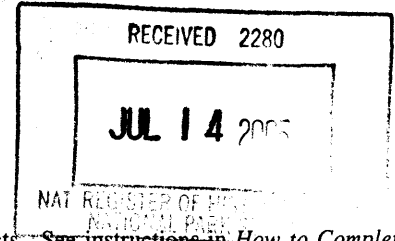


904

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration 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" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an 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. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 12472 Jones County Road X28 N/A not for publication

city or town Stone City N/A vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Jones code 105 zip code 52205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally statewide locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Rowell Lake
Signature of certifying official/Title
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

July 13, 2005
Date

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 W. Beall
Signature of Keeper

8-24-05
Date of Action

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Late Gothic Revival

foundation	<u>Stone</u>
walls	<u>Stone</u>
roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
other	<u>Metal</u>
	<u>Glass</u>

Narrative Description

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

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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" on all the lines 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 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1913

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beck, Guido

Braun, Otto

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

- previous determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Record
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historical Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
Name of Property

Jones County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 15 | 635 | 502 | 4663999 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | | | | |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | | | | |

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 William C. Page, Public Historian

organization Jones County Historic Preservation Commission date November 30, 2004

street & number 520 East Sheridan Ave. (Page) telephone 515-243-5740

city or town Des Moines state IA zip code 50313-5017

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Archdiocese of Dubuque

street & number Chancery, 1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue telephone 563-556-2580

city or town Dubuque state IA zip code 52003

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Begun in 1912 and completed in 1913, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is a massive, masonry load-bearing edifice located on a picturesque hillside above the Wapsipinicon River in Stone City, Iowa. Several historic photographs picture the building soon after it was constructed. A comparison of these images with the building's present appearance shows that it retains a high degree of integrity. The building is in excellent condition with few exterior changes since its construction. It does need some tuck-pointing.

The Archdiocese of Dubuque owns and maintains the property. Although the building is no longer in regular use as a church, the archdiocese has designated it an oratory, and services are held in the building on special occasions.

EXTERIOR

The exterior walls of St. Joseph's are of square-cut ashlar, Dolomite limestone with a rock (or quarry) face. The stone is laid in regular courses with natural-colored mortar joints, tooled with a beaded (or convex) face. The church is covered with a steeply pitched, front gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The main block of the building measures about 43' x 70'. A bell tower is situated on the northwest corner of the building. The footprint of this tower projects 7' in front of the front façade of the building. A flat roof with a castellated parapet caps the tower. A 9.5', 1-story wing extends from the northeast corner of the main block. The building is situated on the side of a steep hillside, which descends into the river valley. The rear of the building includes a high foundation to adjust for this change in grade. The front façade of the church faces west.

A stone water table surrounds the base of the building. On the front façade, double, wooden doors, slightly inset in an arched opening, access the building. A quatrefoil window surmounts this arched opening. Two small arched windows are symmetrically situated above the main entrance, and a round, quatrefoil window is centered above them. Staggered, stone buttresses are situated on the southwest corner of the building. A stone pilaster projects from the front façade between this corner and the main entrance. A large, stone cross surmounts the front façade's denticulated parapet.

The bell tower is the building's most detailed architectural element. It possesses two components—the tower proper and a belfry inset slightly above it. The tower features a series of three staggered, stone buttresses situated on each of its corners. The lower level of the tower possesses a small, arched window. Large, arched windows—the largest in the church—are situated in the middle section of the tower on its north and east elevations. The belfry possesses a pair of arched windows on each of its four elevations. These openings feature colored glass. Castellations surround the belfry and stair-step slightly upward from its corners to the center. St. Joseph's has never possessed a bell.

The nave section of the church along its north and south elevations features four bays, defined by stone pilasters. Paired windows fill these bays at the basement level. Large, pointed arched windows with wood tracery and colored glass fill the bays at the sanctuary level. An outside entrance to the basement

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

is situated in the second bay from the west on its north elevation. A large, stone chimney is situated near the northeast corner of the north slope of the main roof. Two such chimneys are located on its south slope, one near its southeast end and one near its southwest end.

