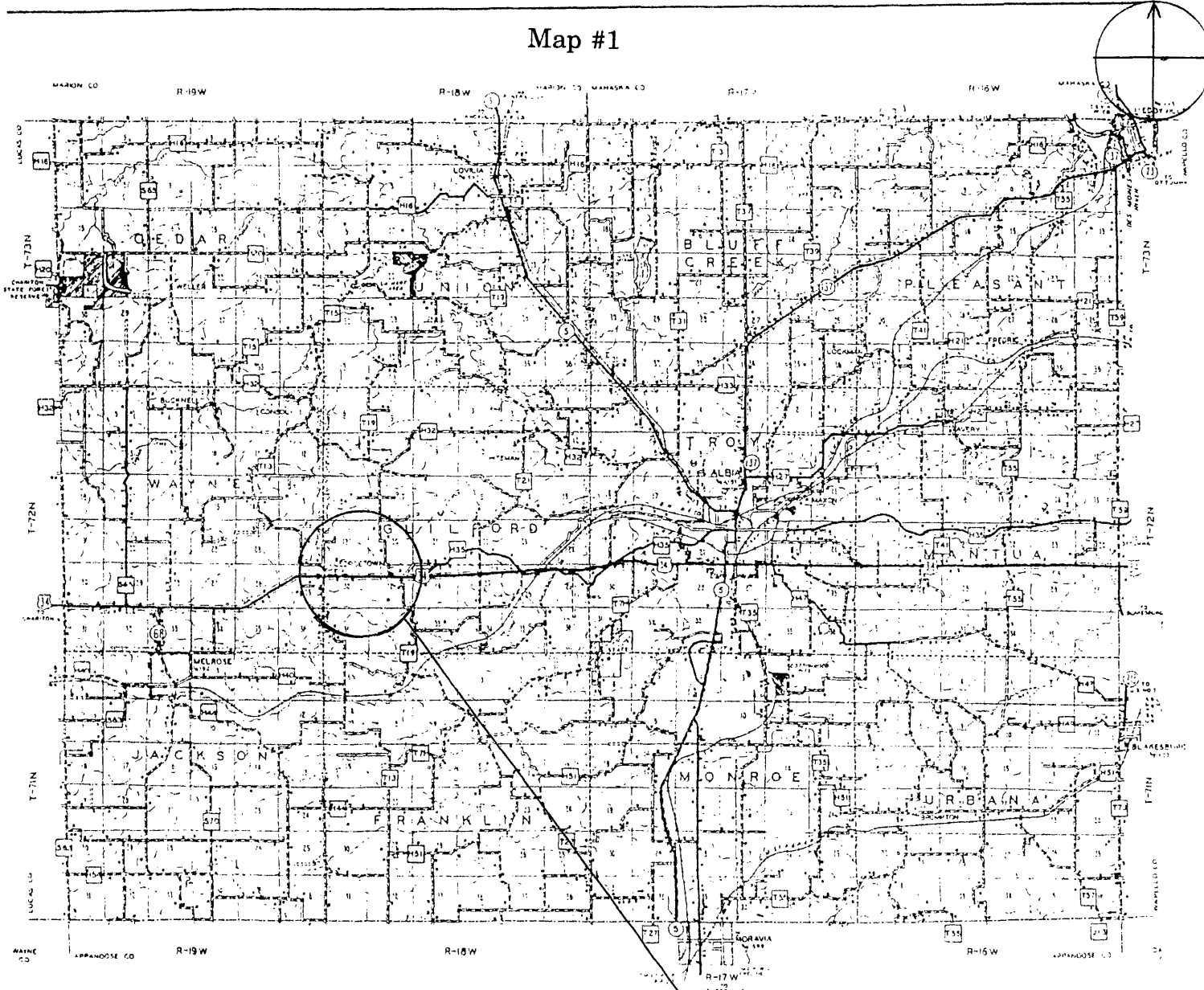
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Map #1



