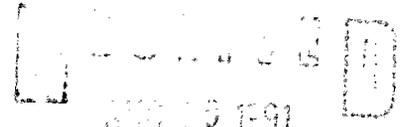


1449

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Boniface Catholic Church District  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number three blocks north of county road F32 N/A not for publication  
city, towns/site number Westphalia N/A vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Shelby code 165 zip code 51578

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>10</u>	<u>7</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: See continuation sheet  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**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

8/13/91  
Date

State Historical Society of Iowa  
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.  
See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10/3/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed for the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

## Historic Functions

RELIGION/religious structureRELIGION/church schoolRELIGION/church-related residenceSOCIAL/club house

## Current Functions

RELIGION/religious structureSOCIAL/meeting hallRELIGION/church-related residenceCOMMERCE/restaurant

---

**7. Description**

---

## Architectural Classification

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque

---

---

## Materials

foundation stone/limestonewalls brickstuccoroof asphaltother terra cottastone/limestone

---

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Saint Boniface Catholic Church District is situated within a large, rectangular block owned by the Parish and located at the north end of the town of Westphalia. This district occupies the highest elevation of the town, with the town proper situated on the south-facing slope which descends away from the district. The block itself, which the district occupies, slopes gradually to the northwest with a slight swale between the area containing the school, club house, and ball diamond and that containing the church, cemetery, and rectory. The lawn surrounding the buildings within the district is well-manicured and landscaped with pine and shade trees. Because it occupies the highest elevation in the town, the district commands all vistas within the town and from a distance. Two of the primary buildings of the district, the church and school, are further situated at the ends of the two main north-south streets in the town, so that when one looks up either street, the primary view is of the church or the school. Historically, the block, on which the district is located, was part of the original town plat and was designated from the beginning as a church block.

The district consists of six contributing buildings, one contributing structure, two contributing sites, one contributing object, six noncontributing buildings, and one noncontributing object. While the ratio of noncontributing to contributing resources appears high, it should be noted that none of the noncontributing resources are primary buildings or structures and only one could be considered of a large scale. The noncontributing properties consist of a garage located at the rear of the rectory, a 300 seat grandstand built at the southwest corner of the ball diamond, two dugouts flanking the diamond, one public restroom behind the school building, one public restroom off the rear of the club house, and one religious shrine in the open space between the church and the school. None of these properties seriously detract from the historic fabric or feel of the district, and all were built by and for the parish. The primary reason for their status as noncontributing is that they were constructed after the period of significance.

The contributing buildings include the church built in 1881 and dedicated in 1882, the rectory built in 1888, the parochial school built in 1927, the club house built in 1934, the cemetery chapel built in the 1890s, and the barn or carriage house behind the rectory and built in the late 1880s-1890s. Of these, the church, school, and rectory are the primary buildings and are of the largest scale. The contributing structure is the corn crib built c. 1933 to house the offerings of the "First Fruit" of the fall harvest. The contributing sites include the cemetery which was first established c. 1874 and the ball diamond which was laid out c. 1927. The contributing object is the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace which was constructed in 1930.

XSee continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

	<u>  </u> nationally	<u>  </u> statewide	<u>  </u> locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria	<u>  </u> XA	<u>  </u> XB	<u>  </u> C	<u>  </u> D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	<u>  </u> XA	<u>  </u> B	<u>  </u> C	<u>  </u> XD <u>  </u> E <u>  </u> F <u>  </u> G
Areas of Significance	Period of Significance		Significant Dates	
<u>  </u> ETHNIC HERITAGE/European	<u>  </u> 1873-1941		<u>  </u> 1873	
<u>  </u> RELIGION	<u>  </u>		<u>  </u> 1881	
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>		<u>  </u> 1927	
<u>  </u>	Cultural Affiliation			
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u> N/A			
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>			
<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>			
Significant Person	Architect/Builder			
<u>  </u> Duren, Hubert Edward; Flusche, Emil	<u>  </u> Herr, Fridolin; Lahr, Matthew John; Creedon and Berlinghof			

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

The Saint Boniface Catholic Church District is eligible under National Register Criteria A within the multiple property historic context of German Immigrant Settlement, 1872-1940s; Religious Culture, and meets Criteria Exceptions A and D, for its association with the growth and development of the German immigrant settlement of Westphalia, of which the German Catholic Church is its most dominant and significant historical expression. The church cemetery is eligible because it contains distinctive design features, specifically the iron cross grave markers which are associated with the German Catholic ethnic settlement. The district is also eligible under National Register Criteria B for its association with two individuals who were instrumental in the community's origins and growth, specifically Emil Flusche and Hubert E. Duren. The period of significance begins with the purchase of the church property by the Bishop of Dubuque in 1873 and ends with the 1941 cut-off date for inclusion in the Register. By 1941 all of the major buildings of the district had been constructed and the major elements of Father Duren's Complete Life Program as they affected the district had been implemented. Significant dates include the 1873 platting of this property, the 1881 construction of the church building, and the 1927 construction of the parochial school which symbolized the beginning of Father Duren's Complete Life Program and the revitalization of the Westphalia German immigrant community.

