



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Nomination Form

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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "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. Paul's Episcopal Church

other names/site number The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2. Location

street & number 815 High Street

not for publication N/A

vicinity, city or town Des Moines

state Iowa code IA county Polk code 153 zip code 50309

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara A. Mather DSHPO February 10, 2010
Signature of certifying official 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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. Beal 3-31-10
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Polk County, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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 count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion / religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion / religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone / Limestone

walls Stone / Granite /

Brick

roof Slate

other

Narrative Description

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

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Section 7 **Page** 1 **Property Name** St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

SITE: 1885 CHURCH AND 1953 PARISH HOUSE ADDITION

The present site is situated on the northeast corner of Ninth street and High street on lots 4 and 5 and south 1/2 of lot 6, Block 1 Holcombs addition and Lots 1 thru 7 M A Illsleys SD. (Figure No.3)

The church stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of Ninth street and High street. The church faces south and the parish house abuts it on the east side of the church. East of the parish house is a city owned alley. The two buildings cover about 40% of the total half block bounded by Ninth street, High Street, Pleasant street and the alley. (Figure No.2)

High rise buildings surround the church property on three sides. The church owned parking lot abuts the north wall of the church and the parish house. The feeling of this area is high rise urban.

The Sanborn map of 1901 shows all of St. Paul's close "Piety Hill" neighbors. Located east of the alley were the original First Baptist Church (later razed and built again on the site and sold later) and a synagogue, each on the portion of the block east of the alley. Both facilities moved west with the growing population of Des Moines. (Figure No.4)

Located on the north portion (shown on the Sanborn map) were rows of tenement housing, later razed to make room for St. Paul's parking lot. (Figure No.4)

EXTERIOR 1885 CHURCH

This granite clad church, completed in 1885 from a design by Foster and Liebbe, Architects of Des Moines is situated on the corner of the highly built up downtown Des Moines area. The integrity of the original building (Figure No.9) and that of its 1953 addition is relatively unchanged from the time of the original construction of both. The church was built to replace the first St. Paul's church, a frame structure which was located on the West side of Seventh Street between Walnut Street and Locust Street.

The church is a basic two story rectangle but for the bell tower, northwest entry and the basement exit stair enclosures. The footprint overall is Seventy Two feet Seven inches x One Hundred Nine feet Five inches.

The central axis of the nave runs the north and south of downtown. Downtown north is not geographic north and is approximately 14 degrees west of north, more or less, following the axis of the Des Moines River around which the central business district was formed.

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County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

The church is constructed of load bearing masonry. The outer wythe is broken faced red granite, laid random ashlar. The exposed portion of the basement story is clad with broken faced gray-buff limestone.

Gothic arched windows are wood with memorial stained glass.

The gable roof structure uses wood scissor trusses. The roofing is gray green slate. The central nave roof rises above the side aisle roofs resulting in a red slate covered clerestory with arched windows allowing the sun to flood the nave with morning and evening light.

Virtually all windows and exterior door openings are Gothic arched.

Entrance to the church at the time it was built was through west facing doors in the tower and through a gabled entrance facing south on the east end of the narthex. A small gabled portico on the west side of the building gave access to the undercroft (basement). A smaller single entrance on the northwest corner gave access to the sanctuary through a passage north of the original organ pipe chamber.

The bell tower is buttressed on the three visible corners with stone caps at each reduction in depth. The tower window openings are arched, three on each face, giving light to the carillon room. Above these are two larger windows on each face opening into the bell chambers. The tower top corners are stone spires with dressed stone crenellation topping a cut stone cornice.

The original design of St. Paul's may not have included a steeple. It was added, according to correspondence in the church records, "*and paid for by Vestryman Judge H.K. Love. The cost was \$1000.00.*"¹

INTERIOR 1885 CHURCH-MAIN FLOOR

Exposed to the nave are Gothic arched roof trusses at 11 feet on center. These terminate on quatrefoil shaped cast iron columns and sheet metal acanthus leafed capitals. The columns carry down through the basement to footings as round cast iron pipe columns.

The floor system is wood beams and joist. Carpet runners in the nave aisles covered wood flooring. Upper and lower level ceilings are wood lath and plaster. The interior of the masonry walls are plaster on wood furring. Interior trim at windows and doors are wood. Doors are wood.

¹ *Annie Park Carss letter*

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Section 7 Page 3 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

The interior of the first floor features the narthex, nave, chancel, apse, sacristy and organ pipe chamber. (Figure No. 6)

The narthex served as the entryway to the nave through three double doors. Located in the entry level of the bell tower are three closets, two of which are for storage. The third houses the ladder up to the clavier for the bells. Access to the crypt/undercroft was originally gained by a stairway located inside the southeast entrance. Five arched windows lined the south wall, originally of clear glazing. Later, stained glass windows were installed depicting St. Peter, St. Mary, Christ the Good Shepherd, and St. Elizabeth.

The nave ceiling is vaulted, extending down from the ridge to the east and west line of columns. Down from there, a clerestory wall with windows extends to the column capitals. Wood tracery on the column lines extends over the side aisles from the columns to the outside walls section. Original pews and kneelers seating approximately 325 persons were wooden with quatrefoil finials on the pew ends. The lectern, an eagle holding the lessons and the font were original to the Seventh Street church.

The nave, approximately fifty-eight feet x sixty feet features a center aisle with flanking side aisles, east and west. Six gothic arched windows embellish the east and west walls of the nave. These are memorial windows with various scenes of allegory, depicting the glory of God in peace and love. A large stained glass "rose" window on the south brings more sunlight into the nave.

The chancel floor rises four steps above the nave floor. On this level, a center aisle leads to the sanctuary predella, one step above. The altar rail is set back to the north on this level to allow for kneeling cushions for communion. Seated to the west was choir seating. Seated to the east are acolytes and servers. In a recessed area is the organ console.

The apse is roofed with a partial dome. Seven Gothic arched windows originally circled the apse depicting Saints Matthew, Mark, John, Luke, Peter, Paul and Christ. These windows are the oldest in the church. The original altar backed up to a fabric drape partially obscuring the lower portions of three of the apse windows. In this time period, the officiant said the service with his back to the congregation. (Figure No. 12)

The organ pipe chamber space west of the chancel remains today.

The sacristy east of the chancel served to hold altar chasubles, priest vestments and communion vessels and altar furnishings. It remains today.

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Section 7 Page 4 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

INTERIOR 1885 CHURCH-UNDERCROFT / CRYPT (Figure No.5)

When the church was first built, the space under the narthex was given over to office space for the rector, a secretary and a small room identified as an office. These were located along the south wall and were up one riser from the undercroft floor. Each room has tall south-facing windows. The bell tower basement is windowless. The large space, directly under the nave, was divided by steel pipe rails and curtains into church school "class rooms". A thirty two foot x eleven foot chapel space was planned for the east wall of this space. There is no conclusive evidence that the chapel shown on the plans dated 1937 was built to that size. There does exist a room approximately one third that size, in that location, now used for storage

Toilet rooms are presumed to have been located on each side of the exitway to Ninth Street on the west side of the undercroft. North of these is a room given over to choir rehearsal space and music library. North of the choir area was the boiler room, reached by a curved passageway from the choir room. An Altar Guild room was north of the choir vesting room. When built, the church had no kitchen.

The type of the original floor construction in the undercroft remains undetermined. 1939 plans by Proudfoot Rawson, Brooks and Borg architects for remodeling of the church noted that the present wood floor was to be removed and replaced with cement floor with cement base throughout except in chapel.

CHANGES TO 1885 CHURCH EXTERIOR (Figures No. 10,11)

A dramatic change to the original church exterior was caused by the lowering of Ninth Street and High Street intersection.⁷ Equally dramatic was the removal of the deteriorating church steeple.

The plans for that intersection showed the street corner was lowered about four feet ten inches. The principal result was to require new entrance stairs at both the Southwest and Southeast entrances. The new west stair became a major feature of the facade. The new design has two curving stone stairways to serve the Southwest entry doors with granite and limestone cheek walls and new stone treads. The southeast stairway, now also elevated farther above the new sidewalk level ran directly south to the new walk. There is no evidence of the date of completion of the new entrances. The minutes of the vestry on June 13, 1923 remarked that in the general opinion of the vestry "*the change of grade was more of a benefit than damage*"⁶ By January 11, 1924, however, a vestry committee was formed "*to look after the legal part of claim against the city for the High Street cut.*"⁷

2. City of Des Moines Engineering Department

6. Minutes of the Vestry

7. Minutes of the Vestry

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Section 7 Page 5 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

It is unclear if the church paid any or all of the cost of the rebuilding of these entrances. Nevertheless it was an expensive undertaking and caused a dramatic change in the appearance of the church from the street level. The original granite retaining wall, surrounding the South and West side of the property and standing approximately three feet above the old walks was removed at the time of the lowering of the streets and walks. It was reconstructed at the lowered level and the wall height raised approximately one foot. The grade between the church building and the new retaining wall was reshaped to meet the new lowered wall top.

The steeple added during the construction of the church circa 1885 was removed entirely in the late 1930's due to deterioration and storm damage. A later addition of carillon bells required strengthening of the bell support structure. Concurrently the tower roof structure was repaired. A later skeletal steel framework of the lines of the original steeple was installed circa 1967 by Neumann Brothers Construction Company and removed some years later. The skeletal Cor-Ten steel tower is reported to be extant at the rural residence of a parishioner.

CHANGES TO 1885 CHURCH INTERIOR-MAIN FLOOR

Changes in the main floor appointments have come about, due in the most part, to how the Episcopal church itself does its business of worship and to how St. Paul's does its business of adapting to the rubrics.

Keeping in mind the music tradition of St. Paul's, the accommodations made for choir and organ have changed the interior. The choir make up itself has changed from that of boys only, to men and boys, to boys and girls, to its present form of an adult choir of approximately thirty two singers.

The chancel space, once accommodating an altar with the celebrant facing north (away from the congregation) changed to that of the altar physically moving south from the apse wall to allow seating for the Bishop and celebrants to face the congregation with the altar in front of them.

