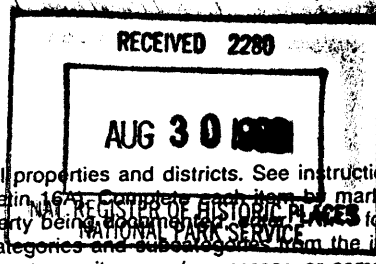


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



1207

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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, mark "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, 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 St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 7401 Columbus Street N/A  not for publication

city or town New Vienna N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Dubuque code 061 zip code 52065

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patricia Orlin King 8-25-99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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

9/29/99  
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes 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	
5	3	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
7	3	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Industry/Processing/Extraction/  
Water Works

Education/School

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

Industry/Processing/Extraction/  
Waterworks

Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Gothic

Late Victorian/Queen Anne

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone/  
Brick

roof Stone/Slate

other Metal

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

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.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1837-1948

Significant Dates

1837

1887

1898

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Schnell Architects

Byrne & Soul

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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

Name of repository:

Library Dubuque

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 654660 4712540
Zone Easting Northing

2 15 654880 4712540
Zone Easting Northing

3 15 654660 4712340
Zone Easting Northing

4 15 654880 4712340
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

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 Delores Neuhaus New Vienna Historian

organization New Vienna Area Historical Society date November 4, 1998

street & number 7046 W. Jefferson Street telephone (319)921-2620

city or town New Vienna state Iowa zip code 52065

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

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Archdiocese of Dubuque Archbishop Jerome Hanus OSB

street & number P.O. Box 479 telephone (319)556-2580

city or town Dubuque state Iowa zip code 52004

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. 470 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, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District  
Dubuque County, Iowa

Section 7 Page 1

## DESCRIPTION

The St. Boniface of New Vienna District is an area approximately 666 feet long by 688 feet wide, equally divided by Iowa State Highway #136. It is located in the northern section of the town of New Vienna.

Since its inception in the early 1840's, it has been in continuous as a gathering place for the area's social, educational and religious functions and is the focal point of community life.

The grand Gothic magnesia limestone St. Boniface Church stands in splendor on the meticulously kept grounds. The steeple with its two large clocks is visible for miles and the sound of the magnificent bells echo through the valleys for all to enjoy.

The St. Boniface Cemetery with its beautiful Gothic Chapel is a peaceful setting north of the church. The magnificent Queen Anne style brick mansion just off the southeast corner of the church serves as a rectory. Nestled southwest of the church and west of the rectory is a Gothic style heating plant building. Across Highway 136 is the old stone water tower with "New Vienna" emblazoned on the side. To the east is St. Boniface School, which stands directly across from the church. The former convent, now known as the Heritage House Museum, a Late Victorian building, graces the large lawn south of the school.

Each of the district elements is described below:

### 1. ST. BONIFACE CHURCH (1887; contributing building)

The Gothic style church of broken ashlar and smooth cut trimmings was built under the direction of Rev. F. W. Pape during the years 1884-1887. White magnesia limestone taken from a local quarry was hauled to the site by oxen and horses. Farmers and settlers gave generously of their time, talent and money and labored effortlessly until the building was completed. The architectural drawing was done by Schnell Architects from Rock Island, Illinois for \$21,300.00. The stone and labor expense was \$3476.00, while the mason work was done by Schulte and Wagner contracted on April 9, 1884, for \$18,930.00. The cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1884.

The dimensions of the church are 172 feet by 62 feet, the transept included. The walls are 35 feet high, the main nave has a clerestory 10 feet high, boasting ten uniquely shaped stained glass windows

The beauty of the exterior lies in the correct and symmetrical proportions and harmony of style throughout. The interior of the church is awe-inspiring. The groined ceiling has strong projecting interlacing arches. The highest point in the ceiling measures 60 feet from the floor. The half-octagon sanctuary is an extension of the middle nave and a receptacle for the high altar. Two windows not visible from the nave are placed in such positions as to give direct light to every part of the church. They are of stained glass and exquisitely executed pictures and symbols. The windows in the transept are 14 feet by 28 feet and throw abundant light on the high altar. The twelve windows in the nave are placed in such positions as to give direct light to every part of the church. They are of stained glass and exquisitely executed pictures and symbols. The windows in the transept are 14 feet by 30 feet. One represents St. Boniface felling the Donar oak; the other the Coronation of the Blessed Virgin. The models for these windows were executed in life-sized paintings by the renowned painter, John Schmitt, of Covington, Kentucky.

The main altar, 35 feet high, modeled upon a Gothic ostensorium, and harmonizing with the architectural details of the interior of the church, is artistically executed being carved by hand from the base to the crowning cross.