The Catholic Church was the reason for the founding of Westphalia and was the reason for its development and continued existence in spite the inability of the community to later obtain a railroad connection. The survival of the Westphalia community in the twentieth century is also directly tied to the influence of the Catholic Church. Furthermore, the church played a role in the persistence of German ethnicity in this community. The church also served to some extent as the "Mother Church" from which the other German Catholic churches of the county were subsequently established as missions or were in some way influenced by its presence.

Emil Flusche was instrumental in the platting and establishment of the town of Westphalia. He served as the land agent for the railroad to specifically encourage German Catholics to settle in this community and its surrounding township and helped establish a Catholic Church to serve this community. Father Hubert Edward Duren served the St. Boniface parish from 1926 until his death in 1962 and was largely responsible for the revival of the town of Westphalia

   See continuation sheet

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

---

Advertisement. Herold des Glaubens. St. Louis, Missouri, May 30, 1888.

Blueprints of St. Boniface Church (1881), Rectory (1888), School (1927), and Club House (1934). Westphalia: St. Boniface Catholic Church.

Goeser, Sylvia. Personal communication, 1991.

Hartman, John. It Came as a Vision. Northwest Printers, 1989.

Westphalia Community Club. Memories of Rev. H. E. Duren. Westphalia: Westphalia Community Club, 1964.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository:  
 Bureau of Historic Preservation

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

Acreage of property approximately 13.06 acres

**UTM References**

A	<u>15</u>	<u>300600</u>	<u>4621505</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>15</u>	<u>300860</u>	<u>4621300</u>

B	<u>15</u>	<u>300860</u>	<u>4621500</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>300600</u>	<u>4621320</u>

See continuation sheet

---

**Verbal Boundary Description**

---

See continuation sheet

---

**Boundary Justification**

---

The boundary of the nominated district includes the main parcel historically associated with this district and encompassing all of its resources.

See continuation sheet

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title	<u>Leah Rogers, Project Director</u>	date	<u>June 30, 1991</u>
organization	<u>Preservation Partnership Phase III</u>	telephone	<u>319-849-1271</u>
street & number	<u>520 Franklin</u>	state	<u>Iowa</u>
city or town	<u>Center Point</u>	zip code	<u>52213</u>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number     3     Page     1    

---

Name of related multiple property listing:  
The Ethnic Historic Settlement of Shelby and Audubon Counties: 1860-1941

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

---

The church was built in 1881 from bricks manufactured on-site from local clay. The building was designed and laid out by Dubuque architect, Fridolin Herr, who was known for his designs of Catholic Churches. In general, the design of the church is influenced by the Romanesque style of architecture as evidenced in the repeated use of round-arched window, door, and lantern openings but is not a "pure" execution of this style. The church is rectangular in ground plan with a rounded apse at its north end. The building faces south overlooking the town. The gable front orientation of the building is further emphasized by the four story central entry tower which projects out from the facade. This tower is topped with a tall narrow spire with a metal cross at its apex. The roofs of the church and the spire are covered with asphalt shingles, with that on the spire masking the four decorative gables at its base. Prominent features of the exterior include the three entry doors on the front facade each emphasized by round-arched openings and projecting pedimented surrounds with terra cotta moldings, the three circular windows above the three entries, the pronounced, corbelled denticulated frieze which encircles the entire building, and the rows of paired double-arched windows on the sides of the building.

The interior of the church consists of an open nave with a central aisle flanked by rows of pews with side aisles. Two sacristies are situated at either side of the front of the building and near the entries. A choir loft is present over the front one-third of the interior. In 1972 the interior was extensively remodeled and redecorated in the spirit of Vatican II which encouraged a simplification of church interiors including the removal of altars and rails which separated the clergy from the congregation. To that end, the original altars, communion rail, and statuary were removed and the walls repainted in light green with gold trim effecting a much lighter and more open feel than the interior had historically. The stained glass windows were also cleaned and reframed at this time. The fourteen stations which line the walls of the interior are original, although these plaques have been trimmed down somewhat from their original size.

