

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

received DEC 6 1984

date entered JAN 3 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Parish Hall

and or common St. Paul's Church, Durant

**2. Location**

street & number 206 Sixth Ave. not for publication

city, town Durant vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Cedar code 031

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

street & number 225 37th Street

city, town Des Moines vicinity of state Iowa 50312

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Cedar County Courthouse

city, town Tipton state Iowa 52772

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A 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

The St. Paul Episcopal Church and Parish Hall, Durant, (1856, 1898) exhibits a well executed combination of Gothic and Italianate styles. The church building retains an exceptional belfry. The parish hall, despite the loss of its spire, is an unusual and otherwise unspoiled late Victorian building type with interesting exterior detailing.

The church building is rectangular on plan (main mass, 58' by 20', overall 72' by 20'). Based on a simulated rusticated stone cement block foundation, the heavy wood framed building has a gable roof covered with composition shingle. The plan is elaborated by the presence of a chamfered apse, six feet deep on the rear or west wall, and a combination gabled entryway and bell tower on the east or front wall. The tower base is recessed halfway into the main building mass. The entryway roof ridge is vertically in line with the tops of the side wall windows.

The entrance is a double door set beneath a three light narthex window of lancet windows. This window dates to 1870 and comes from St. Barnabas Chapel at Montrose, a 1980 gift to the church following the deconsecration of that chapel. The original glass is retained. A triangular pediment with flat and bracketted shoulders tops the transom and door. The broadly projecting eaves of the entryway roof is like that of the main building, bracketted. A plain frieze board and corner boards further elaborate the wall plains. A shed roofed ground level entry adjoins the entryway on the north side. A six step stoop on the church front leads to the main entrance.

The square tower's front wall plane is flush with the main roof front eaves line. A large diamond window is centered on the tower front. The tower terminates four feet above the main roof ridge with a flat square cut cornice. The unusual belfry consists of eight chamfered columns with decorative gingerbread at base and top. Criss cross braces between the columns simulate a balcony effect. A low pitched hip roof tops the belfry. Originally a weather vane stood in place of a lightning rod. A large wood pulley, composed of thirty one pieces of wood, is a recent replica of the original and remains as part of the bell assemblage. The tower roof is of tin.

Four very tall, narrow lancet windows pierce each side of the church. These have plain wooden surrounds and drip molds around the arches. Art or stained glass fills the windows (dates to 1895). The chancel has four shorter windows, two of which are paired on the west wall. Two matching windows of slightly larger scale, yet shorter than the main sidewall windows, flank the chancel. End wall brackets are formed as though they were projecting purlins. Side brackets are more elaborate. A projecting water table surrounds the building. An exterior brick flue pierces eaves and roof at the southwest corner sidewall. The entire church is painted white, the doors red, with gray shingles.

Inside, the sanctuary is reached through two sets of double doors and the intervening rectangular vestibule. Pews are separated by a central aisle. The organ replaces one pew on the south side. A raised dias with central recessed stair approach has flanking side closets (with ceiling high walls). A centered arched doorway leads to the chancel.

### Alterations:

By the time of its sale in 1895 to the present congregation, the buildings apparently required considerable repair (the deed of sale refers to buildings on the site but only the church itself was to survive as late as 1899). One documented alteration was the addition of an apse. The repairs included the transfer of the stained glass windows (no

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date of origin) from their 1857 church to this building. Presumably some window alteration was required to accomplish this. By 1899 the present-day basic church building plan was extant, although no structural information or images are known to exist prior to this date. The church then had a wood shingle roof. By 1913 the church had furnace heat and gas lighting according to Sanborn maps. By 1948 hot air ducts delivered heat internally. The tower might date from 1895 when the Episcopalians brought an earlier bell to this building.