1978 Monroe County Plat Book showing Georgetown

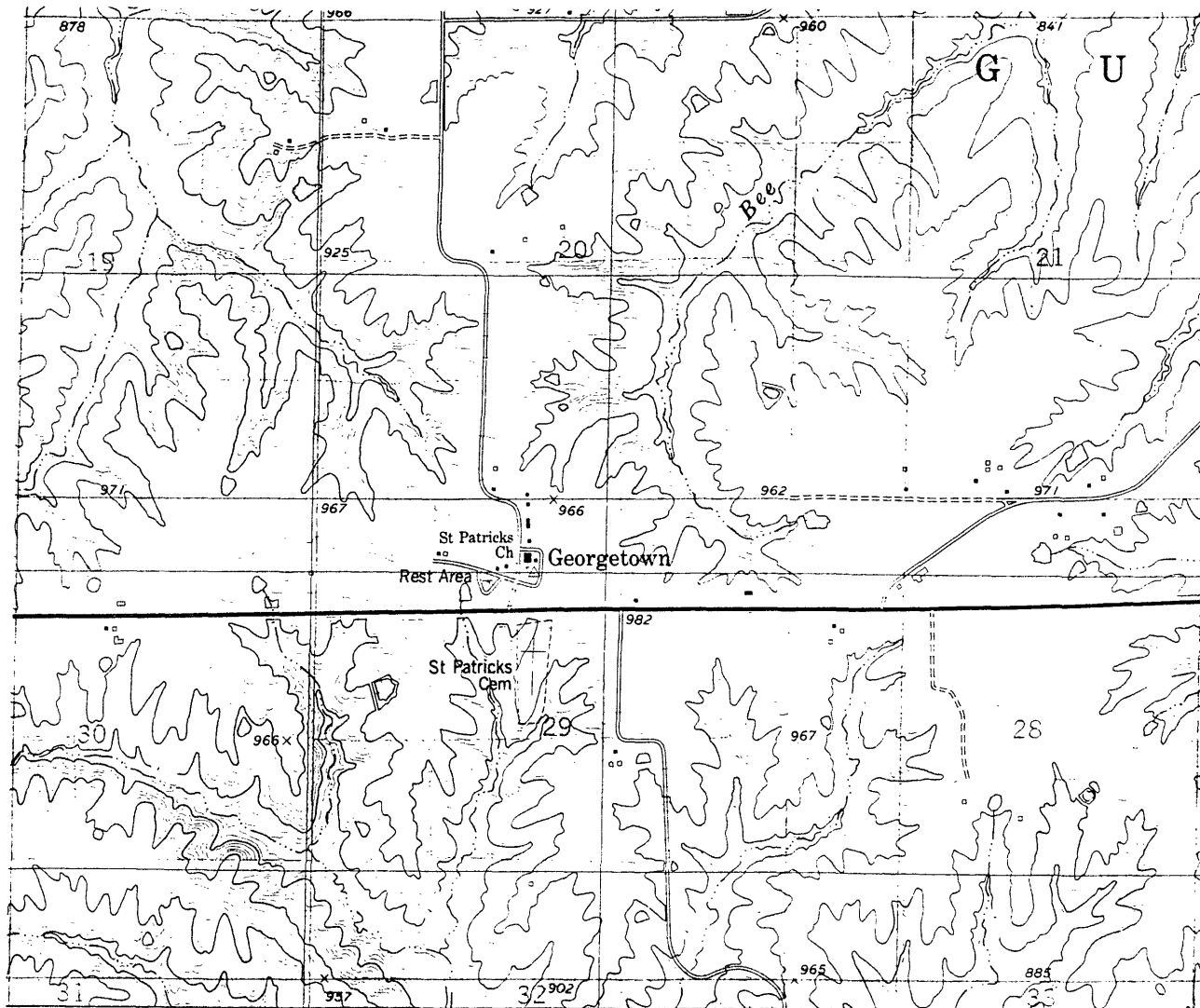
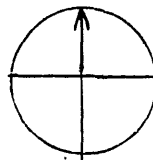
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Map #2



1982 USGS Map

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1902 Albia Republican Atlas showing Georgetown (Stacyville)