This move required the chancel communion rail to move south accordingly, but yet allows those taking communion to exit as before, through the sacristy on the East and a passage through the organ pipe chamber on the west. The move of these elements (in 1993) required the extension of the chancel platform southward as well, also including extra space to accommodate the enlarged choir. Lectern and pulpit moved accordingly. The total extension of the chancel platform south was five feet four inches.

The chancel and apse walls were paneled with wood in 1937 and a new altar and reredos was installed and three apse windows were relocated. In 1937 also, a north stairway was added to connect the lower sacristy space with the first floor sacristy. Also at that time an exterior door was added in the north wall of the first floor sacristy, then a new fire safety requirement (Figures 13, 14)

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Section 7 Page 6 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

The original pews were refurbished in the same year. Presently, acoustical friendly carpeting was installed in the aisles only and all other floor surfaces were covered with slate textured vinyl tile. Choir risers are removable to allow the staging of chancel plays and concerts.

The installation of a new Casavant organ in 1994 required the modeling and strengthening of the existing organ pipe chamber space and the space for the organ console itself. The first two divisions were the great and swell. An antiphonal division was subsequently installed at the rear of the nave, under the "rose" window. At the same time, the Choir division was installed in the pipe chamber. An installation of the Contra Bass Violon division is to be installed in 2009 at the rear of the nave flanking the "rose" window.

Air conditioning was added in 1967. The air distribution for the nave required two duct risers at the rear of the nave. These will be moved outboard to accommodate the new organ division to be installed flanking the rose window.

CHANGES TO 1885 CHURCH-UNDERCROFT

The basic spaces have been changed little. The small separate men and women's toilet rooms have been combined into a handicapped accessible unisex toilet room.

The three rooms at the South end of the undercroft originally were offices. The use of those three spaces had changed when the next-door frame Rectory no longer housed the Rectors and their families. Church offices and church school facilities then moved temporarily into the old Rectory. Of the original spaces, one is still an office space, one is storage for the Christmas decorations for the nave and the room under the tower stores tables and chairs.

The choir rehearsal room remains, as does the adjoining choir robe room. Plans dated 1937 developed by Proudfoot Rawson, Brooks and Borg Architects called for the excavation of the space under the chancel and apse. This space became the present kitchen. The kitchen remains in the same place, however, modern appliances have been added to better accommodate church events.

With addition of the stairway from the former lower level sacristy to the first floor sacristy, the lower level remaining space was taken over by the construction of a fireproof vault.

The original small chapel space in the undercroft now provides added storage space.

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Section 7 Page 7 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

EXTERIOR 1953 PARISH HOUSE

The south and partial east wall of the parish House, completed in 1953 is partially clad in similar granite ashlar masonry to the 1885 church. Above grade, north of the guild hall, the exposed masonry is hard burned purple/red brick. It is a two story building. Interior walls below grade are concrete and above grade concrete masonry units. The interior of the exterior walls are plastered.

The Architect for the building was Brooks-Borg, Architects - Engineers. The General Contractor was Arthur H. Neumann and Brothers, Inc. In it are facilities lacking in the 1885 church. The upper and lower floors connect with those of the old church, roughly on the same elevation.

In the general design, it is a two story addition with an open to the sky courtyard which gives light and ventilation to both the old and the new buildings.

The design is a mid 20th century interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. The principal elevation is south where its slate roof and granite cladding matches the 1885 church. The south stained glass windows give light to a chapel on the lower level, and through clear glazed dormers on the upper floor to a social room (guild hall). The original Parish House windows were metal, single glazed and replaced in the 1960's with double glazed wood sash. The glazed area was reduced by reducing the height of the window opening with insulated panels.

Construction began circa 1951. The new building required the demolition of the circa 1870 frame rectory.

The Gothic Revival design of the addition reflects the influence of the original church building in its styling, and in the use of red granite and limestone. The flat portion roofing is built-up tar and gravel. The flat roof structure is metal deck and concrete and insulation and sloped to roof drains. The gable roof framing portion is on steel rafters with gutter and downspouts

INTERIOR 1953 PARISH HOUSE

Some upper floor partitions are moveable. Most others are plastered gypsum block. Floor and roof systems are metal bar joist on steel beams and columns. The first floor is framed with corrugated metal deck and concrete.

The floor levels of the addition were determined by existing elevations of High Street skirting the south side of the building and of the parking lot to the north. Thus the lower level of the addition is two steps below the basement of the existing church and the upper level is three steps below the main floor of the church.

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County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

In the first floor of the addition are located offices for the Dean (now so termed since the church became a Cathedral), secretary, office work spaces, meeting rooms, a guild hall (for social gatherings and chapter meetings), a clergy vesting room and spaces for toddlers and K-3 grade children.

The lower level provides space for a chapel (redesigned later circa 1968 by Jack Bloodgood, Architect), large classrooms for teens, an office for the Bishop, elevator serving both floors and for the equipment serving the elevator. Located in the northeast corner of the lower floor is the mechanical room housing the chiller for the air conditioning for both the new addition and the original church. The hot water heating boiler for both the old and new buildings is located in the boiler room of the 1885 building.

The plan shows the "C" shaped building, making connection to the original building at the north and south ends. This configuration leaves an open courtyard mentioned earlier. The courtyard is paved with limestone slabs with a circular planting area for a tree.

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Section 7 Page 9 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

7. Narrative Description

INTEGRITY DISCUSSION

All seven aspects of integrity of St. Paul's Episcopal Church have been maintained at a high level.

In its LOCATION among the seven churches of "Piety Hill", St Paul's anchored the corner of the "hill" and does so today. Newer downtown churches have taken the place of some of the original seven (sometimes identified as six or five) but St. Paul's remains the sole original of these.

The original Foster and Liebbe DESIGN remains unchanged today. St. Paul's was designed as a late Victorian/ Gothic church similar to many smaller English churches. The corner bell tower anchors not only the church to its setting, but anchors the present group of newer downtown churches as well.

While we speak of Piety Hill, it is to be remembered that its SETTING was the nucleus of all churches built in the fledgling Des Moines community. By 1891, many churches had settled in the area of 6th to 9th streets and between High street and Pleasant street. Mixed with residences and tenement flats were mainline churches which have subsequently West. St. Paul's remains the sole original survivor. Refer to pages 8-24 and 8-27. Since that time the properties surrounding St. Paul's have changed dramatically. Gone are the other churches and taking their place are substantial high rise commercial buildings, one the 44 storey Principal Tower. The character of the original mixed use neighborhood no longer exists. It is solidly high rise commercial.

MATERIALS: St. Paul's is a stone church, red granite and hard limestone. Some architectural shaped stone was hard sandstone. Some of these elements have been replaced. While its predecessor was frame, the architecture of the new church on the hill was late Victorian Gothic revival. The builders were very well versed in masonry construction. The church is true to its historical predecessors in England.

WORKMANSHIP: One marvels at the craftsmanship exhibited by 19th century stone carvers, using 19th century tools, The stone corbels, parapets and corner spires atop the tower are testament to that craftsmanship. Random granite ashlar masonry is tightly fitted to the stone gothic window arches.

FEELING: The church in its chosen form and setting, firmly sets itself in the late 19th century. If taken from its setting and sited elsewhere, St. Paul's would still be unmistakably a late 19th century Gothic revival church and nothing else.

ASSOCIATION: The church is a direct link to its designer, one of Iowa's most successful and important late 19th Century architects, William Foster and his firm Foster and Liebbe.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Polk County, Iowa

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 a 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1885

Significant Dates

1885

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Foster and Liebke Architects

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Polk County Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>15</u>	<u>447,572</u>	<u>4,604,232</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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 John H. Wetherell, Architect- retired e-mail: patches1@dwx.com
organization _____ date April 15, 2009
street & number 1016 Cedar Circle telephone (515) 280-7480
city or town West Des Moines state IA zip code 50266

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
street & number 815 High Street telephone (515) 288-7297
city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50309

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 8 Page 10 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
County and State Polk County, Iowa

8. Narrative Statement of Significance

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. The original building was designed by the firm of Foster and Liebbe, architects of Des Moines, one of Iowa's leading architecture firms of the late 19th century. The later Parish House addition was designed by Brooks-Borg Architects and Engineers also of Des Moines. While the addition is not significant, it does not detract from the church itself.

The church building is notable for its design influenced by late Gothic Revival styling. Architect William Foster earlier studied with and was employed by Richard Upjohn, a noted Boston architect. Upjohn was the founder of the American Institute of Architects and its first president.

The Gothic styling of Upjohn in many of his churches was skillfully employed by Foster in St. Paul's Church in Des Moines.

Sharing the significance with its designer, is St. Paul's status as the last remaining original church of the group of seven known as "Piety Hill". These included Methodist, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Presbyterian, Christian and Judaic churches and temples clustered in the district north of High Street between 6th and 10th Streets. (figure 7)

Of the seven only one, St. Paul's, elected to remain in its original location. The other churches elected to rebuild or have moved to follow the westward migration of Des Moines residents. Thus St. Paul's is the last vestige of the early Des Moines downtown churches existing on the west side of the river. (Figures 7,8)
St. Paul's remains there due to each succeeding Vestry's determination to remain a "downtown" church.

The period of significance under Criterion C for St. Paul's church is 1885, the year in which the building was completed.

Criterion consideration A has been satisfied because this property derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction as works of noted Iowa Architect William Foster and of the important 20th century firm of Brooks- Borg, Architects and Engineers.

The property contains one contributing resource, the 1885 church, with its 1953 addition.

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County and State Polk County, Iowa

8. Narrative statement of significance

BACKGROUND-EARLY HISTORY

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was organized in the then city of Fort Des Moines in 1854 and the first services in the first church were held in January of 1857. The church was located on the west side of 7th street between Walnut and Locust streets. Prior to the building of the church, services were held in the first Polk County Court House. The Reverend Dr. E. W. Peet, the first Episcopal rector chosen, urged the building of a church for themselves.

"We need a suitable place of worship. We have no spot we can call our own. The old courthouse, though often swept out on Saturdays by Episcopalian hands, is more often occupied without any ceremony during the morning church hour with Mormons, Indians, Universalists, infidels or some other religious sect and we must get some place else to worship" ⁵

The first St. Paul's faced to the east and was a frame building. It was subsequently added to, a number of times. The original cost was \$4,100.00.

