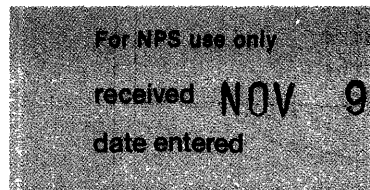


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 St. Michael's Church, Cemetery, Rectory and Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall

and/or common St. Michael's Church, Rectory and Parish Hall

2. Location

street & number East of Parnell on F52 east of Parnell _____ not for publication

city, town vic: Parnell, Iowa _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Iowa code 19 county Iowa County code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. Michael's Catholic Church, Catholic Diocese of Davenport

street & number Highway F52, 5 miles east of Parnell, Iowa County

city, town Parnell _____ xx vicinity of _____ state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Iowa County Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Marengo _____ state Iowa 52301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none _____ has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

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

Set in the unincorporated village of Holbrook, St. Michael's Church is a noticeable structure on the rural landscape, a strong visual reminder of rural Irish settlement in Iowa. A lightly wooded cemetery dotted with a variety of gravestones surrounds the church on three sides. The former Black Diamond Trail, now paved Highway F52, curves through the tiny settlement, which once had a post office and store. Besides the large rectory across the road from the church and the parish hall, only a few scattered dwellings remain.

The present St. Michael's was built in 1867 to replace a smaller frame church of 1853. An imposing three-story bell tower marks the gable end entry. Small buttresses flank its round-arched door. The shape is repeated in the tall windows that run the length of the structure, and also in the windows of the A.O.H. Hall built in 1899. The infilled gable end church windows are original or were filled at an early date, since they appear in this condition in an early photograph, one that shows an early belfry. The present, third, belfry and entry were probably modified during the stuccoing of the 1920s and are similar in shape and proportion to the original. Decorative bands of brickwork adorn the cornice while the bell tower has a bit of corbeling. There are many stained glass windows. A cross tops the multi-sided roof of the tower, a beacon for worshippers.

Several modifications have occurred over the long history of the church. Thirteen feet were added to the rear, probably during Rev. King's tenure, to provide a vestry and expanded nave. During the stay of Rev. T. J. King, 1889 to 1909, a new bell tower was constructed, probably the second. Between 1909 and 1917 a new steel ceiling was added as well as new pews, altar, steam heat and gas lighting. During Rev. J. M. Ryan's stay 1922 to 1927, the parish covered deteriorating bricks with stucco and scored it to simulate the original brickwork. Early photographs indicate that the original brick may have been a light color similar to the light stucco. Side chimneys and cornice returns were removed and a new roof put on.

The plan of the church seems to be the typical rear entry type, with a small balcony for the choir. Also at the rear is the confessional while the vestry is to one side of the altar. Considerable statuary and religious objects adorn the interior.

Rectory. Built in 1885, the rectory is unchanged, except for new front steps and the 1922 addition of a rear sleeping porch. The large truncated hipped roof house is further enlarged by a side gabled projection with cornice returns. The unusual porch is housed in the ell thereby created. The rough appearance of the concrete blocks and columns of the foundation and porch contrasts with the lacy infill between the rather masculine columns and balustrade. Window treatment is simple--flat lintels with headblocks and a large, single diamond pattern in the attic and dormer windows.

Parish Hall. The final structure associated with the Irish Catholic settlement in Greene Township is the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall constructed in 1899. The clapboard gabled hall is in original condition; only the front door, light and removal of two chimneys at the ends have changed. Like the church, the hall has round-arched windows. Drip molds highlight the 2/2 windows. The squared window curiously placed above and to one side of the entrance appears in an early picture, but is not necessarily original.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				<input type="checkbox"/> immigrant
Specific dates	1867, 1885, 1899	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Catholic buildings in the village of Holbrook provide a fine visual reminder of an early rural Irish settlement in Iowa. Most Irish immigrants remained in urban centers, but in 1850 thirteen of thirty-two families in Greene Township were born in Ireland. Despite the absence of any large city, Iowa County ranked 18th of those counties with a significant Irish-born population, having 751 Irish in 1880.

The area around Old Man's Creek was settled very early, and Edward R. Ricord, who married an Irish woman, was the first settler in the county in 1840. Although Iowa County and the post office of Holbrook (the site of St. Michael's) were American-sounding names, there were many Irish settlers, in particular, Thomas Boyle, a farmer born in Ireland in 1830, figures in community development. Having served in the Mexican War, he arrived in 1849 to take possession of his allotted piece of land. In 1857 he donated land for the church. By 1881 he owned 400 acres. In 1885 the post office of Holbrook was created and Boyle, who long had served as township justice of the peace, was named postmaster. The Holbrook vicinity remained resolutely Irish Catholic. All but two of the parish priests have been Irish-born, including Father Sullivan who directed building of the present brick church. The church currently has 220 parishoners.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Holbrook

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	5	9	0	5	7	0	4	6	0	4	6	1	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing								

B

Zone			Easting				Northing								

C

Zone			Easting				Northing								

D

Zone			Easting				Northing								

E

Zone			Easting				Northing								

F

Zone			Easting				Northing								

G

Zone			Easting				Northing								

H

Zone			Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beg. center Section 5, Twp. 78 Range 9; South 24 pcs., thence North° West 18.7 pcs, thence north 22 pcs., thence East 17.9 pcs

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Iowa code 19 county Iowa code 095

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date October 28, 1982

Historical Building
street & number East 12th and Grand Ave. telephone _____

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 Adrian H. Anderson

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Dept. date November 1, 1982

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the National Register
<u>John P. Ryan</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>1/20/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9. Page 1.

History of Iowa County, Iowa (Des Moines; Union Historical Co., 1881), p. 711.

James C. Dinwiddie, History of Iowa County, Iowa and its People, 2 vols. (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1915), I: 172 and 183.

Homer L. Calkin, "The Irish in Iowa," Palimpsest XLV (February 1964): 33-97.

Jacob Van Der Zee, The British in Iowa (Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1922), p. 43.

Portrait Biographical Records, 1893, p. 260

*Pauline Lillie, compiler, "St. Michael's Church, Holbrook and the Old Man Creek Settlement, 1856-1981, Iowa County, Iowa," 1981, *passim*.