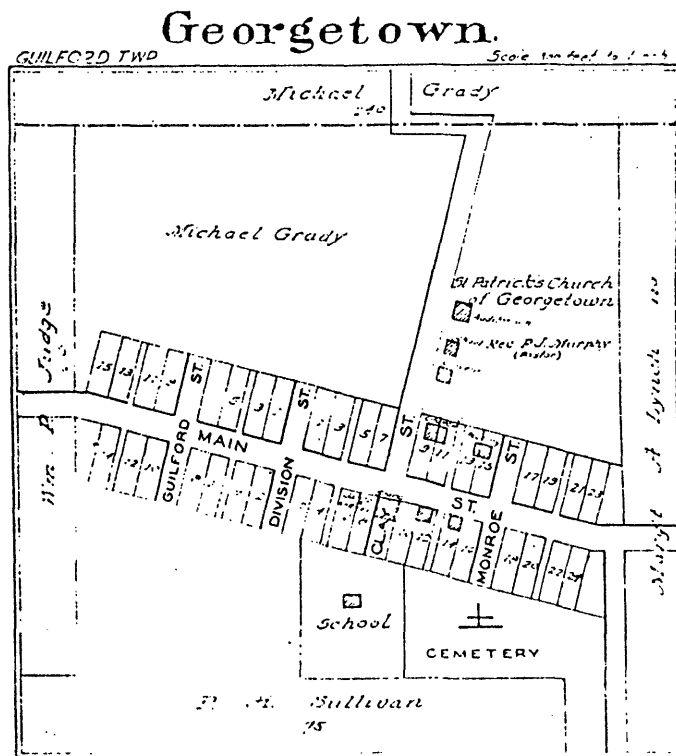
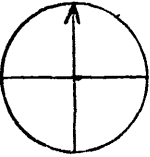
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Map #4



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The weight of the Irish influence on the development of Saint Patrick's Church can be seen by scrutinizing two items: mid 19th century census reports for Monroe County and the church itself. Of the 19 individuals listed in the 1870 census report that purportedly played a crucial role in the creation of Saint Patrick's, all of them were Irish immigrants. A full one third of these men came directly from Ireland while the other two thirds came to Iowa after initially settling in the Eastern United States.⁸

This group of 19 men and their families, however, were not the only Irish immigrants to settle in Monroe County. Upon examination of census reports from 1856, 1860, 1870, and 1885, it is discovered that a concentration of Irish immigrants appears in western Monroe County, especially Guilford township. (see maps 5 through 8)

The claim that the presence of Irish immigrants in western Monroe County influenced the creation of Saint Patrick's can be strengthened by examining ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland. The tradition of building in stone dates as far back as the 8th century A.D. A combination of social, political, and environmental factors contributed to the spread of the use of stone as a material for construction.⁹

The stone tradition of construction is only one characteristic of domestic and ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland. The style of many churches in Ireland is of the Gothic genre. From the 13th to the 17th century, the Gothic style dominated public and ecclesiastical architecture. And while Romanesque, Classical, and Neoclassical design dominated public and ecclesiastical architecture in the 18th and 19th centuries, the ruins of Gothic churches dotted rural Ireland.¹⁰ These ruins may have served to shape Irish immigrants' ideas regarding the style and construction material of their churches in the United States.

With their ideas concerning the appropriate appearance of a church, the Irish settlers of Monroe County began construction of their house of worship. Fr. Timothy Clifford presented his plan to erect a "cathedral in the wilderness" to members of Saint Gregory's in late 1859. In 1860 land was purchased for the site of the church and, it is said, Fr. Clifford set about designing the church. Charles Carr, a local farmer and contractor, and Mr. Cullen, another farmer, received the contract to build the church in 1861 after the original contractors failed to perform their duties. Work was slow because of the Civil War, but Carr believed he could supply laborers for the task of constructing the church. And though the progress was slow, the resolve of the

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community is illustrated by the fact that on 14 May 1864, the cornerstone for Saint Patrick's Church was laid.¹¹

The task of raising funds for the church must have been difficult. By 1865 the men of the parish formed an association to aid their pastor in the collection of funds to complete the church. Resolving to devote their energies toward the completion of the church, each of the signatories vowed to meet monthly in an effort to keep the construction process moving along. Each man participating also promised to contribute to the "ways and means of prosecuting the building of the church."¹² Apparently, each man did his best to see the construction of the church through to completion. In the spring of 1869 the priest at Saint Patrick's announced that the church was complete and pews were rented.¹³

The commitment of the parishioners to their new church is reflected in the stone construction material. While it (the use of stone) was part of their heritage, the use of stone also signified the permanence of the settlers endeavors. Cut at Isaac Babb's quarry four miles from the site of the church, the stone used to construct Saint Patrick's is of a rough texture and various shades of brown and beige. Upon completion of the church, Mr. Babb closed the quarry due to what he believed to be the inferior quality of the stone.¹⁴