The congregation grew out of the first building and in May of 1870, the vestry decided to purchase two lots from Mr. R.T. Christy for the sum of \$7,500.00. These lots were located on the corner of Ninth Street and Maple Street (now named High Street).

It took 13 years from 1870 to 1883 for the feasibility and expediency to bear fruit.. The architectural firm of Foster and Liebke was commissioned to design the church and construction was begun. The first services were held in the new St. Paul's on Easter 1885.

The old church on 7th street was subsequently sold for \$13,000.00.

The manual organ, baptismal font and the west stained glass window were retained and were moved to the new church.

5. Undated recollection

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION

The writer is indebted to the faithful transcribing of the minutes by then clerk of the Vestry George H. Henry during the planning and construction of St. Paul's. (1883-1885)

Unfortunately, Mr. Henry was the soul of brevity and the written minutes contain only brief mentions of the church during construction. The duties of the Clerk of the Vestry must have taken its toll on him. His hand written minutes grew more undecipherable as the months progressed. Finally the minutes were transcribed by another and Mr. Henry signed them.

Patience was the key to the planning process. Fifteen years elapsed from the time of the meeting that gave birth to the idea of building a new church and the purchase of the High Street lots, to the beginning of construction.

In January of 1883 the Vestry approved the advertising of the Seventh street church for sale, and approved also to form a committee to interview architects.

By April 30, the Vestry, apparently impatient with the slowness of the process of selection of an architect vested the committee (Mssrs. Thomas Hatton, J.L. Weeks and Seth Graham) again with the responsibility of the selection of an architect to procure plans for a new church.

Things then apparently proceeded with dispatch so that by May 1883, the search committee had selected the firm of Foster and Liebbe. The Vestry dispatched a committee (Hon. J.K. Kasson, Hatton, Weeks and Judge J.K. Love) to northwest Iowa and in the "Dakotas" to visit quarries.

By next month the committee was charged with asking Mr. B.B. Richards of Dubuque at what price "can his stone be laid down at Des Moines" and "wanted a comparison price of stone obtained at Anamosa."

In August 1883, Mr. Weeks was anxious to begin construction and asked the whether it would be expedient for bids to be taken for foundation work before receiving complete specifications. The Vestry decided to wait.

Apparently by September 17, 1883, plans and specifications were complete enough that the Vestry resolved that the architect advertise for bids "in the Register and also in Davenport or Dubuque". "Quarrymen" in "Dakota" were requested to send someone to Des Moines to bid the stone work. By October there was no response from the "quarrymen". Mr. Weeks visited Sioux Falls and returned with a contract on November 26, 1883 for stone to be furnished by the Penitentiary Authorities in Sioux Falls. (for \$950.00) Further resolved at that meeting, was that Regan Brothers and McGorrish be awarded the foundation work.

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Also "Foster and Liebbe were to be paid \$200.00 on their bill" Also by that date, the Dakota stone was selected.

Vestry minutes noted on November 12, 1883 that the bids for the new church amounted to about \$28,500.00 "*not including the tower*" (italics by the writer) In the opinion of the architects the following amounts could be saved;

- \$400.00 for not excavating under the chancel.
- \$3,500.00 for leaving the main auditorium unfinished.
- \$510.00 by reducing the height of the clerestory windows 2 feet, substituting slate for stone thereon.
- \$300.00 by using other stone trimmings.

Reportedly a savings of \$4,700.00

For the second time after the "bids noted in November, 12, 1883", the architects were directed to advertise for bids "*in such form as they may think best with the proposed changes and reserving the right to reject any or all bids*"⁸

Perhaps the "bids" noted on the November 12 Vestry minutes were actually the architects estimate of construction cost. At any rate the Vestry followed up that "*everything be done necessary to complete the work without having any other extras whatever*"⁸

On February 5, 1884, the secretary presented a bill from Foster and Liebbe for payment of the remaining \$200.00 on their account. This meeting also accepted the bids of Regan Brothers and McGorrish for stone work and of a Mr. Wright for carpentry work.

On February 11th contracts were executed for all. Mr. Wright was ordered to change to clustered iron columns in the nave. A contract with Pfiffer Stone Company was executed to furnish a stone coping and cross for the south gable of the church for \$150.00.

In July the Vestry authorized the contractor to solicit bids for heating and gas piping.

On July 7, 1884, bids for steam heating were submitted and on August 29th the steam heating capacity was to be "not less that 3000 s.f. of radiation"

All the procedures and Vestry minutes noted heretofore and those following, point to the Vestry acting as a general contractor, receiving sub bids and executing contracts for sub contract work.

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8. Narrative Statement of Significance

A superintendent was mentioned in the Vestry minutes of September 9, 1884. This person was requested to "obtain from the several contractors and sub-contractors, waivers of lien". It is surprising that the work had progressed this far without this agreement being in place. The minutes of July 20, 1884 mention a bill from Foster and Liebbe for services as a superintendent.

On October 6, 1884 Mr. Wright whose work was described as "carpentry" presented a request for an extra for \$1,000.00 on his contract. The writer believes that "carpentry" work then entailed much more work than we now think of as "carpentry" only, referring to his earlier request for extra money for quatrefoil columns in the nave. At any rate dissention was raised among the Vestry members. *"It was moved that Mr. Wright be allowed \$500.00 extra on his contract and that the building committee so notify Mr. Wright that, in the event that Mr. Wright's refusal to accept this offer, that Mr. Henry (Vestry clerk) be requested to draw up the proper contract with Mr. Wright, releasing the Parish from all liability to him under the former contract and further, that the building committee be empowered to supply workmen (to bring) the work to speedy conclusion"*⁹ The writer found a further mention of Mr. Wright in the Vestry minutes, indicating perhaps Mr. Wright did accept the \$500.00.

The stained glass windows from the 7th street church were to sold or disposed of, this noted in the Vestry minutes of January 27, 1885. By the next month the rector had decided to use them in the "arcade" (perhaps the narthex)

By April 4, 1885 the building costs so far exceeded the estimates, that it was determined that the only means of paying the indebtedness is by the sale and income from the pews. *"Parties who wish only a few seats in pews, would be encouraged to find others with whom the pew costs could be shared" and "It was decided that every person who attended may be seated whether their contributions may be much or little"*¹⁰

It is curious that the first service in the new church on Easter morning 1885 (some say the night before) was unremarked upon by the Vestry in their minutes. The Vestry met on Easter Monday to elect 11 Vestrymen.

9. Vestry Minutes
10. Vestry Minutes

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 15 Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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Section 8 Narrative Statement of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is significant because it calls attention to the Architects, Foster and Liebbe, whose practice was considered as one of the largest of the then Iowa group of practitioners and that of Brooks-Borg Architects and Engineers.

Foster's work includes three prominent Des Moines churches. These were Central Christian Church 1889 at Ninth and Pleasant, now demolished, First Methodist Church 1888 at Tenth and Pleasant, also demolished and St. Paul's, Ninth and High completed in 1885. William Foster having studied with and been employed by Richard Upjohn, exhibits the Gothic Revival styles learned under Upjohn. The 1953 addition featured work by Brooks-Borg Architects and Engineers, a highly credited Des Moines architectural firm. The addition complements the architecture of the original church.

THE ARCHITECTS FOR ST. PAUL'S 1885 CHURCH- FOSTER AND LIEBBE

William Foster (1842-1909) was one of the most important Iowa architects of the nineteenth century. His firm was one of the first that was able to obtain the commissions for large and complex buildings that previously went to out-of-state architects. He was very much an entrepreneur, engaging also in building construction and in land speculation. In his middle fifties he left architectural practice to become a successful theatrical manager.

William Foster was born in New York. After completing his education there, he obtained his architectural education as an apprentice with Richard Upjohn. Upjohn was notable as a pioneer of the Gothic Revival style in the United States, the author of a plan book of designs for rural churches in that style, and the founder of the American Institute of Architects and its first President. This experience with Upjohn was probably Foster's main source of architectural training. In 1867 Foster, came to Des Moines, where he immediately went into practice. Foster included in his specifications for the Wesley Redhead barn, an ad stating *"Wm. Foster, Architect, Builder, and Superintendent, Gives Special Attention to the Preparation and Execution of Plans and Designs for Cottages, Town Houses, Villas, Churches, Rural Improvements, Stores, &c. Reliable Estimates of Cost Furnished."*

Foster retired from the practice of architecture in 1896. He was then able to devote his full attention to another occupation, one in which he had been engaging for several years. Around 1880 he had become the proprietor of the Academy of Music at Fourth and Walnut Streets in Des Moines, changing its name in about three years to the "Foster Opera House."

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Section 8 Narrative Statement of Significance

By about 1891 he was also manager of the Grand Opera House, and around 1901 was lessor and manager of the Auditorium, thus virtually monopolizing the theatrical industry in Des Moines.

William Foster died on December 30, 1909, asphyxiated because a gas jet in a bathroom heater in his home was accidentally left open. (Figures No. 15, 16)

Henry Frantz Liebbe (1851-1927) was a partner in Foster and Liebbe Architects and also an important partner in another early-twentieth-century successor firm. Born near Bremen, Germany, Liebbe came to America when he was four years old. The family settled in Muscatine. After twelve years there he came to Des Moines, where he lived for the rest of his life. Around 1876 Liebbe began working for William Foster as a draftsman. In 1883 Liebbe became William Foster's partner in the firm of Foster & Liebbe. Coincidentally that year saw the beginning of the association with the design of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

It is to be noted that Foster and Liebbe were retained to design St. Paul's church in May of 1883, apparently while Foster was engaged as an entrepreneur with the Academy of Music. It is unknown whether these two occurrences were related and perhaps occasioned by Foster's need for time to attend to his Academy of Music business.

Foster's work and that of Foster and Liebbe covered the latter part of the 19th century in Iowa with a monumental amount of work. Three churches in Des Moines are credited to Foster and Foster and Liebbe. Only St. Paul's remains in Des Moines. It is clear to the writer however that the design of St. Paul's is the work of William Foster.