The modifications to the exterior of the church have included the above-noted covering of the gables at the base of the spire, the infilling of the circular window at the rear of the apse, the infilling of some of the lantern vents in the tower, the replacement of the front entry doors, the covering of the stained glass windows with protective plexiglas, the removal of the brick chimney c. 1927, and most prominently, the application of a coat of stucco to the brick walls. The latter was done in 1919 as a measure "to insure the permanency of the building." This is likely not far from truth, as the brick produced historically in this region is soft and subject to deterioration.

The rectory was designed by the Omaha architectural firm of Creeglon and Berlinghof and was constructed of brick with a stone foundation. The residence is two stories in height, basically rectangular in ground plan, and has a truncated hipped roof. Notable exterior features include the shed-roofed rectangular bay window on the west side and the prominent window hoods or drip molds. Modifications to this building have included the application of stucco in 1919, the replacement of the original front porch with a simpler design, the construction of a wood stove chimney on the west wall, the addition of a small gable to the roof apex, and a one-story addition on the east side.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

The barn is located between the rear of the rectory and the cemetery. It consists of a small rectangular building clad with board and batten siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the building is 1.5 stories in height. There have been few, if any, modifications made to the exterior of this building.

The small chapel located near the gate of the cemetery is known as the Chapel of St. Joseph. Its design is patterned after a church style but in a smaller scale. Notable exterior features include the 1.5 story front entry tower with decorative shingle siding, brackets, and a quatrefoil window (now painted over), the lunette transom over the front entry door, and the round-arched side windows. The only modification to this building has been the replacement of the front door. The construction of this chapel was paid for by Adam and William Schmitz. Although the date is uncertain, the style of the building is typical of the 1890s-early 1900s. The group statue housed in this chapel depicts the death of St. Joseph attended by the Blessed Mother and Jesus and was imported from Germany. The chapel functions as a place for private meditation.

The cemetery is relatively large and contains the graves of a number of prominent parish members, most notably that of Father H. E. Duren who was largely responsible for the rebirth of the town of Westphalia in the twentieth century. The cemetery has recently been refurbished involving the straightening of gravestones and the refooting of these stones on new concrete bases. This realignment of the stones has historical precedents during the tenures of both Father Duren and his predecessor, Msgr. Brommenschenkel, who both made improvements to the cemetery. The most notable features of the cemetery are the large number of cast iron and handwrought iron crosses that serve as grave markers for at least twenty gravesites. These crosses appear to be unique to the German settlement area in Shelby County. One potential source for these iron crosses may have been through an advertisement in the German language Catholic weekly published in St. Louis in the late nineteenth century. An 1888 issue of this weekly, entitled Herold des Glaubens, or Herold of the Faithful, had an ad which read as follows:

Metal Wreathes! The most beautiful and durable Grave Decorations! A good assortment such as Crosses, Anchors, and Wreathes. A. C. Stifel, 802 South 4 Street (Herold des Glaubens, May 30, 1888).

It is likely that the cast iron crosses were obtained through a business such as that in St. Louis, while the handwrought crosses may have been locally produced versions.

The original iron fence and gateway around the cemetery have been removed, but the cemetery is still marked by a number of pine trees planted under Msgr. Brommenschenkel's direction. At one time, there were four small chapels stationed at the four corners of the cemetery. Originally, these were stationed at the four corners of the town and were part of the processional of the feast of Corpus Christi. Around 1910-1920, these chapels were moved into the cemetery where they continued to function in the same capacity. In recent years, all ceremonies were confined to the inside the church, and the chapels were subsequently razed.

The parochial school was also designed by Omaha architects, specifically the firm of Lahr and Stangel. It has a massive rectangular ground plan and rises

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

---

2.5 stories. Most prominent among the exterior features is the monumental stone-veneered central entry. The walls are a combination of brick veneer accented with stone coping, sills, and beltcourses. The only modifications to the exterior has been the infilling and reduction of some of the front and side windows.

The club house is a much smaller building having a rectangular ground plan and front gable orientation. It was also designed by Omaha architects, Lahr and Stangel, but constructed by a parish workforce. This building is constructed of clay tile block with a cement stucco applied to the exterior, thus matching the exterior treatment of the church and rectory. The original windows have been covered over and the front entry has an added projecting vestibule; however, the most prominent exterior features, the six pilasters across the front facade, remain intact.