Another reflection of the Irish-Catholic's commitment to their faith is the number of parishes born of Saint Patrick's of Georgetown. Within Monroe County are to be found five parishes that are locally said to be descendents of Saint Patrick's: Melrose, Lovilia, Hiteman, Weller, and Albia. Outside of the county one finds that Chariton, Woodburn, and Leon are siblings of venerable Saint Patrick's of Georgetown.¹⁵

The simplicity of the design of Saint Patrick's Church may be traced to the stone churches of Ireland. There, in an effort to avoid high construction costs, churches were built without ostentatious displays of ornamentation. Saint Patrick's of Georgetown offers a simple, vernacular Gothic Revival executed in stone. The windows and doors set in pointed arches, the symmetrical fenestration, and the buttresses on the south (front) facade are hints of the Gothic Revival style.

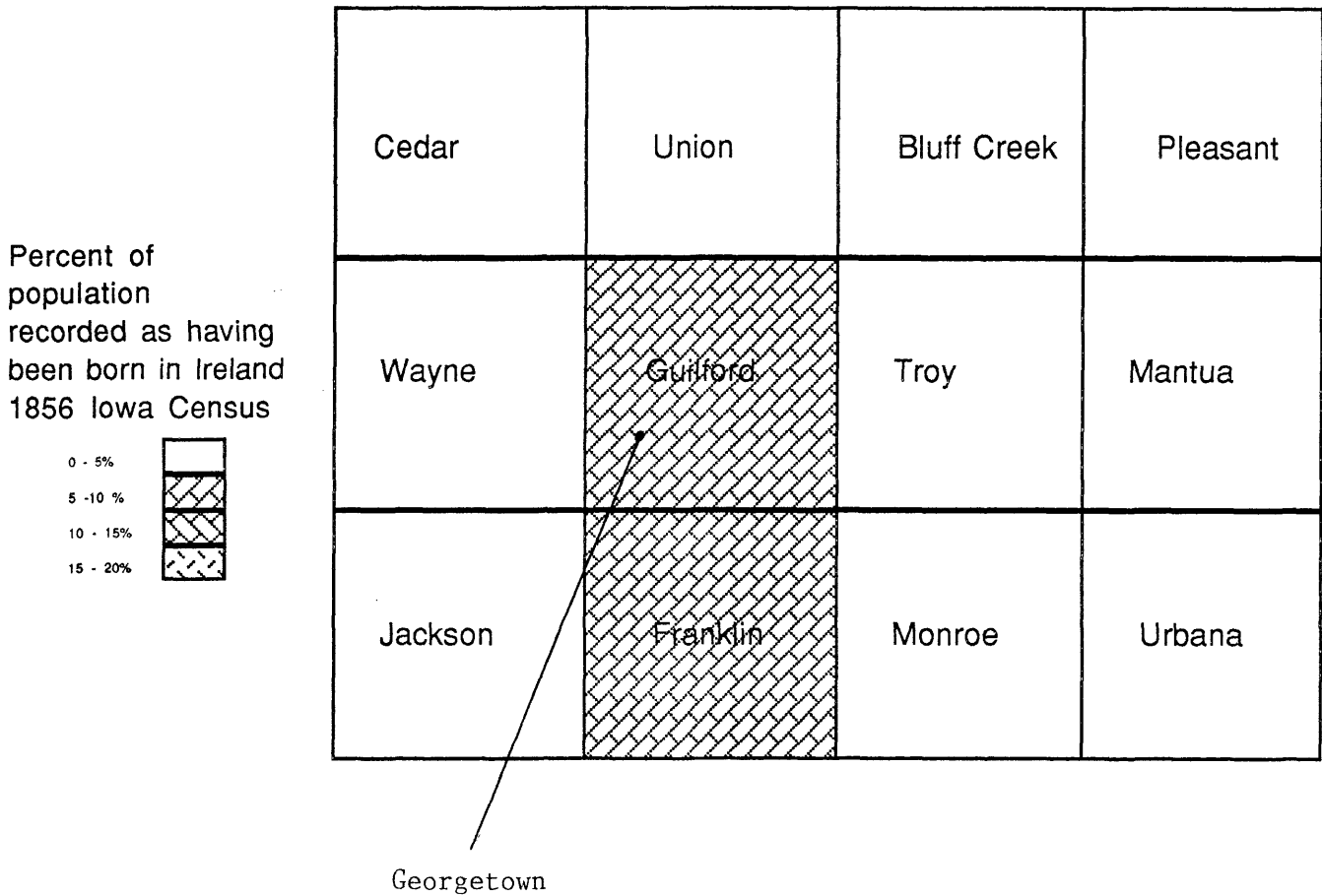
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Map #5