A partial list of church works by William Foster and/or Foster and Liebbe follows:

Catholic Church	Boone, Iowa	No longer existing
Central Christian Church	Des Moines, Iowa	No longer existing
First Methodist Church	Des Moines, Iowa	No longer existing
St. Paul's Episcopal Church	Des Moines, Iowa	Existing
First Methodist Episcopal Church	Washington, Iowa	No longer existing
Presbyterian Church	Keota, Iowa	No longer existing
Congregational Church	Des Moines, Iowa	No longer existing
German Catholic Church	Des Moines, Iowa	No longer existing

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Section 8 Narrative Statement of Significance

Various sources list over 90 commissions, the eight churches among them attributed to William Foster and/or Foster and Liebbe. Their practice covered all types of commissions, among them; Court Houses, Schools, Business offices, Banks, Dwellings, a Hotel, Opera Houses, a State Penitentiary, and a Hospital for the Insane.

ARCHITECTS FOR ST. PAUL'S 1953 PARISH HOUSE-BROOKS BORG, ARCHITECTS-ENGINEERS

Plans for an addition to St. Paul's were designed by the firm of Brooks Borg Architects and Engineers of Des Moines and were dated September 1950. The construction was completed circa 1953. The Vestry decision to employ Brooks Borg as architects for the addition was guided by the experience of long time excellence of design exhibited by the firm. It was a decision that produced the harmonious addition existing today.

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Please note that there are no records extant except those of the minutes of the Vestry meetings, that at times, noted progress for the selection of the architect and the building of the church. The following are responses to questions asked by Mr. Ralph Christian SHPO staff member in an earlier review of January 29, 1987.

1. What were the influences that led St. Paul's to erect such a high style church? What liturgical requirements dictated a Gothic Revival church?

We must surmise that since the Episcopal roots are entrenched in England, that the vestry then instructed the Foster firm to design a small English style church. The liturgy of the Episcopal Church follows the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, first published in 1555. In the view of the writer, the vestry may have left the final design form to the architect. The writer does not hold with the reviewer's view that this is a high style church.

2. The church history might have indicated that a number of architects were "interviewed" before Foster and Liebbe were selected. Who were they?

No records exist listing the names of architectural firms called to interview for the new church building, although the minutes of the vestry of January 16, 1883 stated that "different architects were to be interviewed. . ." The vestry minutes of April 30, 1883 only note "on motion of Mr. Hatton, Messrs Love, Weeks and Graham were approved to procure plans for a new church". The vestry minutes of May 28 stated "the committee on plans submitted a ground plan by Foster and Liebbe which was approved so far as to authorize the committee to go on and have drawings made of elevations. The committee were on motion further instructed to employ Foster and Liebbe as architects to prepare complete drawings, plans and specifications and attend to letting of contracts to be paid therefore not to exceed \$400.00".

3. Was Foster a member of St. Paul's?

Our records do not indicate that William Foster himself was an Episcopalian although his funeral service was conducted by Rev. R. H. Bell, St. Paul's current rector. Foster had married twice, the second time to a Louise A. Harris of Des Moines. A list of communicants of St. Paul's from the parish record of 1853 show a Louisa W.B. Foster. A Des Moines Register obituary dated October 11, 1941 lists the death of Mrs. William Foster. We cannot verify that Louisa W. B. Foster and Louise Foster are the same person. Burial records of St. Paul's however show the rites for Wm. Foster taking place on Saturday, January 1, 1910. No records exist to indicate that Foster, not shown as a communicant, had any inside track in obtaining the design commission

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4. *Foster is said to have studied architecture with Richard Upjohn before moving to Des Moines. Upjohn was a major figure in promoting Gothic Revival, Are there any references to this Upjohn connection in church records and any indication this gave Foster an inside track?*

William Foster studied with Richard Upjohn before decamping and coming to Iowa. One of Upjohn's commissions was the Trinity Church in New York. The Trinity tower could have been the genesis for the Foster tower design for St. Paul's. No references to Foster's association with Upjohn exist in the records of the church. The writer would surmise that since Foster was the penultimate salesman, he probably mentioned his association with Upjohn during his interviews with the Vestry.

5. *Does St. Paul's possess the original drawings and specifications drawn up by the firm of Foster and Liebbe?*

We have found no original building plans or specifications for St. Paul's. It was then customary for architects to sketch plans and elevations for approval and proceed to working drawing by either completing the drawings themselves or directing a draft person to do so, or to work jointly with the draftsman. We have no finished plans to determine whether it was Wm. Foster or Liebbe who drew them or perhaps they were drawn by a draft person. The original sketches, submitted to the vestry however were surely the work of William Foster. The original sketches do not exist anymore either.

6. *Who was the Contractor for the project?*

It appears that the construction was sub-contracted out to various builders, masonry and carpentry being the principal trades. Regan and McGorish were associated for the masonry work and a Mr. Wright for carpentry work. Carpentry then included more different kinds of work that we presently experience. The vestry apparently fulfilled the role of a present day General Contractor. Refer to "Thumbnail Sketches of Original Construction"

7. *To what extent, if any, did Foster and Liebbe supervise construction?*

There was some involvement by Foster and Liebbe in the overall observation of construction. It was later in construction when the cost of the work began to run over the budget amount. Apparently the vestry attempted to go it alone early on.

8. *Were efforts made to model St. Paul's after some other church?*

There are no records pointing to this.

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9. To what extent, if any, has the original interior plan been altered. How much original material is present?

The main floor chancel setting was extended to accommodate an enlarged choir and to bring the altar forward. Original fabric from the floor up remains the same. Flooring is contemporary. Reredos and altar are newer. Refer to "Changes to 1885 Church Interior Main Floor" Section 7 page 5

9. Major Bibliographical Sources

Carss, Annie Park Recollection letter dated Monday August 30 (no year cited)
City of Des Moines Engineer Drawings, Profiles to Establish Grade, High Street and 8th St. 4/23/23
Foster, William Title page specifications, Wesley Redhead House and Barn 1867
McLaughlin, Lillian Des Moines Tribune "Remember" circa March, 1976
Peete, Rev. Dr. E.W. Unattributed recollection, undated.
Vestry Minutes of June 13, 1923
Vestry Minutes of January 11, 1924
Vestry Minutes of November 12, 1883
Vestry Minutes of October 6, 1884
Vestry Minutes of April 4, 1885

Primary Location of Additional Material

Additional material is located in the vault in The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines, Polk County Iowa

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 4 and 5 and S ½ lot 6 Block 1 Holcombs Addition and Lots 1 thru 7 M A Illsleys Sub Div.

Boundary Justification

Contains all land historically associated with the resource. Land described in the Legal Description

Photographs

List of Photographs

Photographer: John H. Wetherell

Negatives held : Vault, Cathedral Church of St. Paul

1. Street Corner, Ninth and High Streets. South and West elevations.
Looking Northeast. February 16, 2009
2. South and East elevations. Looking Northwest. February 16, 2009
3. West and part North elevations looking Southeast. February 16, 2009
4. North elevation. Looking Southwest. January 19, 2009
5. Interior Nave showing Chancel and Altar. Looking North. January 19, 2009
6. Interior Nave showing "Rose Window" Looking South. February 16, 2009

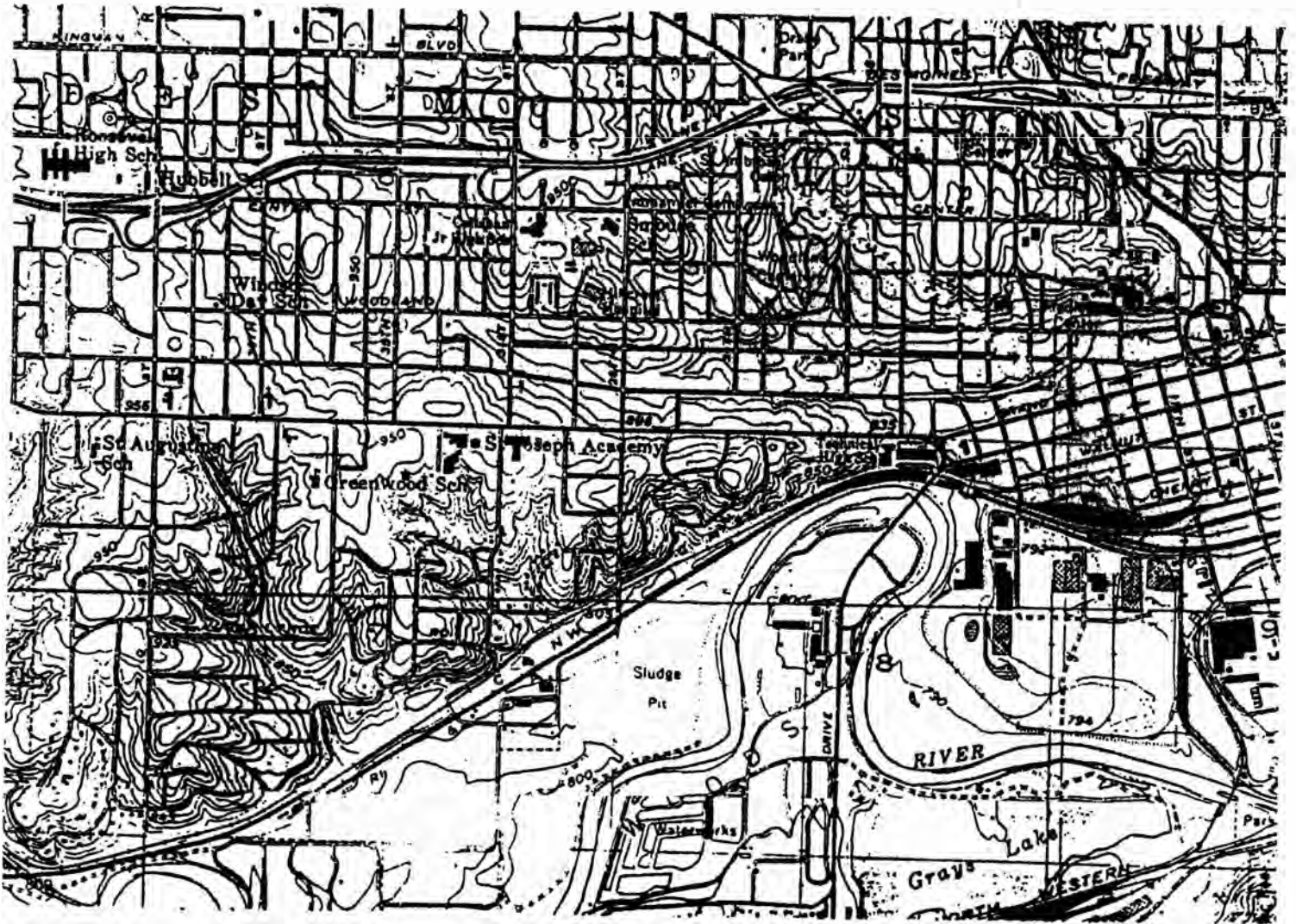
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Figure no. 1

U.S.G.S. Topographical Map



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Des Moines SW Quadrangle, 1956, Photorevised 1976.