The corn crib is a rectangular, gabled-roofed structure with horizontal board siding and sheet metal roofing. A small, gable-roofed elevator rises from the ridge of the roof. This structure is currently unused.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Grace is a U-shaped object constructed of brick salvaged from the church chimney and featuring a statue of the Blessed Mother. This shrine faces south and is situated in the open space to the west of the church.

The physical relationship of the buildings, structures, sites, and objects of this district is as follows: the cemetery occupies the northeast corner of the district with the barn, garage, and rectory situated between the cemetery and the south boundary of the district with the church located to the west of the rectory and garage; an asphalt-covered lane bisects the space between the church and the rectory and extends northward into the cemetery; the chapel is situated just off the entry gate into the cemetery; the two shrines are situated in the open space on the west side of the church between that building and the school; the club house is situated off the southwest corner of the school with the ball diamond complex occupying much of the space to the north of both the club house and the school as well as much of the southwest corner of the district itself; the corn crib is located on a rise off the northeast corner of the ball diamond and is surrounded by recently cultivated cornfields (see attached map). The primary buildings are situated along the south edge of the district and border the east-west street at the north end of Westphalia. The church, rectory, and school all face south, while the club house faces east.

The appearance of the district during the period of significance has not been substantially altered since that time. The only additions have been a shrine and the garage behind the rectory in the 1950s, the restrooms and dugouts for the ball field c. 1961, and a new grandstand which replaced a grandstand of similar size and proportion in 1961. The major historical alteration to the church and rectory buildings was the application of the stucco facing; however, this was executed during the period of significance and is compatible with the spirit of the historical development of this district which involved a period of rebirth and restoration. The stucco treatment was then repeated on the club house and was original to that building's design and construction.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

---

The qualities which distinguish this district from its surroundings is simply that of the cohesiveness of this property as a church complex which encompasses all the major physical elements of the church's influence and contributions to this church-dominated community. Specifically, this district includes the only church of the community; all of the church-related buildings, sites, and objects; the town's only school (operated by the church); and the town's major social and recreational centers including the community club house and the ball diamond. There have been no intrusions into the boundaries of this district that are unrelated to the church.

Finally, there is some potential within the district for archaeological remains of significant, earlier buildings related to the development of the Catholic church. These include the remains of the first church, the first rectory, the convent, and the second school. Some of these potential remains have likely been impacted by subsequent construction, although others may be contributing sites to this district. A survey of the district should be conducted to determine the extent of post-destruction impacts to these former buildings and to determine the eligibility of any subsurface cultural deposits.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

---

following a period of decline. Of the contributing resources which comprise the district, Father Duren was directly responsible for the construction of the parochial school, the club house, the ball diamond, the corn crib, and the shrine, while Emil Flusche was instrumental in the platting of the church property, the construction of the church, and the platting of the cemetery.

Other individuals such as Father Weber and Msgr. Brommenschenkel, who were among the early pastors of this parish, were of influence and did contribute to the composition and configuration of this district; however, the two most outstanding contributions--the establishment of the Westphalia Colony and its twentieth century revival--were made by Flusche and Duren. Father Weber was also instrumental in the construction of the church, while Msgr. Brommenschenkel contributed the construction of the rectory and the barn. It was also during his tenure that the church and rectory were both stuccoed.

Saint Boniface Parish was originally part of the Dubuque Diocese, with the first resident priest to serve this parish, Father Weber, being sent from Dubuque. By the time the church was built, the parish was part of the Davenport Diocese, and when the church was dedicated in 1882, the Rt. Rev. Bishop McMullen of Davenport led the dedication services. In 1911 the parish became part of the Des Moines Diocese, in which it remains to the present day. The church was incorporated in 1912.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

White, Edward S. Past and Present of Shelby County, Iowa, Volume I.  
Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1915.

Zimmerman, Bernard. The History of Westphalia, 1872-1972. Westphalia: History  
Book Committee, 1972.

Zimmerman, Bernard. Personal communication 1991.