Distribution of Irish Immigrants by twp., Monroe County

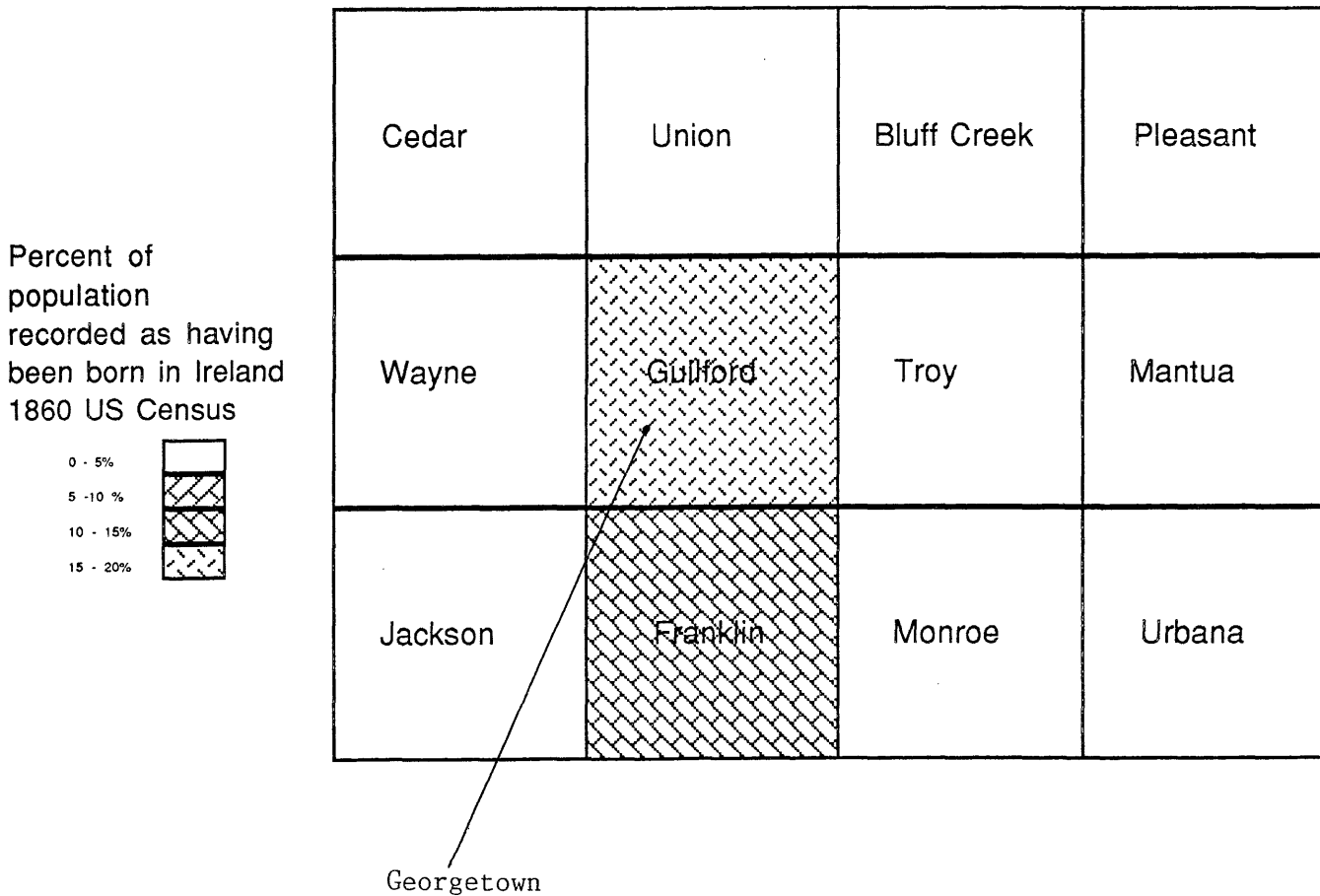
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Map #6