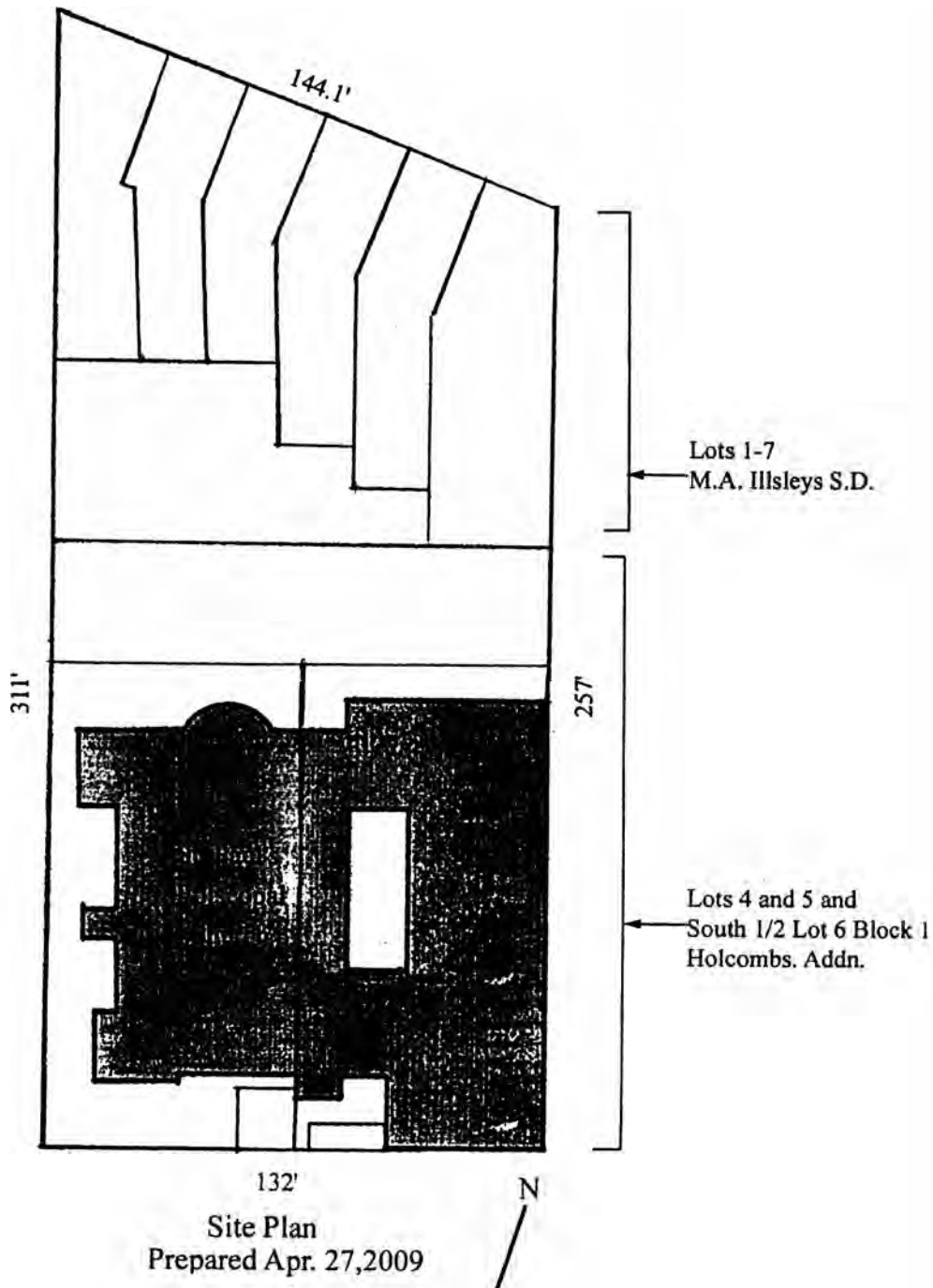


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Figure no.3



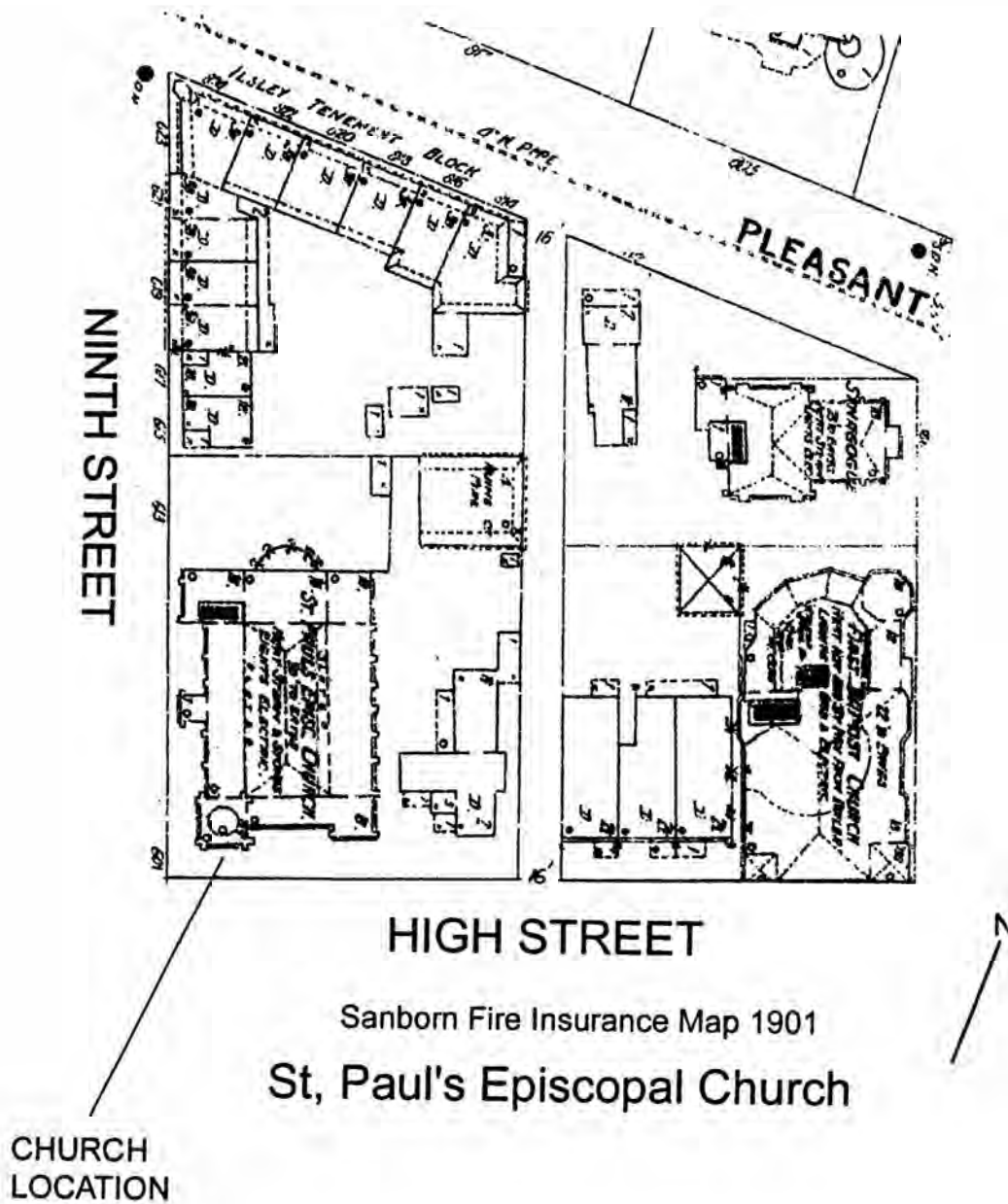
Plan source: City of Des Moines Assessors office.