The rear of the building features a wing on its northeast corner. This wing is covered with low-pitched, hipped roof. The wing flanks the chancel. The chancel is the full height of the building and is covered with a hipped extension of the main roof. The wing possesses 1/1, double-hung sash windows on the north and east elevations and an exterior door on the west elevation. A metal fire escape leads from the first floor of this wing to grade.

St. Joseph's has been well maintained over the years. During World War II, a new roof was put on the church, with the labor likely supplied by members of the parish. (Letter of Proxy: April 3, 1943) Following the war, the interior of the building was redecorated, the plaster repaired, and new lighting fixtures and floor covering were installed, at a cost of some \$1,500.00. (*Ibid.*: February 3, 1947) In 1975, the church was resingled at a cost of some \$2,000.00. Storm windows (\$1,000.00) were installed in 1977 and the church interior repainted at a cost of \$600.00 (*Ibid.*: January 2, 1975) In 1986, a series of repairs, described below, redecorated the interior.

INTERIOR

The interior of the building features, on the first floor, a narthex, confessional, sanctuary, sacristy, and storage room. A full basement is situated beneath the first floor.

Narthex

The front entrance to the church accesses the narthex. An interior set of double doors leads to the sanctuary. Staircases to the balcony and basement are situated in the tower north of the narthex. A door on the south side of the narthex leads to the present-day confessional.

Confessional

The confessional is a small room situated on the south side of the narthex. A hinged, wooden divider separates an area for the priest and the penitent. The confessional at St. Joseph's originally was situated on the south side of the chancel. In 1986, this confessional was moved to its present location, along with the divider. During worship services, the confessional doubled as a cry room.

Sanctuary

The floorplan of the sanctuary is laid out as a nave and chancel. The nave features a central aisle flanked by side aisles and decorative elements, including stained glass windows said to have been

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

manufactured in Germany (Erwin Lowe). The chancel, situated at the eastern end of the sanctuary, is on a raised platform. The chancel features a large, Carrara marble altar imported from Italy. The walls of the sanctuary were recently repainted and stenciled with gold embellishments. The chancel features a series of crosses worked in the plaster. A redecoration project in 1986 picked some of these crosses out in gold paint. A choir loft is situated at the rear of the sanctuary in a balcony above the narthex. An electric organ is also situated in the balcony. Previously, a reed organ likely served as a musical instrument.

St. Joseph's features a series of notable stained glass windows, created at the time of the building's erection, by the art glass studio of Flanagan and Biedenweg of Chicago, Illinois. A list of the church furnishings names that firm, along with the expenditure of \$844.13 to it for "windows." (*Financial Report of the Building Committee*) Flanagan and Biedenweg was a nationally known firm in the early 20th century, noted for its Munich-style stained glass. <www.christchurchbluefield.org> The windows in the sanctuary depict, among others, St. Patrick, St. George and the Dragon, John the Baptist, the Crucifixion, and Christ's Ascension. Further research is recommended concerning these windows, as they might possess artistic significance in their own right. As an artistic influence, the so-called "Munich style" refers to expert painting on relatively large glass panels (as opposed to the medieval technique of smaller pieces of colored glass held in a leaded framework), developed at the Royal Bavarian Stained Glass Manufactory in Munich, Germany, during the 19th century and taken over by art glass studios in the United States.

The sanctuary is further embellished with other religious objects, including Stations of the Cross, two side altars, one with the figures of the Virgin and Christ and one with the figure of St. Joseph. These objects were purchased through the Daprato Statuary Company, the former for a cost of \$292.00 and the latter figures at a cost of \$100.60. The Daprato firm of Chicago was a noted early 20th century supplier of ecclesiastical furnishings. The Vermont Marble Company supplied the marble for these side altars. (*Ibid.*) Located in Rutland County, Vermont, this firm has been noted for its luminous white marble for more than 100 years.

