

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0674320

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 7 1979
DATE ENTERED	9 1979

**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

Church Building

St. Mary's Parish Complex

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

St. Mary's & Washburn Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Riverside

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Iowa

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Mary's Parish

STREET & NUMBER

St. Mary's + Washburn Sts

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Riverside

VICINITY OF

Iowa 52327

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This nomination is for a complex of 5 brick buildings, situated on a hill overlooking the small community of Riverside. They are: two churches, a rectory, a school/convent, and a school. All were built by the parish of St. Mary's between 1877 and 1912.

Riverside is a community of some 800 people, located about ½ mile north of the English River, with a portion of Iowa Highway 22 (running east-west) as the main street. Commercial structures are ranged along both sides of this road, with the residential area rising behind them on the north (oriented south to face the river). Most of the business blocks are of brick, dating from the late 19th century. Residential construction is more varied, but consists chiefly of middle-class frame houses from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The St. Mary's complex is situated in the northwest corner of the town, its hilltop location permitting view of a church steeple for nearly a mile from the highway on either end of the community.

Within the complex, the newer church (1905) and rectory (1908) are on the highest ground, with the first church (1877) and convent/school (1889) slightly below and to the west, and the second school (1912) directly south of the 1877 church. The 1905 church, a Gothic Revival structure with tall central spire, dominates the group, both physically and architecturally.

The first (1877) church is a simple, front-gable structure, built of hand-made brick on a stone (now faced with concrete) foundation. The side walls are articulated into 5 bays by flat brick pilasters, with a tall lancet window centered in each bay. The front elevation presents a symmetrical, three-bay composition, the pointed-arched entrance set within a slightly protruding frontispiece. A line of corbelling beneath the eaves provides a slight decorative touch. The original entrance has been closed, as have the upper portions of the lancet windows. Glass block is inserted in the lower portions of the windows, and an entrance, with brick vestibule, has been cut in the fourth bay of the east side.

The convent/school building was completed in 1889. It is a two story structure of locally manufactured orange brick, and of the five buildings it is the most altered. The roof is a high hip, with broad deck once edged with iron cresting. Side elevations have 6 bays, and the side walls of the south half of the building protrude slightly beyond those of the rear portion. Originally there was a singled frame cupola at the south end of the roof deck, with high pitched roof slightly flared at the eaves; and two tall brick chimneys, located toward the edges of the roof on east and west sides. The main entrance was originally centered in the three-bay south facade, beneath a shed-roofed porch with spindle frieze, supported on very slender turned posts. Presently, the original entrance and all windows (all with segmental-arched heads) are boarded over, and entrance is gained via a door dut in the center of the east facade.

The second church (1905) has exterior walls of dark red, pressed brick, and is built in the Gothic Revival style. It has a basilican plan, with hexagonal apse at the north end, and, on the south, between short corner towers, a central protruding entrance pavilion culminating in a belltower and tall spire. The main and flanking portals feature pointed-arched doorways, with octafoil windows above the doors proper, set within enframements with triangular tops. Above the side portals are paired, round-arched windows, surmounted by a small octafoil

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St. Mary's Parish Complex, Riverside, Washington County, Iowa

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window, all set within a lancet arch. A similar window treatment, but featuring pairs of trefoil windows, is used also in the nave, the side walls of which are articulated into five bays by brick buttresses. The "transepts" (these are suggested only externally, and are not true structural features) barely project beyond the walls of the nave, and are surmounted by parapets, with a triptych of small lancet windows in each gable end.

The roof is supported on a standard truss system: the vaulting in the nave is non-structural. The main and side altars are set within large pointed arches. Principal colors used are pink and blue, with much decorative stencilling on walls and ceiling.*

Directly east of this church is the rectory (1908), constructed of the same brick as the former building. It is a two story house, with main roof a modest hip, and intersecting gables (with partial cornice returns) on the southeast and northwest. Wrapped around the southwest corner (between the two corner gabled masses) is a one-story porch, with square brick piers, and simple wooden spindle balustrade. The roof has a shallow triangular pediment above the front steps. Windows are rectilinear, with flush concrete sills and lintels. There is a low hipped roof dormer on the west side.

The last building in the complex is the school, built in 1912, with pressed brick facing the exterior walls, and Bedford limestone foundation. It is nearly square in shape; two stories, with a low-pitched hipped roof and projecting rafter ends beneath the eaves. The principal feature of the school is the full-height, slightly protruding frontispiece on the east side, which ends in a parapet surmounted by a simple cross. The main entrance is recessed within a large round arch of stone, above which is a "palladian" window at second floor level; and three smaller windows, grouped within a wide, segmental arch (also of stone) at cornice level. There is a secondary entrance, within a small, hipped-roof porch, on the north side. Above this porch is a large round-arched window with a pair of double hung sash.