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Figure no. 4

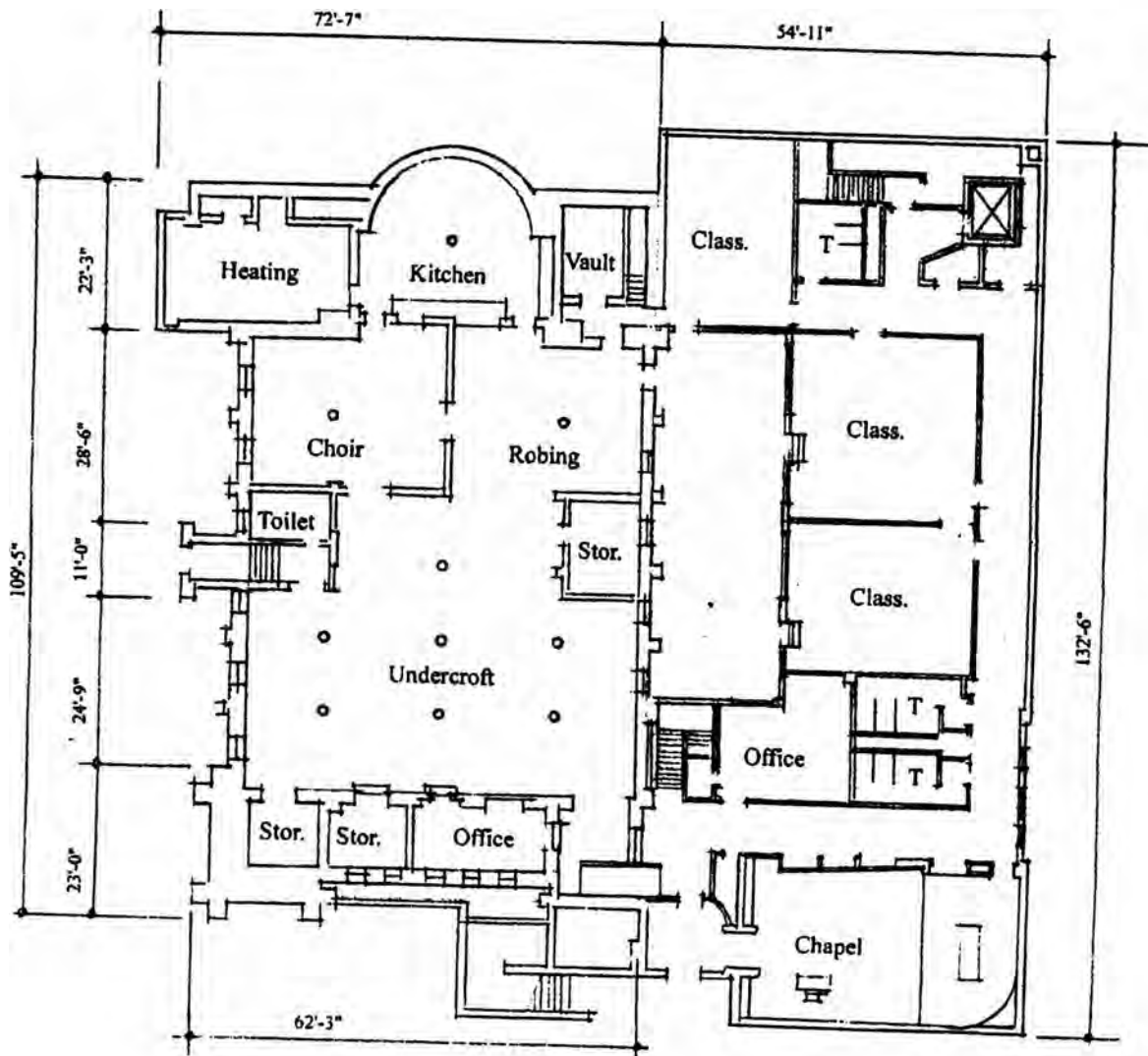


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Figure no. 5



Basement Undercroft Floor Plan

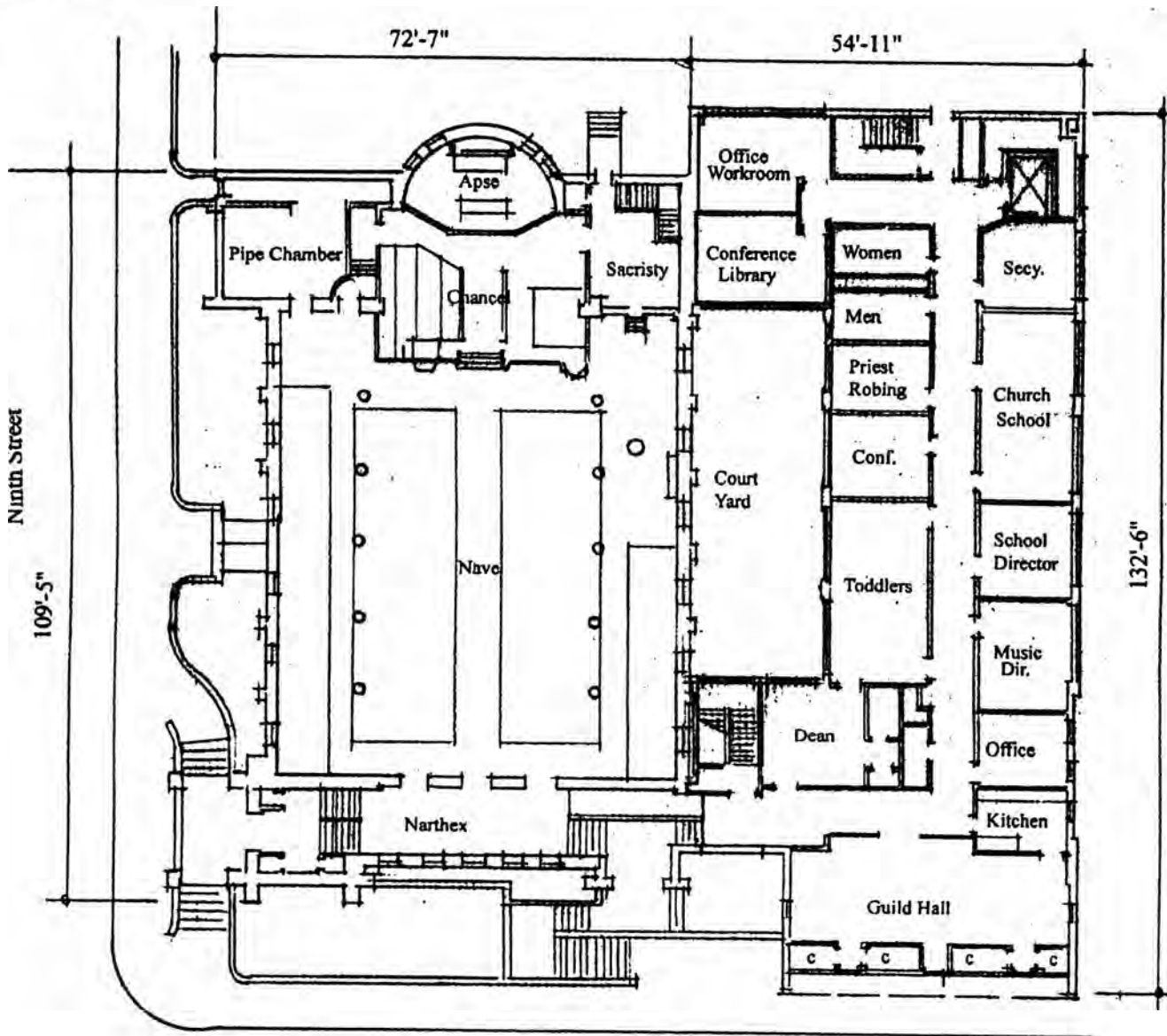
Del. John H. Wetherell
Jan 12, 2009
Measured Drawing

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Figure no. 6



High Street
First Floor Plan



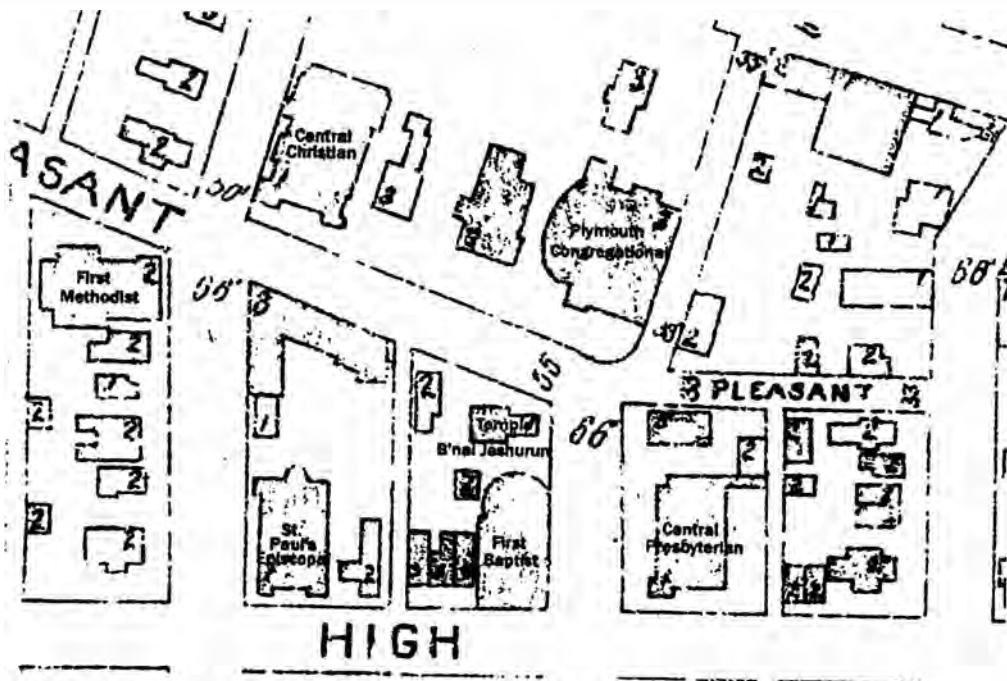
Del. John H. Wetherell
Jan 12, 2009
Measured Drawing

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Figure no. 7



Piety Hill Neighbors

Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1891

Identification added: Del. John H. Wetherell

Jan 12, 2009

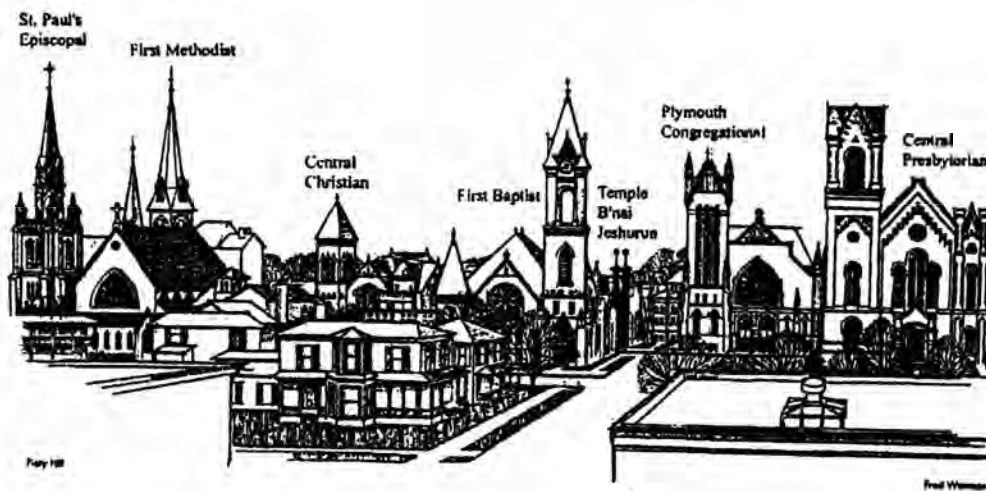


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Figure no. 8



The Seven Spires of Des Moines Piety Hill ⁴

By Lillian McLaughlin

The Des Moines downtown area between High and Pleasant Streets, Sixth to Tenth long ago was called-jocularly and not irreverently, it is hoped-Piety Hill. From that "hill" as the nineteenth century moved toward the twentieth, steeples of houses of worship representing most of Des Moines' religious community pointed heavenward.