The sanctuary walls have been decorated and redecorated multiple times. An early photograph of the interior pictures the walls without decoration and possibly with bare plaster. (See Continuation Sheet 7-9.) Another historic photograph (see Continuation Sheet 7-10) pictures the sanctuary a little later with painted walls. In 1928, a \$1,300.00 project had replastered and frescoed portions of the sanctuary walls. Proxy forms, curated in the Archives and Historical Records of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, document still later redecoration. (A proxy is an official authorization from a Roman Catholic bishop or archbishop, which allows a local priest to act on the higher official's behalf for a specific purpose.) In 1944, for example, the Archbishop of Dubuque authorized St. Joseph's to expend about \$1,500.00 "for redecoration, repairing of plaster, lighting fixtures, floor covering, etc. in the church building of the corporation." (Letter of Proxy: May 3, 1944) In 1959, the archbishop authorized "the expenditure of not more than \$2,000.00 to re-decorate the church and make necessary repairs." (*Ibid.*: April 3, 1959) In 1976, the parish was authorized to paint the church interior at a cost of \$600.00. (*Ibid.*: December 3, 1976) Ten years later, a candid letter from Fr. Gehling, the parish priest, to the archdiocesan finance officer requested authorization to repaint the interior. "Church is dirty, dingy, walls badly cracked. . . a disgrace—even indicated to me by Archbishop Kucera when he visited in March 1985." (*Ibid.*: April 29, 1986) The year 1986 witnessed \$9,000.00 in church repairs.* They included plastering and

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

painting the church interior, repair to the chimney caps, and repair of water damage to the building. (*Ibid.*: April 29, 1986) Today, the church reflects these improvements.

The redecoration projects following World War II tended to simplify the appearance of the sanctuary. Stencil decorations around the chancel and borders edging on the ceiling vaults, evident in historic photographs (see Continuation Sheet 7-10), for example, were painted over with the intent of conveying a sleeker, modern look to the sanctuary. Still, a rigorous interpretation of Vatican II sanctuary design went unheeded at St. Joseph's.

Sacristy and Storage Room

A sacristy is located to the north of the chancel. This room has cupboards for the storage of vestments and objects associated with the Mass. An exterior door on its west wall connects to a fire escape, which leads to grade.

A storage room is located to the south of the chancel. This room originally served as a confessional for the church.

Basement

The basement features a social hall and large, stone fireplace. A series of stone support pillars are located at the east end of the basement. These pillars support the Carrara marble altar, which is situated directly above them. It is possible that these pillars are later additions to the building, installed to counteract the weight of the altar, when marble was selected for it. A kitchen is situated in the northeast section of the basement, and a furnace room is situated in the southeast section. An exterior door on the north side of the social hall leads to grade outside the building. There is no sub-basement to the building, although its foundation forms a large, interior space as it rises from grade to basement level.

SUMMARY OF INTEGRITY

The integrity of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is excellent. The exterior has been very well maintained over the years, and few visible alterations have been made to the building since its original construction. The interior also remains largely as originally built, including original natural wood finishes and historically appropriate wall and ceiling surfaces.

SITE

St. Joseph's siting contributes an important element to its character. The building is situated about 750' above the foot of South Hill, which steeply rises from the flood plain of the Wapsipinicon River. As a result, the church visually dominates the river valley.

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

The Wapsipinicon River is situated at about 800' above sea level. South Hill crests at 953' above sea level, or about 150' above the river. St. Joseph's stands about 880' above sea level. County Road X28 navigates South Hill at a 6.97% grade for about one-half mile. This is a difficult site for construction, let alone a building the size of St. Joseph's. The reason for the selection of this site is discussed in Section 8.

The church tower is setback only about 27' from the right-of-way. This is shallower than the original setback. Prior to 1977, the road remained gravel. During planning to pave it, Jones County purchased a strip of land in front and adjacent to the church to establish a grade for the road. This further reduced the building's original setback. The site had always posed difficulties for pedestrians and vehicles. Many parishioners had to walk up South Hill to enter the church. Vehicular parking was limited. When the road was paved, Jones County deposited several hundred yards of fill from the top of South Hill to areas on the north and south sides of the front façade to increase church parking. The grade adjacent to the basement entrance on the north side of the church was further improved by the donation of several dozen truckloads of fill courtesy of the Weber Stone Quarry. The basement entrance was also extended from the main block of the church at the same time through the donation of stone from that quarry.

A site for the church nearer the river and on level land would have been more convenient. It is said that quarry operator J. A. Green, a leader in the community and member of the parish, stipulated he would make a substantial contribution to build the church if it were near his home and readily visible from it. The John A. Green Estate (NRHP), his showplace residence, was located on South Hill. Authorities complied with Green's stipulation and located the building at its present site. (Erwin Lowe) The church's siting higher than the village and on its western edge sets the building apart from village center.