Distribution of Irish Immigrants by twp., Monroe County

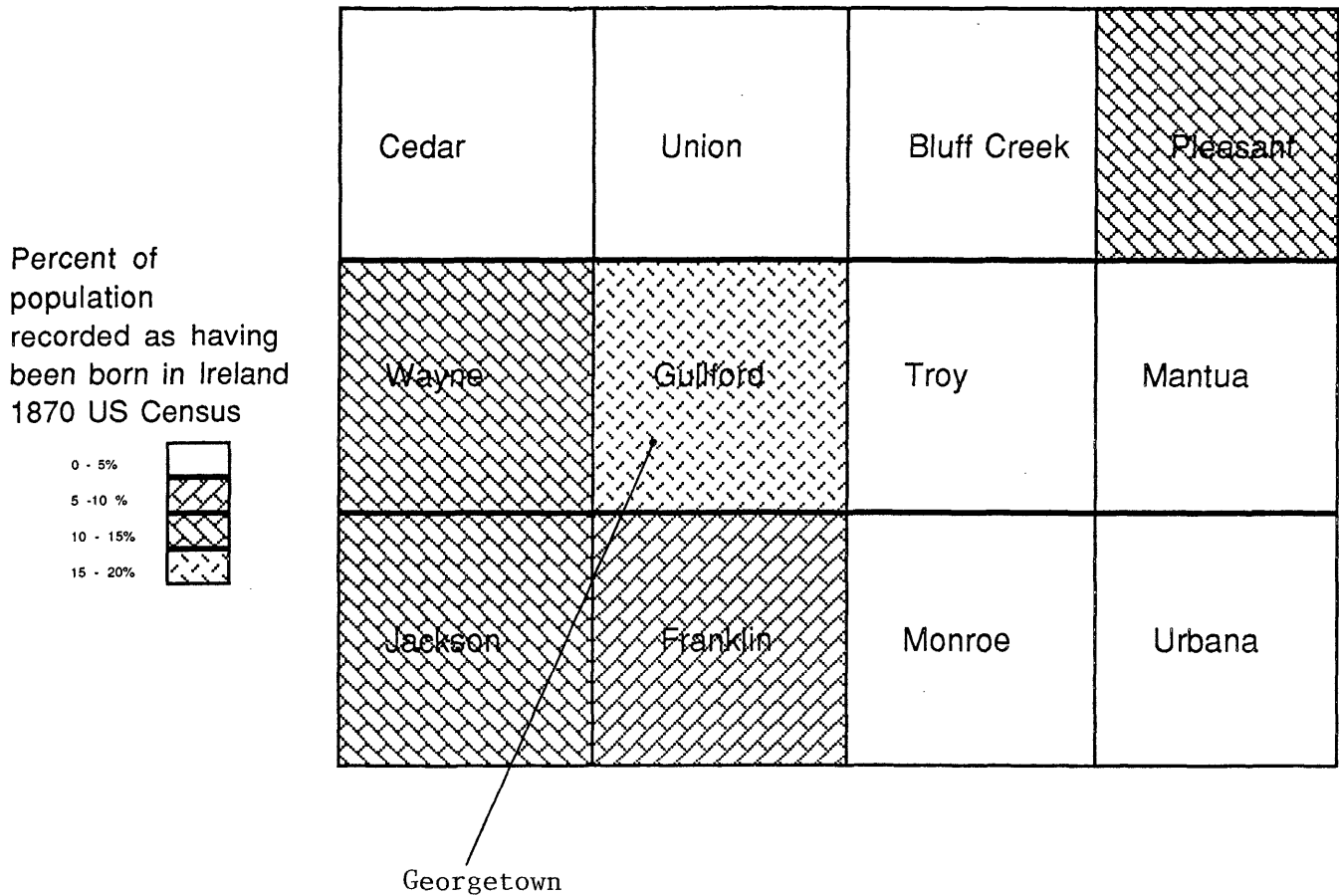
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Map #7