Major changes took place in recent years. A basement with side entrance raised the church elevation and required a higher front stoop and side entrance at ground level (1950). The chimney was reconstructed for a new heating system. The bell tower was reconstructed and today consists largely of replacement material. In the 1960's deterioration had eliminated most of the ornamental gingerbread. That which remained was removed and the four sides of the belfry were sided. Renovation plans were developed from historic photographs, resulting in the present restored appearance, plans and work being accomplished by Wagner Marquart Wetherell, Architects, Des Moines between 1976 and 1979. The art glass in the entryway and tower windows is not original. As late as 1956 the transom window was composed of rectangular lights, the upper row having triangular or angled tops so as to fit the window opening. As has been noted these were replaced with lancet pattern lights. The tower window was originally filled with four rectangular lights.

The Parish Hall (1898) is rectangular on plan (20' by 32') with a forty-five degree turned corner tower and entryway. The heavy wood (might simply be balloon framed, considering date) framed single story building has a concrete block (simulated rusticated stone) foundation and crawl space, and a steeply pitched gabled roof. Originally a spire, square in plan, with a flared base rose some fifteen feet above the cornice line of the tower. Four gabled dormers, each filled with a maltese cross, surrounded the break in pitch on the spire. The building exterior has an elaborate decorative scheme. Corner boards and frieze boards frame each wall plane. The tower facade is slightly thrown forward over bracketts above the entrance. Seven courses of wood shingle separate door and window. The top of the tower is further stepped out and is ornamented with belt courses and a band of maltese crosses. Single brackets are paired at each corner to support the cornice. On the building's front, the area below the lancet window set is ornamented with a sunburst pattern set in clapboard. The same wall has a gable end with shingles and two half sunbursts as ornamentation. The rear wall is plain, having only a single door. Three lancet windows with plain surrounds pierce each side wall. The building interior is open. A suspended fiberglass ceiling covers the original plaster ceiling. The latter followed the roof up to the rafter line.

Alterations of the original Parish Hall are less well documented. A 1908 photo served as the source for the existing restored paint color scheme. That same photo indicates that a decorative cresting originally followed the roof ridge line. The roof was originally covered with wood shingles. The tower roof was of polychrome wood shingles. The tower was removed at an unknown date due to deterioration. Stove heat and gas lights served this building. The 1948 Sanborn map indicates its use as a dwelling but there is no record that this is accurate. The restored color scheme was done in recent years. There is ongoing discussion concerning the restoration of the Parish Hall spire.

The church complex is located two blocks south of the railroad right of way and three

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blocks below the small downtown area of Durant. This is the only historic church in the community and is locally described as being the oldest building in the town. With the exception of the Congregationalists and a briefly functioning Methodist group, this church was the only church in town until roughly thirty-five years ago. At that time Gloria Dei Lutheran Church organized, it having previously used the subject building for its services. Another building (post 1916) known as "Dutton Chapel" housed an interdenominational sunday school early in this century, run by Samuel Dutton. This building is non-extant and was first used by the Gloria Dei congregation before they moved to the Episcopal church building. The St. Paul buildings are located on a double lot. A post 1913 parsonage, located behind the Parish Hall is excluded from this nomination because of its recent date and its lack of original integrity. An east addition and aluminum siding have altered its original appearance.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	xxx architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
xxx 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

**Specific dates** c.1856, 1898      **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The St. Paul Episcopal Church and Parish Hall, Durant, (1856, 1898) exhibits a well executed combination of Gothic and Italianate styles. The church building retains an exceptional belfry. The parish hall, despite the loss of its spire, is an unusual and otherwise unspoiled late Victorian building type with interesting exterior detailing.

St. Paul Episcopal Church, Durant, occupies a church building which purportedly dates to 1856, having been constructed by the local Congregational church. A local county history states;

"May 25 1856, the Rev. John S. Whittlesey arrived from New Britain Conn., and a Congregational Society was organized, and, although the Episcopalians used due diligence in putting up their building, the Congregationalists raised theirs May 14th, and occupied it some weeks before the other was completed..."<sup>1</sup>

