

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 9 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic St. Patrick Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ^{3rd} Third Street not for publication

city, town Imogene vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Fremont code 071

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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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. Patrick Parishoners

street & number Third Street

city, town Imogene vicinity of state Iowa

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Fremont County Courthouse

city, town Sidney state Iowa 51652

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

St. Patrick Church in Imogene combines elements representative of the Gothic and the Romanesque Revival styles with an unusual overall plan. The church contains outstanding white carrara marble features, stained glass, stations of the cross, and an oak ceiling all in their original setting.

St. Patrick Church (1915) is rectangular on plan (130' by 65') with a square corner bell tower which projects on the southeast corner, flush with the main facade. The building is constructed of Black Hylex St. Louis pressed brick.

Romanesque features include the combined use of stone trim with brick finish, the decorative stone water table and bands (which continue the cornice line around the tower and the window archivolt along each side wall), the use of wall buttresses with decorative stone caps, the battlemented tower, the domed corner buttress, and the front projecting multi-gabled pavilion.

Gothic features include the stone surround with quined effect on the large front window, the pointed arch doors and windows, the entryway which is shouldered by flanking wall buttresses, the stone gable trim, and the trefoil arches which are included within the lancet windows. Highly decorative bronze hinges on the front doors are also executed in a Gothic theme. Leaded blue glass fan lights placed above the three doors are noteworthy.

The church massing consists of a raised foundation with thick stone water table, wall buttressed facades and square corner tower, small projecting side confessionals, single story vestry additions in the rear, and a very broad, steeply gabled tile roof. The vestry surrounds the transept. A corbelled cornice executed in brick surrounds the vestry. Stone trim work is varied and richly detailed.

The church interior contains an intact and very ornate collection of significant art resources. A remarkable white carrara marble central gothic style main altar (29' by 18') is flanked by two matching side altars (18' by 8', Blessed Virgin, and St. Joseph). A matching altar rail with lancet-shaped openings separates the sanctuary and features bronze gates trimmed with gold. The altars and stone were imported from Italy, and represent a second shipment, the first having been lost to a German submarine during the First World War. A white marble Pieta, which survived the destruction of the first church in 1915, and which was donated by Father Hayes to the congregation in 1910, is also within the sanctuary. Ten stained glass windows and the choir loft, side and rear glass windows, along with fourteen mosaic and marble stations of the cross imported from Venice complete the richly appointed interior. Six massive hammer beam trusses, decorated with quatrefoil circular infills in their bases form a series of semi-elliptical arches which support the vaulted caissoned oak 65' ceiling.

The church is located on a slight ridge on the northern edge of the town of Imogene, to the northeast of the small business district, and just south of the public school. The

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1915–28 **Builder/Architect** Henry Lawrence, Arch., Ed & Jack Sprague
Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St Patrick Church in Imogene combines Gothic and Romanesque features in its design. The interior of the church is richly appointed with elaborate imported altars, stained glass, and a resplendent hammer beam oak ceiling. The church represents the life work of its builder, Father Edmund Hayes, who was known for his leadership both within the parish as well as within the Irish community of Imogene.

The first regular Catholic service held in Imogene took place in a new frame church on this site beginning in 1881. A local parish was established in 1888. Father Edmund Hayes (1852–1928) was the first resident pastor having been assigned that same year. Hayes who was Irish born, had completed his theological preparation at the Grand Seminary in Montreal in 1878. He immediately constructed a rectory and an addition to the frame church. A new brick church followed in 1892, and was in joined by a new rectory in 1904. The St. Patrick Academy was built two years later (demolished 1972). Hayes, using his own considerable personal wealth, which was inherited from his brother who owned silver mines in Nevada and from oil land which Hayes owned in California, to fund these construction projects.

On February 12, 1915, the 1892 church was destroyed by fire. The bell and the Pieta were salvaged. The new church, designed by Henry Lawrence, and contracted to Ed and Jack Sprague, was begun in August under Hayes leadership. The church was wired in April 1916 for electricity which at that time was unavailable, reflecting Hayes progressive vision. Pews were purchased in Cleveland. By December, 1917, marble work was underway. The interior decorators from Omaha were at work by February 1918, and the glass windows were finished by that April. On March 20, 1919, the work, costing \$125,000, was complete. The ornate church was far more elaborate than otherwise might have been expected in a town of this size. Father Hayes donated the main altar, valued at \$60,000, and the baptismal fount. The church dedication occurred when the congregation was free of debt, on March 17, 1924.

Father Hayes is remembered both for his community building efforts as well as for his many worldwide travels. The town of Imogene was incorporated in 1879, and was largely inhabited by Irish immigrants who first settled in the area in 1869. Mellray Abbey near Dubuque originally brought young Irish men to nearby Mills county to tend their Black Angus cattle herds. The establishment of the local church indicates the growth of the community. Of six original churches, only two remain today, including St. Patrick. Members of the St. Patrick congregation dominated the town's commercial life. Father Hayes was influential in bringing electricity to the town, pledging money to buy street lights as well as to help found the town water works and town library. Hayes few personal indulgences included his library and his far-ranging travels. He visited the West Indies in 1902 and witnessed the eruption of Mt. Pelee. His final trip just before his death took him around the world.

Hayes, at the time of his death, was described as being "...the best know Catholic Priest in Iowa" and "...probably the best known minister in all southwestern Iowa of any

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Imogene

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	2	9	5	6	2	0	4	5	2	8	1	4	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

Lots 17 and 18, Block 12, Town of Imogene Iowa. This parcel includes only the church.

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 May 25, 1983

street & number Historical Building
East 12th & Grand Ave.

telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines,

state Iowa 50319

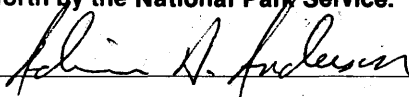
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

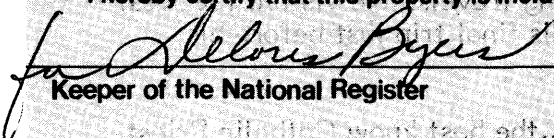


title Executive Director, Iowa State Historical Department

date May 25, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/7/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet *Physical Description* Item number 7 Page 2

elevation of the site descends in both directions from the church and cobblestone retaining walls define the church property. The church is part of the larger complex of parish buildings (not included in this nomination) which include the frame parsonage (1904) to the west, the convent (1922) across the street to the south, and the site of St. Patrick Academy to the north.

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

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

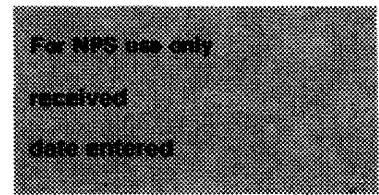
For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Historical Significance Item number 8 Page 2

denomination." His church in Imogene was rated as being "...one of the most magnificent in the state." Said to have been "...one of the wealthiest men in Iowa", Hayes owned considerable farm land. He is credited with having donated one half of the total cost of each of the parish buildings which were raised under his leadership. He also endowed his alma mater, St. Mary College of San Francisco, with a quarter of a million dollars. Local legend states that he died a poor man. Father Hayes wanted St. Patrick Church to be his monument, if one was to be built in his honor.

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

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



Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 2

Omaha World Herald, 10 June 1980.

Friday World, Imogene Edition, 25 August 1899.

The Catholic Mirror, 19 June 1980, 16 February 1928.

Laughlin, Helen R. A Century of Memories: A History of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Imogene, Iowa, 1980. Red Oak: Nishna Valley Printing Company, 1980,