Distribution of Irish Immigrants by twp., Monroe County

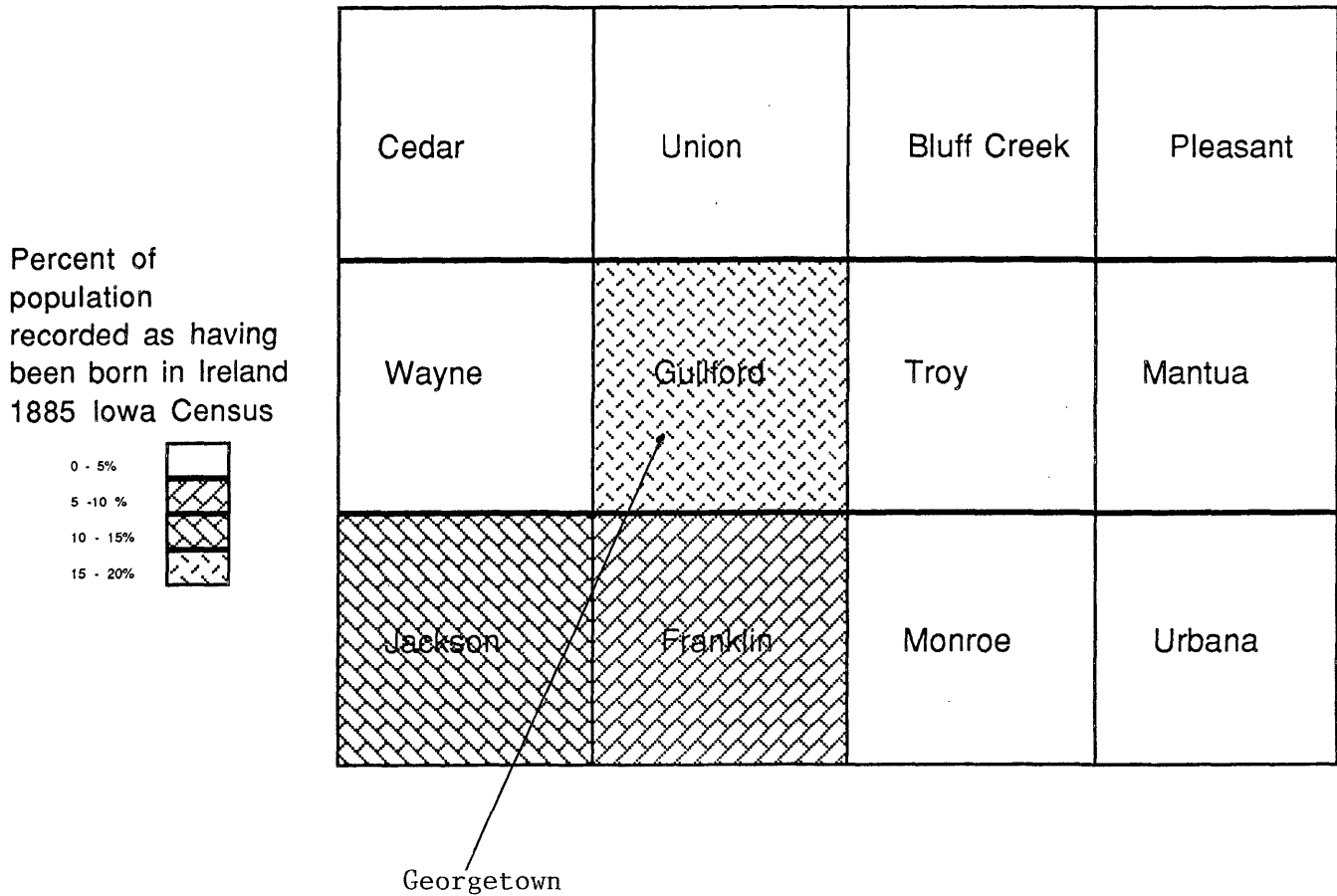
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Map #8



Distribution of Irish Immigrants by twp., Monroe County.

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- Dietmer, Sister Mary Philomene "Georgetown in Early Days and Now" essay in manuscript form, 1943.
- Gannon, Father Charles "A Sequel to the History of Georgetown" undated essay in manuscript form.
- Georgetown Yearbook, 1978.
- Harkin, Reverend Edward J. "A History of the Catholic Church in Decatur County, Iowa" Leon, Iowa: Leon Journal-Reporter, 1956.
- Hickenlooper, Frank An Illustrated History of Monroe County Albia, Iowa: 1896.
- History of Monroe County Chicago: Western Historical Press, 1878.
- Iowa Census Report, 1856.
- Iowa State, Secretary of Census of Iowa for the Year 1885 Des Moines: State Printer, 1885.
- Monroe County History Iowa Writers Program of the Works Progress Administration, 1940.
- The Palimpsest volume 45, number 2, February 1964.
- Saint Patrick's Parish, Georgetown, Iowa, Centennial Pamphlet, 1951.
- Schmidt, Sister Madelaine Marie Seasons of Growth: History of the Diocese of Davenport, 1881-1981 Davenport: Diocese of Davenport, 1981.
- United States Census Reports, 1860 and 1870.
- Wapello County History Chicago: Western Historical Press, 1878.