A cemetery was never established at St. Joseph's—an unusual phenomenon for a Catholic church. From the establishment of parish, burials have taken place at Anamosa's Holy Cross Cemetery. This cemetery is associated with Anamosa's St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Although St. Joseph's site includes five acres of land, a number of houses stood on this tract when the church was built. ("Stone City," Grant Wood's 1930 oil painting of the village, shows one of these houses. It also shows some of the tract under cultivation.) Another reason for the absence of a cemetery at St. Joseph's might have been the percolation of cemetery drainage into village wells at the foot of South Hill.

The former St. Joseph's Rectory is located at 12599 Stone City Road, across the highway northeast of the church. J. A. Green built this house (along with a twin to it next door to the west) in the 1880s and subsequently donated it to the parish for use as a rectory. During the 1920s, St. Joseph's parish decreased in membership. In 1925, the priest, who served as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Anamosa, served as pastor for St. Joseph's. In 1993, the Archdiocese of Dubuque sold the rectory, and today, the building serves as a private, single-family residence.

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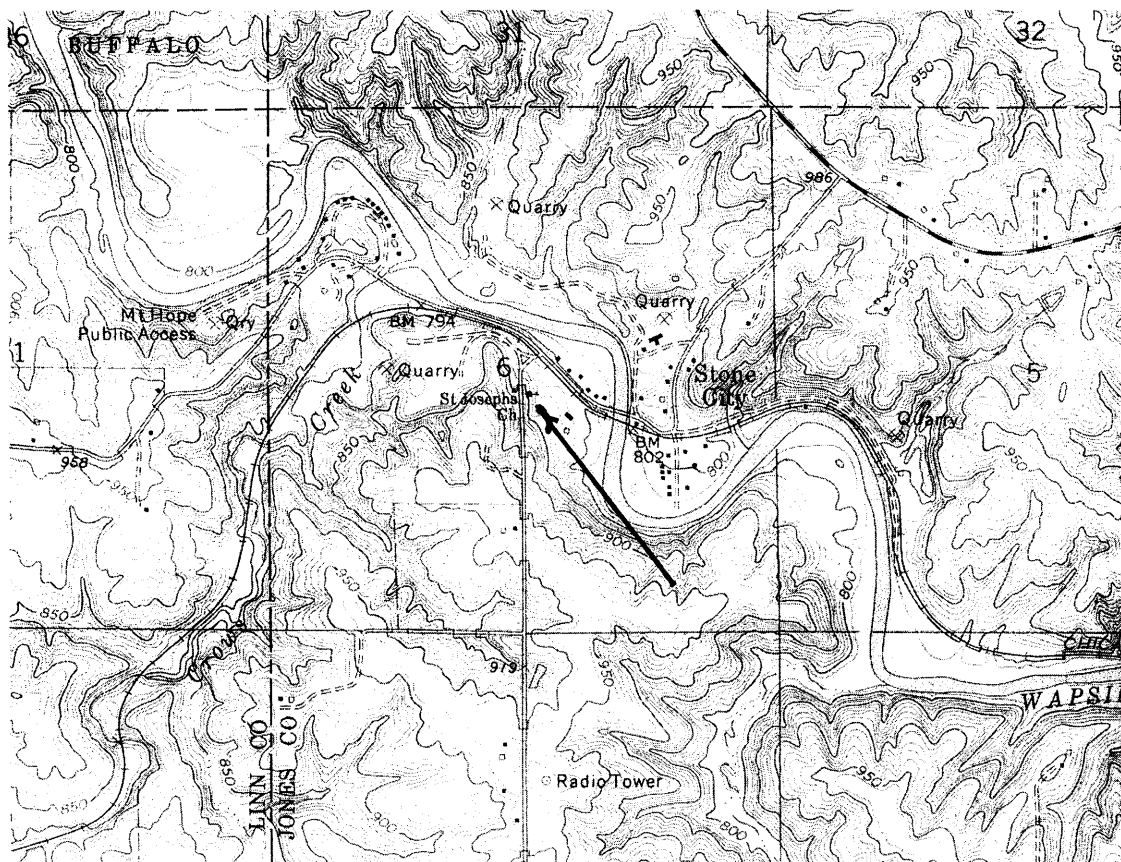
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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