*The furnishings - main and side altars, communion rail, stations of the Cross, pews, are all original. The present decorative scheme has evolved over the years, with revisions and improvements made in 1919 (including small circular ceiling paintings) and again in 1937 (most notably the two murals in oil over the side altars and the twelve apostles on the intradoses of the nave arches).

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 1877-1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The complex of religious and educational structures at St. Mary's in Riverside has several characteristics which make it a significant local landmark.

(1) Its hilltop location, overlooking the Riverside community, and the relatively large scale of the various buildings, give it marked visual prominence. The church spire can be seen from the highway some distance before the town comes into clear view, and the complex, or one or more of its members, is visible from many points in the community. They are, collectively, perhaps the largest buildings in the town, and their brick facades further set them off from the surrounding smaller frame houses which comprise the bulk of Riverside's residential construction.

(2) The five buildings, ranging in age from 102 to 66 years, display architectural forms which were rather typical of their times in the state. The simple form, and lancet windows, of the first church were repeated, in wood and stone as well as in brick, throughout small-town Iowa in the mid 19th century. The convent/school was more ambitious (perhaps because it served a dual purpose), but presents the rectangular shape and decked, hipped roof suggestive of many of Iowa's vernacular Italianate residences of the late 19th century. The rectory is basically an early 20th century "hipped box", to which Colonial Revival influences then in vogue (the porch pediment, and gables with partial returns) were added. The 1912 school building, with its hipped roof, is suggestive of the earlier school, but in a rather more vertical and compact form. Vestiges of the Richardsonian Romanesque are seen in the use of the round arch and the small shoulder parapet atop the entrance frontispiece. The second church is a nice, and well preserved, example of Gothic Revival architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a style used for many of Iowa's Roman Catholic churches of this period.

(3) Together, the five buildings present a remarkable physical illustration of the history of St. Mary's parish in Riverside. In 1872, the Muscatine Western Railroad began a line north and west from Muscatine, a portion of which was located along the north side of the Iowa River. The small town of Yatton, laid out in 1856, was on the south bank. With the arrival of the railroad, Yatton townspeople began to move across the river, joining others in the establishment of Riverside. For a few years, Roman Catholics in the town continued to attend rural St. Vincent's church, first established in 1848 about 3 miles west of Riverside. Soon, however, the growing German and Irish Catholic population of Riverside determined to build a church in town. The first Mass in the new church, built of brick made and laid by H.L. Swift, was said on Palm Sunday, 1877, by St. Mary's first regular priest, Fr. William Purcell. This first phase of the parish's history culminated in the completion of the school in 1889 (during the pastorate of Fr. A.J. Drexler), a few years after the first rectory (no longer extant). The school's size was most likely dictated by its dual use as an educational facility and as a home for the Franciscan sisters who taught there.

see continuation sheet

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dautremont, Grace. One Hundred Years: St. Mary's Parish, Riverside, Iowa.
Privately printed, 1977.

Lucky, Marge. Riverside, Iowa, Centennial. Privately printed, 1972.

Burrell, Howard A. History of Washington County, Iowa. Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1909.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 8 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Riverside, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 618495 45933010

B 15 618495 45930210

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 15 618340 45930210

D 15 618340 45933010

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319-353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 A. Anderson

TITLE Director, Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bill Gbovich

DATE

July 9, 1979

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Brantham

DATE

6.18.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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The second phase of St. Mary's was more ambitious than the first, resulting in three substantial new structures, and reflecting the growth and prosperity of the parish. As before, the first building was a new church, considerably more lavish than the earlier church, and located on the crest of the hill where the old rectory had stood. Contractor for the church was H. Tappendorf of Rock Island, Illinois. The new rectory and school (built in that order, as had been the earlier structures), using the same pressed brick on the exterior as the church, completed the St. Mary's complex by 1912. This second phase came at the beginning of Fr. Bernard Jacobsmeier's pastorate, which was to last for 40 years (1905-1945). The two remaining older structures were given new uses; the old church became a parish hall (with a second floor added for an auditorium) and the school was wholly converted to convent use.

In recent years, the parish has considered removing the old convent; however, there is a good deal of local sentiment against such action. The most recent idea concerning this building is the possibility of rehabilitating it for elderly housing. Finding new uses for the two original buildings (the later three are fully used now) will be important if the complex of religious and educational structures on the hill above Riverside is to remain intact. Loss of even one building would break the visual and historical continuity which gives the complex its particular character and significance in the community.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Area includes the following parcels:

Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6, Block 2, Original Town Plat;

Lots 4, 5, 6, Block 10, Original Town Plat;

A tract of land beginning at a point which is five-tenths of a chain west of the southeast corner of Section Seven, Township Seventy-seven north, Range Six west of the 5th P.M., running thence west six and forty-two hundredths chains to a stake; thence north nine and twentieth-one hundredths chains to a stone; thence east six and forty-two hundredths chains to a stake; thence south nine and twenty-one hundredths to the place of beginning.