A scenic postcard, one found in many Des Moines collections, entitled "Seven Church Spires of Des Moines, Iowa" recalls this skyline of an earlier day and is the inspiration for another drawing by artist Weinman

Those spires are symbolic fingers probing the history of the earliest religious organizations, little clusters of the faithful banding together in the days when Des Moines still was Fort Des Moines

The post card's sweep covering only a portion of "the hill" begins at left with St. Paul's Episcopal at Ninth and High, back a bit to an earlier First Methodist Church at Ninth and Pleasant, a Central Christian Church

at 825 Pleasant St. razed in 1971; First Baptist, rebuilt, but still clinging to Piety Hill at the Northwest corner of Eighth and High (Now under a new owner and use) On that Eighth and Pleasant corner a turret topped with the Star of David, an early Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Plymouth Congregational, which stood on Pleasant until Eight Street was opened up, then was torn down, and Central Presbyterian at the northeast corner of Eight and High, which later gave way to the Bankers Life

(There are other churches of Piety Hill, outside the camera's eye for the "Seven Spires" post card. St. Ambrose which was to become the Des Moines Catholic Diocese cathedral in 1911 was at Sixth Avenue and High Street in the 1890s as it is today. St. John's Lutheran stands at Sixth Street and Keosauqua Way, there since 1890, and at 823-927 Eighth St. for many years, a First Church of Christ Scientist.)

St. Paul's began in Fort Des Moines in 1854, held services in an early

county courthouse building in those early days.

At times Piety Hill became something of a chess board. When B'nai Jeshurun moved to its new temple at Fifty-first Street and Grand Avenue, First Baptist bought the property, used its space for church activities when the depression halted for a few years its expansion plans

St. John's Lutheran members as their new downtown church was being built, moved over the Christian Science building on Eighth and the followers of Mary Baker Eddy met at Hoyt Sherman Place (now the Des Moines Women's Club) until their handsome church was completed at 3750 Grand Ave.

Not seven but three church spires are tucked in among the big buildings-those of St. Paul's (sole remaining original Piety Hill church) . St. Ambrose and St. John's

Lovely to look at as one rounds the corner of a getting and spending world, those dauntless survivors of old Piety Hill

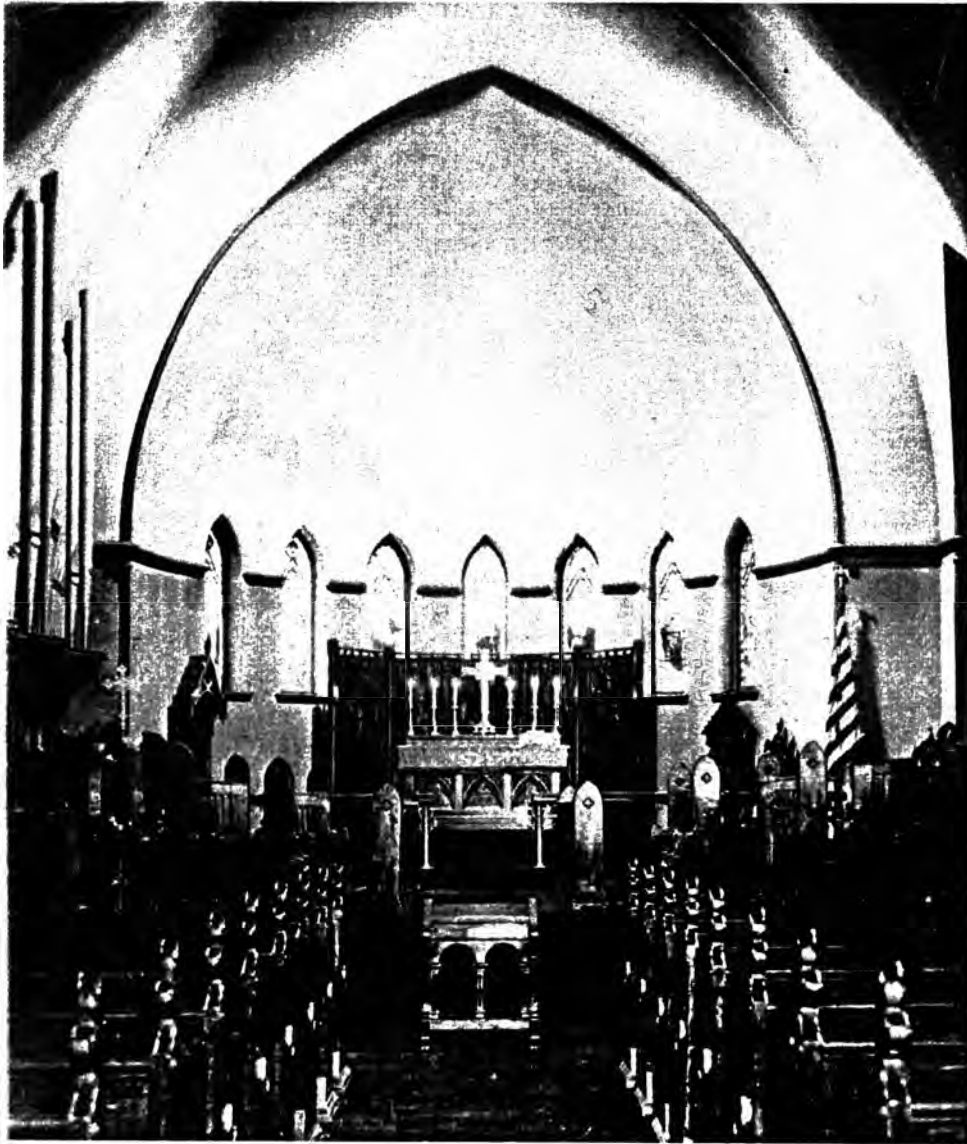
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Figure no. 12

Historic Photograph



Chancel looking North
Circa 1900
Photographer Unknown
Photo stored-Vault St. Paul's

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Figure no. 13

Historic Photograph



Chancel looking North
Circa 1937
Photographer Unknown
Photo stored-Vault St. Paul's

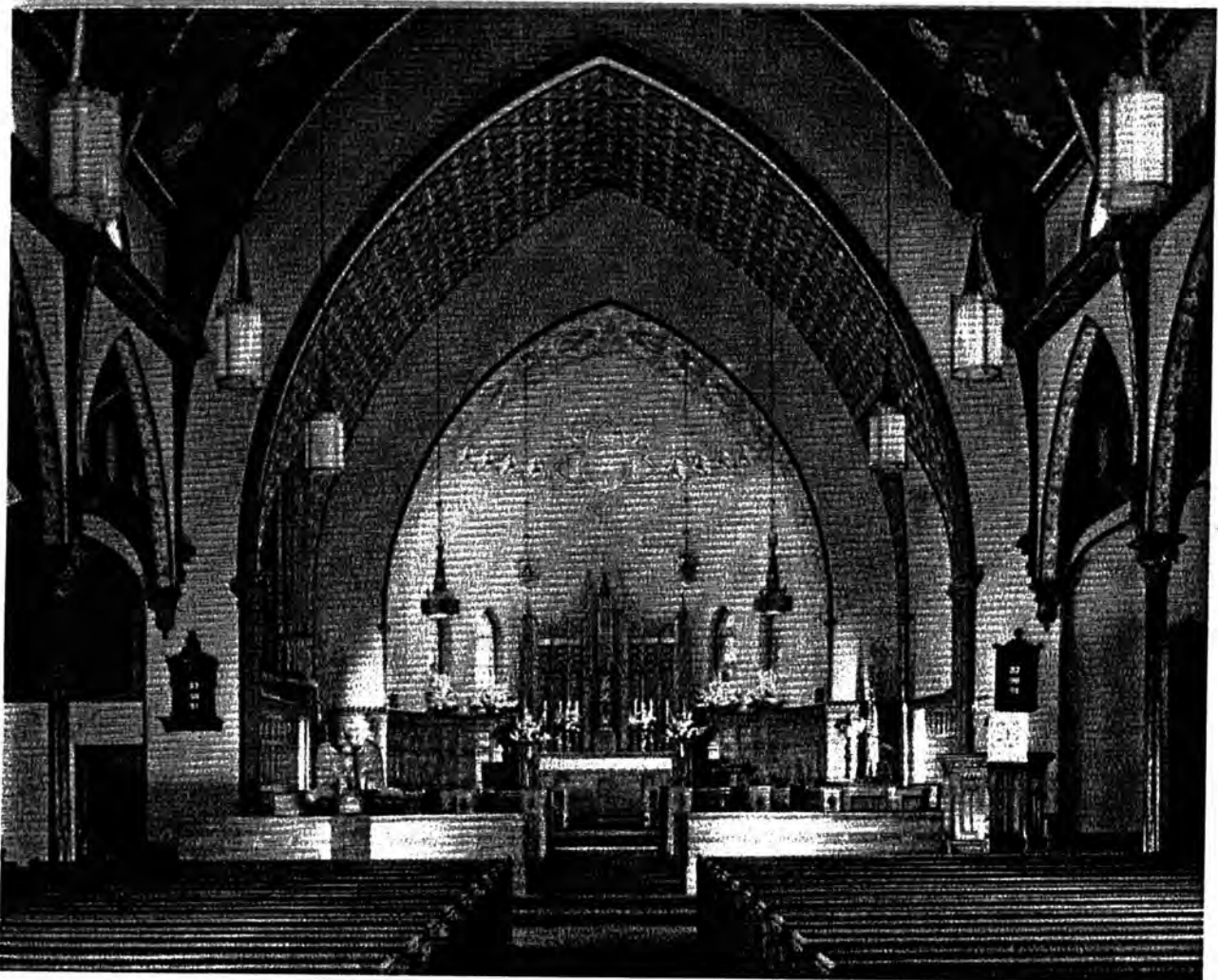
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Figure no. 14

Historic Photograph



Nave/Chancel looking North
Circa 1947
Photographer Unknown
Photo stored-Vault St. Paul's

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Figure no. 15

1909, TEN PAGES, ONE COPY

THEATER MAN IS FOUND DEAD IN BED



WM. FOSTER AND L. BEMIS ASPHYXIATED

Veteran Business Man Found Dead in Bed at His Home.