Zimmerman, Paul. Church centennial celebration speech, 1982, p. 7-8.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

---

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

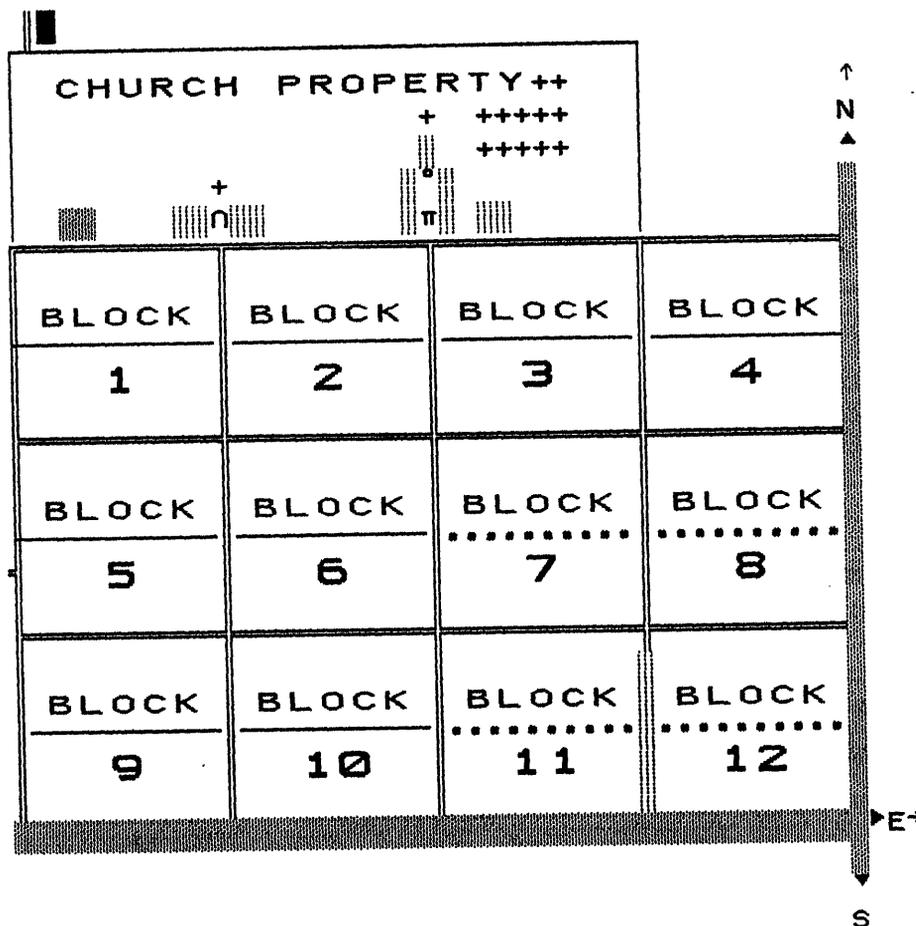
The nominated district is bounded by the topographical description from the USGS Panama, Iowa, 1978 quadrangle map as follows: the N2/3, NW1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 and the NW2/3, NE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4, and the SW2/3, SE1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4, and the S1/3, SW1/4, NE1/4, SW1/4 of Section 21, T80N, R39W, Westphalia Township, Shelby County, Iowa. Specifically, the district boundary is described as follows: Beginning at the north edge of the east-west street at the northeast corner of Block 3 of the Town of Westphalia proceed north for 621 feet to the northeast corner of the cemetery, then turning west for 916 feet along the north boundary of the cemetery and the fenceline which demarcates the north property boundary, then turning south for 621 feet following in part the east edge of the north-south street which forms the west boundary of the Town of Westphalia, then turning east for 916 feet following the north edge of the east-west street to the point of beginning (see attached maps).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Maps Page 1

St. Boniface Catholic Church District plat map showing Town of Westphalia and location of Church property in relation to this plat.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number Photos Page 1

Saint Boniface Catholic Church District  
Westphalia, Iowa  
Leah Rogers, photographer  
Original negatives at Iowa Bureau of Historic Preservation

Photo #	Description	Photo #	Description
#1	Town of Westphalia 2/23/91 View to NW	14	Cemetery-Iron Crosses 2/23/91 view to NE
2	same as #1	15	same as #14
3	Church District 2/23/91 view to WNW	16	Cemetery-Iron Crosses 2/23/91 view to NW
4	same as #3	17	same as #16
5	Church (front) 2/23/91 view to N	18	Cemetery-Iron Crosses 2/23/91 view to WSW
6	Church 2/23/91 view to NE	19	same as #18
7	same as #6	20	Cemetery/Chapel 2/23/91 view to NE
8	Rectory 5/22/90 view to NNW	21	Church (rear) 2/23/91 view to SW
9	School 2/23/91 view to N		
10	School 5/22/90 view to NE		
11	Club House 5/22/90 view to NW		
12	Corn Crib 2/23/91 view to NW		
13	Chapel 5/22/90 view to NE		