The tabernacle is truly a masterpiece of the art of carving and is in itself a small altar. The entire altar in all its detail is decorated with wood-carved vines, reeds, branches and leaves and has sixteen angels carved in wood. Nine wood-carved statues grace the altar along with large crucifixion scene. It was planned under the direction of Rev. F. W. Pape, by Edward Hackner of La Crosse, Wisconsin and built by the latter at a cost of \$5000.00. To the right is the St. Joseph altar, costing \$775.00 and donated by the Frederick Wernkw family. It honors St. Aloysius and St. Francis. To the left an altar stands in tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary and has statues of St. Agnes and St. Rose of Lima. Built at a cost of \$725.00, it was donated by the Ottilia Krapfl family in 1887. The sorrowful Mother Altar stands to the south and cost \$400.00. The fourteen Stations of the Cross exquisitely hand-carved could not be purchased for any price today. At the time they were donated, they cost \$135.00 each.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 2

St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District  
Dubuque County, Iowa

According to parish records and financial statements in 1882-1884, members of the parish went door to door and collected \$973.00 towards the purchase of the organ. Installation began in 1884 and it was completed in 1891 at the cost of \$2610.00. This organ was built by William Schuelke Organ Company of Madison, Wisconsin and consists of 1300 pipes. It was one of 160 organs built by Schuelke and only fourteen are in existence today. This organ is the oldest of the Schuelke organs still in use today in the United States. Although still in its unaltered state, an electric blower was added in the 1930's. St. Boniface Parish was presented with a special citation for the efforts the Parish has made to preserve the Schueleke organ. It was presented by the Organ Historical Society on June 25, 1986 at an organ recital in the church.

St. Boniface Church was built at a cost of \$80,000.00 and was dedicated on September 12, 1887 at a 10:30 Pontifical High Mass by Bishop Hennessy. A special train was run over the Illinois Central between Dubuque and Dyersville filled with Dubuquers and the Bishop and entourage. The train was met by carriages, buggies and farmer's outfits numbering 1500 to transport them to New Vienna. The church has a seating capacity of 900, but no less than 1500 people were within it's walls during the Mass. According to Dubuque Herald issue on September 13, 1887, "dedicatorial ceremonies at St. Boniface Church witnessed by over 6000 people. The structure is one of the greatest in Iowa; Bishop Hennessy delivers sermon." As soon as the Mass was completed the people wended their way to a piece of ground near the Maquoketa River, picnicking until 5:00 p.m. Total cost of the dedication was \$900.00.

Subsequent changes to the church have been few. These include: Installation of electricity in 1914; installation of a marble floor in 1970; removal of the altar railings in 1987 (these have been preserved); installation of a 12 foot cement ramp and the expansion of the door to double-wide for handicap access on the north side of the church; replacement of three deteriorated doors with etched glass doors in 1991; and carpeting completely surrounding the alter in the 1980s.

**2. CONVENT—HERITAGE HOUSE MUSEUM (1855; contributing building)**

The front part of the building was constructed in 1855 and served as a rectory.. The eight-room house was built of native stone with a rock foundation. Fifteen rooms were added in 1898 and it served as a convent for fifteen Sisters and was home to thirty boarding students. At this time brick was added to the entire exterior of the late Victorian house. Modern conveniences, such as plumbing, electricity and heating, along with a new roof and storm windows added throughout the years. In 1990, The New Vienna Area Historical Society purchased the building and it opened as the Heritage Museum. The most visible change to the building has been the replacement of an awning with a portico on the north façade. It is filled with area artifacts, memorabilia and history and is staffed completely by volunteers. The community rooms in the Museum also serve as the Senior Citizen center, for meals, meetings, socials and quilting. The Museum and the Historical Society have won numerous awards for historic preservation.

**3. ST.BONIFACE CEMETERY and MORTUARY CHAPEL (contributing site and building [1899])**

The scenic peaceful area of St. Boniface Cemetery was established shortly after the arrival of the pioneers in 1837, due to the untimely death of a young child, Susanna Klostermann and serves in the same capacity today. The Gothic style chapel was built in 1899 of brick and stone. An elaborate Gothic belfry features a continuously lighted "Resurrection of Our Lord." The chapel serves as a final resting-place for the pastors in the crypt, for burial services and as a prayer chapel. It stands in the center of the cemetery.