LOUIS BEMIS ALSO SUCCUMBS

Tragedy Visits Happy House Party at Prominent Des Moines Home.

William Foster, owner of Foster's and the Grand opera houses, and Louis Bemis of Des Moines, Ia., a guest at the Foster home, were found dead in their beds in a room at the Foster residence, 333 Grand avenue, at 8:45 o'clock this morning. The room was full of illuminating gas. The door of the bathroom adjoining was open and a gas heating stove inside was turned on and lighted. Gas had escaped where the tube was but loosely attached to the jet. It is presumed that Mr. Foster, according to his custom, got up in the night, lighted the stove and went back to bed to sleep until the room should become warm. Death came upon Bemis' who has married the daughter of a prominent Des Moines family, the daughter of Mr. Foster's daughter Helen, aged 14.

The Foster estate is estimated at \$25,000 in addition to \$25,000 life insurance. Mrs. Foster and her three daughters survive. The daughters are Mary, aged 21, Helen, 15; and Fanny, 16 years.

The Foster home has been the scene of a gay house party during the holidays. Among the guests were Bobey and the dead boy, aged 11 years, who was the only sweetheart of Miss Fanny. He was

CANDIDATES IN

WILLIAM FOSTER,
Owner of the Grand theater and Foster's theater, who, with Louis Bemis, was asphyxiated at the Foster home on Thirty-ninth street and Grand avenue early this morning.

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Figure no. 16

FOSTER FUNERAL SATURDAY MORNING

Plans for Conducting Business Await Probating of Will of Theatrical Manager—Foster's Opera House Will Probably Give Way to Office Building.

The funeral of William Foster, late opera house owner, killed by gas yesterday, will be held from the residence, 2920 Grand avenue at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Rev. R. H. B. Bell will conduct a short service at the home and another at the city receiving vault in Woodland cemetery where the body will rest for a time. Later it will be taken to Davenport for cremation, in accordance with the desire of the family and that of Mr. Foster.

Edward Millard, manager for the Foster theatrical interests, refuses to make any statement as to the plans for conducting the opera house business until after the will is probated.

The body of Louis Herms, the 14-year-old boy killed in the same room with Mr. Foster, was taken to Spencer, Ia., at 8:40 o'clock this morning accompanied by E. E. Floote and R. Bender, friends of the family.

It is probable that the Grand and Fos-

ter's opera houses will be sold after the probaton of the will. It was the desire of Mr. Foster, frequently mentioned to intimate friends, to retire altogether from the amusement business. He expected to remodel the Foster's opera house block into a business block with stores on the ground floor and to sell the Grand. These plans will likely be carried out by the executors of the estate.

Rumors concerning the extent of the estate left by Mr. Foster were contradicted today by Charles Martin, president of the People's Savings bank, personal friend and banker of Mr. Foster. "So far as is known Mr. Foster's estate is comprised simply of the list of property given in The Evening Tribune yesterday," said Mr. Martin. "nothing except the two opera houses and the private residence on Grand avenue and \$25,000 life insurance."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY St. Paul's Episcopal Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/04/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/19/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/05/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000129

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3-31-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
POLK COUNTY, IOWA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 1



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
POLK COUNTY, IOWA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 2



ST. PAULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
POLK COUNTY, IOWA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 3



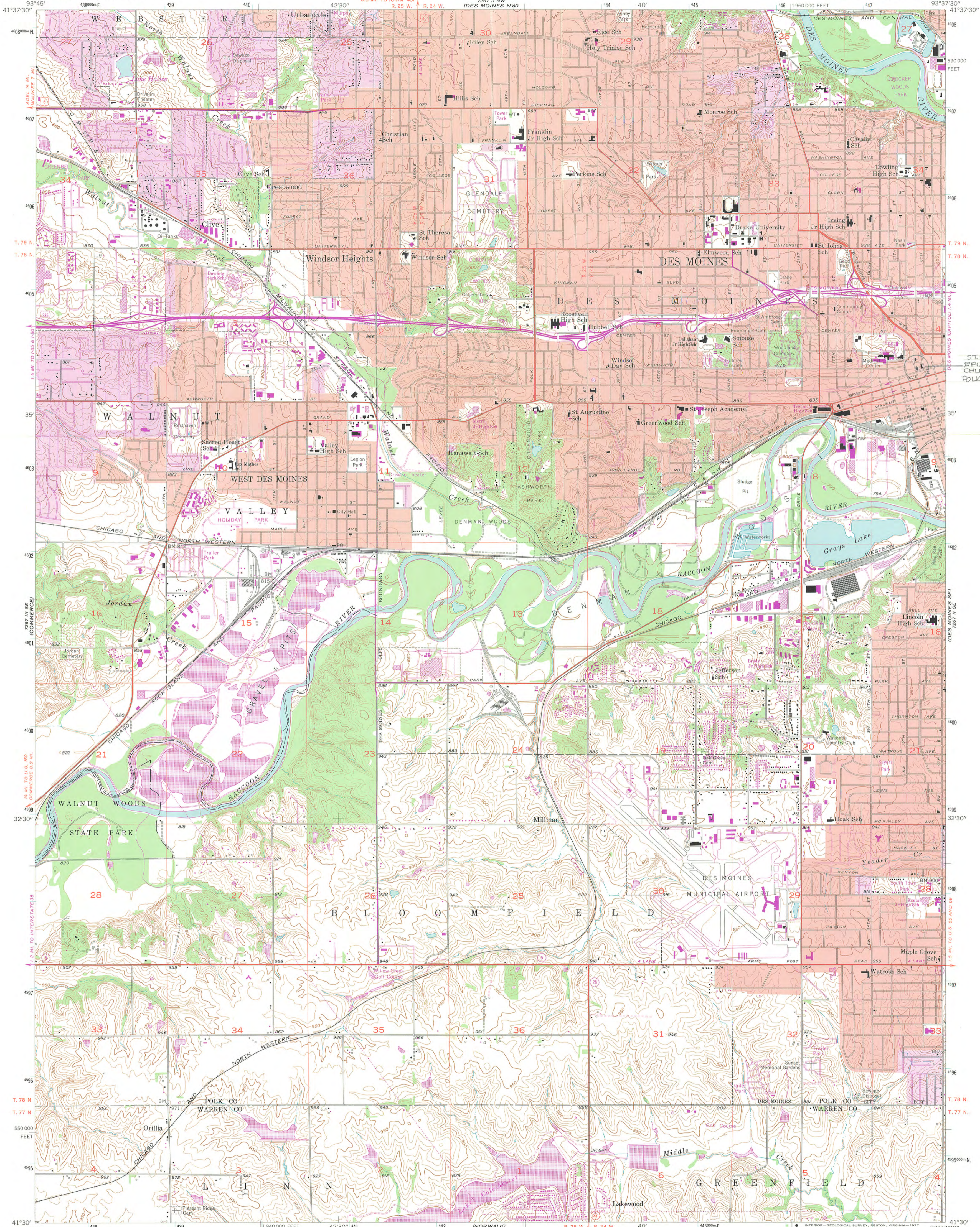
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOLK COUNTY, IONA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 4



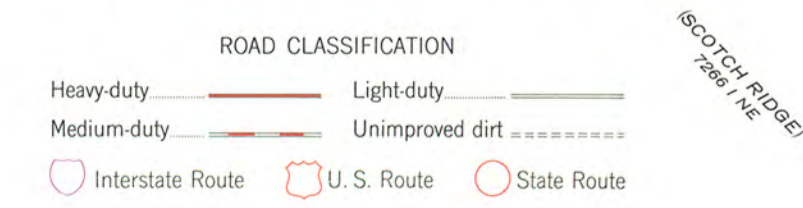
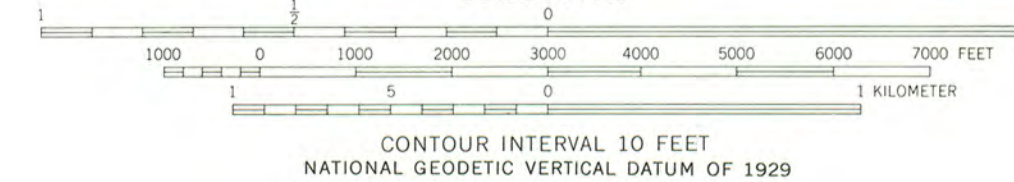
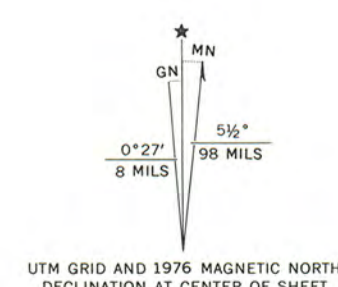
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOLK COUNTY, IOWA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 5



ST. PAULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
FOLK COUNTY, IOWA
PHOTOGRAPH NO. 6



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with Polk County and the City of Des Moines Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Iowa Geodetic Survey Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsch plotter Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1956 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system. south zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown City boundaries of Des Moines, West Des Moines, Clive, Urbandale, and Windsor Heights are in litigation Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1967, 1971, and 1976. This information not field checked Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA 52240
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

DES MOINES SW, IOWA
SW/4 DES MOINES 15' QUADRANGLE
N4130—W9337.5/7.5

1956
PHOTOREVISED 1967, 1971, AND 1976
AMS 7267 II SW—SERIES 8786

CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name Des Moines Date of Public Meeting 9/14/09

Property Name St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 High Street, Des Moines, Polk County

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 9/24/09

Print Name Jason Van Essen

Title Senior City Planner

Reason(s) for recommendation:

Concur with the findings in the nomination form.

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 9/30/09

Print Name T. M. Franklin Cownie

Title Mayor

Reason(s) for recommendation:

3. Professional Evaluation:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 10/8/09

Print Name RAULF J. CHRISTIAN

Title HISTORIAN

Reason(s) for recommendation:



January 26, 2010

Carol Shull, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listed if acceptable.

- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 High Street Des Moines, Polk County

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill
Tax Incentive Programs Manager/
National Register Coordinator