This body, with its first minister, and nineteen members, is first listed in church records in 1857.<sup>2</sup> They had organized the previous year according to the same source. Whittlesey was succeeded by E. Ripley in 1859, by H. L. Bellen the next year, R. Webber in 1872, E. B. Whiting in 1875, J. Gilbert the next year, R. Douglass in 1878, and E. P. Smith the same year. This series of pastors implies a vigorous congregation during this early period. Land for the church was not legally obtained until 12 July 1858 when trustees E. F. Atwater, J. M. Ludlow, and David Keator purchased the two lots from Samuel P. Alling and wife. Local oral history and published church records accept the 1856 construction date for the church. The 1872 town plat indicates the presence of a church on the site. The congregation last is noted as being in existence in 1897 with nine members, including three males.<sup>3</sup>

St. Paul Episcopal Church parish organized in Durant in March 1856. A building was constructed gradually between 1857 and 1861 in northern Durant (on block north of Block 30, non-extant). The original town population consisted of eastern-born protestants who transplanted their religions to the town. In fact St. Paul's named itself after a Hartford, Connecticut parish and they received donations and a bell in appreciation. When the railroad arrived prior to the Civil War Germans began to settle in Durant. In the early 1879's anglican services in German at the Episcopal church is evidence of this growing population. "The population is largely of German descent, very thrifty, and quite a number of the residents being retired farmers" noted a turn of the century county atlas.<sup>4</sup> A period of growth began in 1861 and increased the group to eighty members by 1864. This gain evaporated due to "...the fluctuating nature of settlements in a new country." "Our congregation has changed again with the season" lamented the minister.<sup>5</sup> Membership fluctuated through the 1870's. A one of a kind eleven year period of service, ending in 1892, by Reverend Charles R. Stroh probably marked the high point of congregation stability.<sup>5</sup> On 25 May 1895 the church sold its old building and on 28 May they purchased what was called the "Old Church". They promised to "...thoroughly repair the buildings situated upon said premises as part of the deal. A parish report stated;

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Durant

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	6	7	3	9	6	0	4	6	0	7	0	9	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

Lot One and the southernmost one half of Lot Two, Block Twenty Two, Durant. This parcel includes hall and church and excludes the parsonage and garage.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 15 November 1984

street & number East 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

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 *John S. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Department date 11/19/84

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*John S. Anderson* Entered in the National Register date 1/3/85  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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"The church has been remodeled and repaired. A Reading Room has been built. This work is to be placed to the credit of Mr. S. A. Dutton whose zeal, devotion, and incessant labor has made it possible."<sup>6</sup>

Samuel A. Dutton (c. 1844-1928) it is interesting to note, was the Congregational Church Sunday school superintendant in 1895 and was one of three trustees for that body in the sale of the church that same year. He was previous to this time a central member of the St. Paul's parish, joining same at age 27 from New Milford, Connecticut. He was an assistant clerk in the church by 1867, was a vestry member by 1868, and appears as sponsor for almost every birth in the church records through the 1870's. He apparently was dropped from the roles in the late 1870's and switched to the Congregationalists. After the sale of the church, Dutton again joined the Episcopalians and was with them until c. 1916 when he established his private interdenominational Sunday school. His departure along with a large part of the congregation resulted in the near extinction of St. Paul's. Samuel Dutton was an uncommonly strong willed individual, but his religious history bespeaks a close interrelationship between the two churches.<sup>7</sup>

St. Paul church is the oldest church in Durant both in terms of its building and its congregation. While the town had the usual array of organized faiths, few of these survived for long or raised buildings. A Methodist church very briefly existed in the next century but apparently did not have a building. St. Paul hosted a growing German Lutheran church beginning about thirty five years ago and this became Gloria Dei Lutheran church. The town population was eight hundred in 1899 and one thousand in 1913 and now stands at 1,400-1,500. It is unusual for a town of even this size to have so few churches. The congregation constructed or moved in a parsonage sometime between 1913 and 1948, and located it behind the Parish Hall. Church activity waned in the twenty year period prior to 1944 when the church reorganized. Part time ministers served the church between 1894 and 1896, 1903 and 1906, and following 1917. Today, St. Paul has the highest percentage of members in an Iowa community per capita, with ten percent of the town population as members. Gloria Dei has the largest town membership.