**4. ST. BONIFACE RECTORY (1899; contributing building)**

The St. Boniface Rectory is an excellent example of Queen Anne residential architecture. It was built in 1899, under the direction of Rev. F. W. Pape. The architect was Matthias Schnell of Rock Island, Illinois, who had designed the St. Boniface church some fifteen years earlier. The contractors were Schulte and Wagner, who had built St. Boniface church fifteen years earlier. It is a two-story structure with a stone foundation, red brick exterior walls with red stone window trim. It also feature polygonal tower or turret and white vergeboard trim. Except for modern conveniences, plumbing, electricity and heating it remains in the original state except for the replacement of the original front entry porch with a metal awning. The rectory sets in the center of a large well-kept lawn.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District  
Dubuque County, Iowa

Section 7,8 Page 3

**5. HEATING PLANT (1910; contributing building)**

Local contractors, Pasker & Pasker constructed the Gothic Revival influenced heating plant building in 1910. Large hard coal heaters were removed from the church and rectory and a large steam heat boiler, wood and coal fired, was installed to heat the church and rectory. Brick lined tunnels held the huge pipes, which carried the forced steam heat to the radiators in the buildings. The tunnel to the rectory was abandoned when a furnace was installed in the rectory in 1957. Although the tunnel to the church still carries hot water to the radiators for the heat, it is packed with insulation and only accessible for maintenance. Today furnaces using natural gas heat both buildings.

**6. NEW VIENNA STONE WATER TOWER (1898; non-contributing)**

The stone water tower was constructed in 1898 by Bryne & Soul Contractors and served in that capacity until 1981. Today it is preserved as an historic landmark for the town and the State of Iowa.

**7. St. Boniface School (1924; non-contributing)**

St. Boniface School was built in 1924 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the parish pastor. It is built of brick with a metal roof. Two hundred and thirty students were enrolled when it opened. Today it serves as an elementary school. The first school in New Vienna opened in 1847. Due to the severe infilling of the windows, the building is considered non-contributing to the district.

## SUMMARY

The St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District is locally significant under Criterion C because it contains some of the best examples of late Victorian architectural design in this community, ranging from the Gothic to the Queen Anne. Most of the buildings are constructed of high quality stone or brick and exhibit a high degree of craftsmanship in their design and construction. At least two buildings - the church and the rectory - were designed by Matthias Schnell, a Rock Island, Illinois architect, who won considerable renown for his high style Gothic and Romanesque churches in the Midwest.

The following sketch of settlement in the area provides a context within which the parishioners erected their architecturally significant building. The property is associated with early German Catholic settlement in eastern Iowa. The first great mass migration of families from German states during the mid-nineteenth century coincided with the settlement of Mississippi River counties and eastern Iowa generally. Towns such as New Vienna provided the German farmers with needed craftsman, bakers, butchers, innkeepers who catered to this German speaking clientele.<sup>1</sup> Catholic and Lutheran churches aided in bringing about these particular concentrations of German rural communities. In the case of New Vienna, the first five German families who arrived after first having settled in Ohio a decade earlier had located there after seeking the advice of Bishop Loras in Dubuque. The settlers quickly informed others back in the old country about their good fortune and, within "one year the community increased to seventeen families, called by Bishop Loras' 'my beloved seventeen."<sup>2</sup> From the beginnings of New Vienna by these five German families, the town's rapid growth made it into a "mother settlement" for Catholic settlement in nearby parishes of Dyersville, Luxemburg, Petersburg and Colesburg.<sup>3</sup> The historic district under consideration here contains the main surviving elements of this German Catholic presence and institutional development that together comprise the centerpiece of New Vienna's character. The period of significance opens with the establishment of the extant cemetery in the district in 1837 and closes in 1948 because no specific dates defines the end of the historic period.

1. Hildegard Binder Johnson, "The Location of German Immigrants in the Middle West," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 42:1 (March 1951), 18-23.

2. M. M. Hoffmann (comp. & ed.), *Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Dubuque* (Dubuque, IA.: Columbia College Press, 1938), p. 31

3. M. M. Hoffmann, *Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Dubuque*, 30-31.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 4

St. Boniface of New Vienna Historic District  
Dubuque County, Iowa

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hoffmann, M. M. Centennial History of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Columbia Press 1938

1906 Dubuque County Atlas

Mescher, Bob & Bockenstedt, Toby, "St. Boniface/New Vienna Unity in Community"

St. Boniface parish records - St. Boniface Congregational Centennial Celebration June 5, 1946.

Johnson, Hildegard Binder. "The Location of German Immigrants in the Middle West," Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 41:1 (March 1951), 18-23.

## Verbal Boundary Description

Approximately 10 acres of parochial property encompassed by Iowa, Jackson and Washington Street and divided by Columbus Street, also known as State Highway #136 and Church Street separating the church from the Cemetery.

## Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated district includes the entire parcel historically associated with "Parochial Grounds".

## Owners Continued:

Water Tower owned by City of New Vienna  
Ron Boeckenstedt, Mayor  
1816 Smith Street  
New Vienna, Iowa 52065  
(319) 921-3545

Heritage House Museum owned by  
New Vienna Area Historical Society  
Martin Bockenstedt, President  
3387 Vaske Road  
Dyersville, Iowa 52040