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ENDNOTES

1. Sister Mary Philomine Dietmer "Georgetown in Early Days and Now", essay in manuscript form, 1943, p. 29 and Anonymous essay, p. 13.
2. Anonymous essay, p. 13.
3. Dietmer, p. 22.
4. Des Moines Tribune, 24 April 1964 and Dietmer, p. 28.
5. Interview with Nancy Crall, 10 May 1991.
6. Dietmer, pp. 5-6 and Wapello County History, (Chicago: Lakeside Press, 1878), pp. 502, 581.
7. The Palimpsest, volume 45, number 2 (February 1964), pp. 56-57, 63-64, and 75-76.
8. United States Census Report for the year 1870.
9. A.C. Champney, Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture (London: G. Bell and Sons, 1910), pp. 29, 157, 202-203 and Brian de Breffney (ed.), Ireland: A Cultural Encyclopedia (London: Thames and Hudson, 1983), pp. 14-15.
10. de Breffney, pp. 15, 27.
11. Dietmer, pp.8, 24, and Anonymous, pp.12, 13.
12. Dietmer, p. 10.
13. Albia Union 4 February 1869, volume 7, #2, p. 3. and Saint Patrick's Parish of Georgetown, Iowa, Centennial Pamphlet, p.2.
14. Anonymous, p. 12.
15. Georgetown Yearbook, p. 5.

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1. View of facade, looking north.
2. View of west elevation and facade, looking NE.
3. View of west elevation, looking east.
4. View of north and west elevations, looking SE.
5. 3/4 view of facade and east elevation, looking NW.

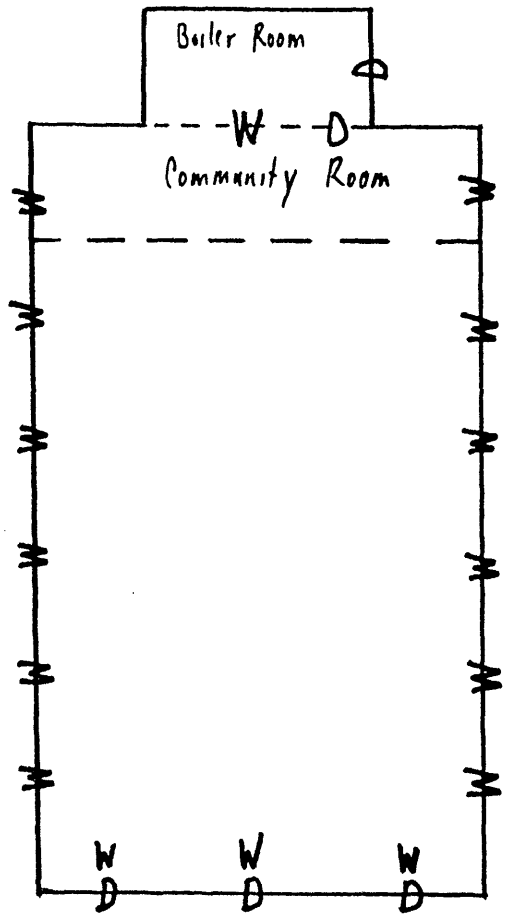
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#3
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#5
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000426

Date Listed: 5/6/92

Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church,
Property Name

Monroe
County

IA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

5/6/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The date of the noncontributing 1903 addition should not have been listed as a significant date. the only significant date is 1869.

This was confirmed with Lisa Linhart of the IA SHPO staff.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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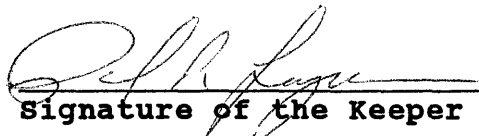
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000426 Date Listed: 5/6/92

**Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic Church Monroe IA
Property Name County State**

**N/A
Multiple Name**

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

10/28/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The date of the belfry addition (1903) is added to the nomination as a Significant Date. This date reflects a significant alteration to the building that contributes to its architectural importance. The 1903 date was incorrectly deleted by an earlier SLR dated 5/6/92.

This information was confirmed with Beth Foster of the Iowa SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)