LOCATION MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



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



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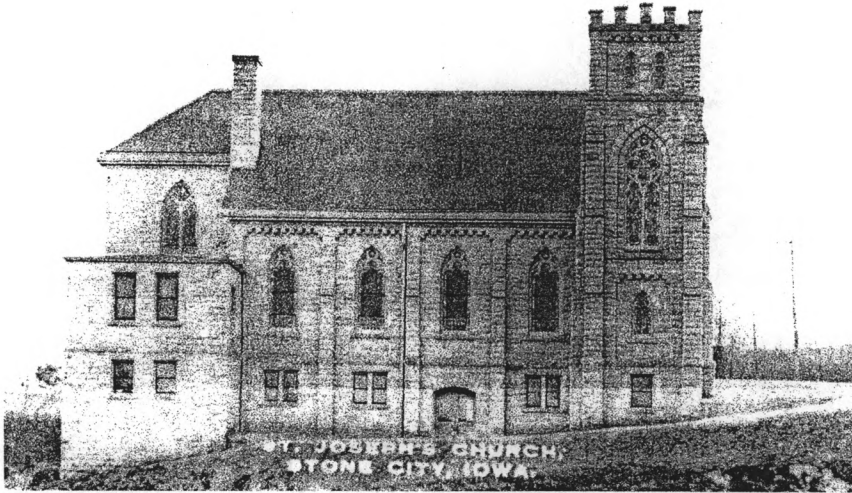
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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF CHURCH CIRCA 1913



Taken soon after completion, this photograph pictures shows the church's shallow setback from the public right-of-way.

Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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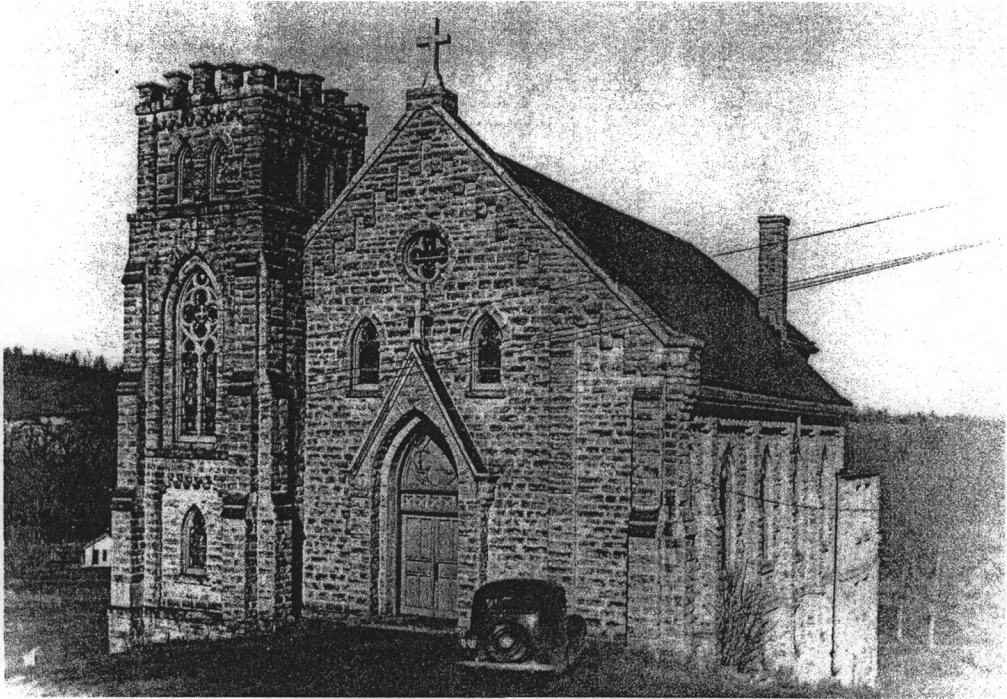
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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF CHURCH

CIRCA 1935



Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF SANCTUARY

CIRCA 1913



Taken soon after the building was completed, this photograph pictures undecorated walls.

Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF SANCTUARY

CIRCA 1928



The arches in the sanctuary are decorated with polychrome edgings, the chancel with a frieze, and the side altars with backdrops. The communion rail now stands directly on the main floor of the sanctuary rather than elevated above it, as shown in this photo.

Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

CHURCH CIRCA 1975



The trees shown here were subsequently removed, when County Road X28 was paved in 1977.

Source: Iowa Site Inventory Files, Community Programs Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

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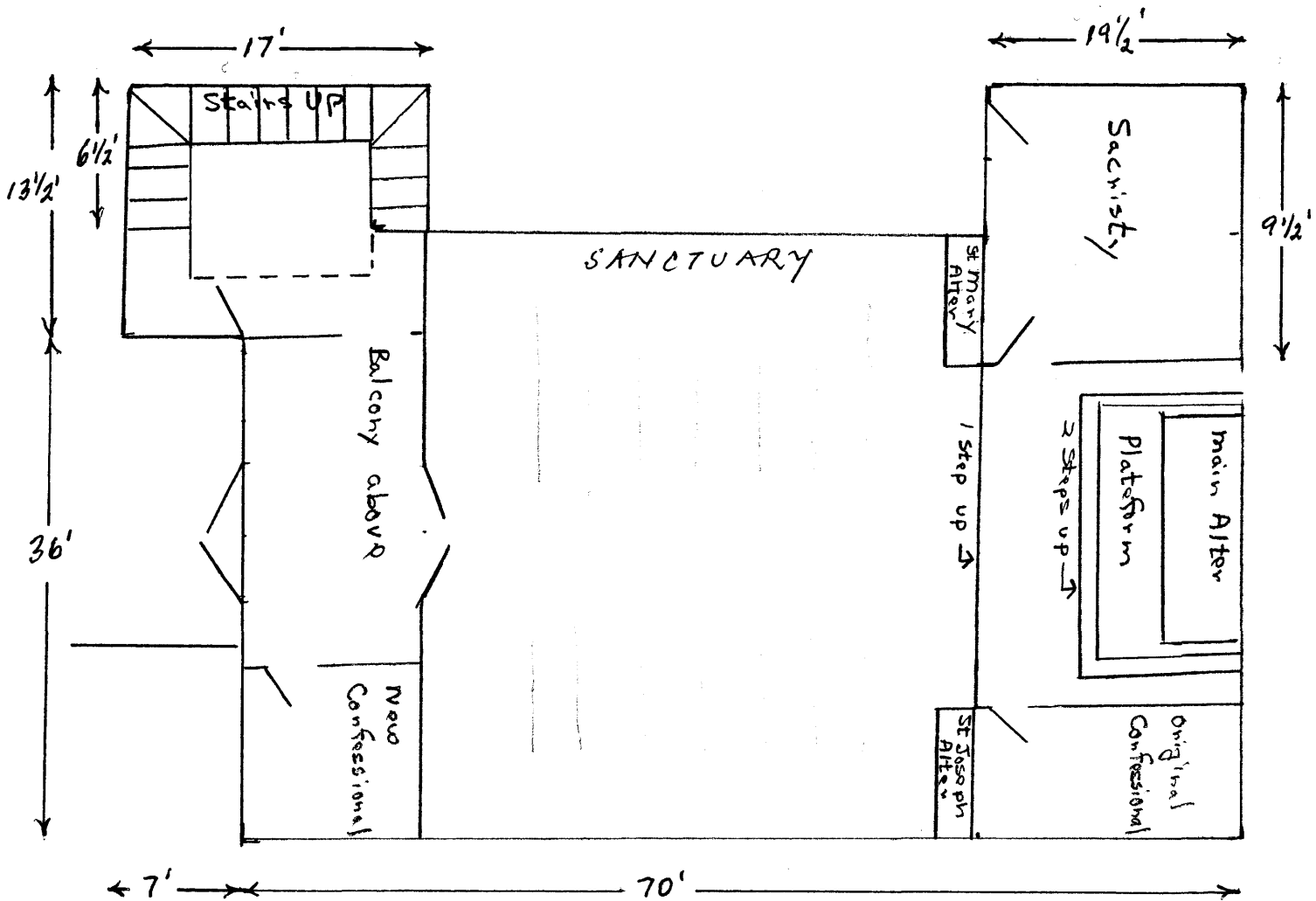
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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

MAIN FLOOR PLAN SKETCH



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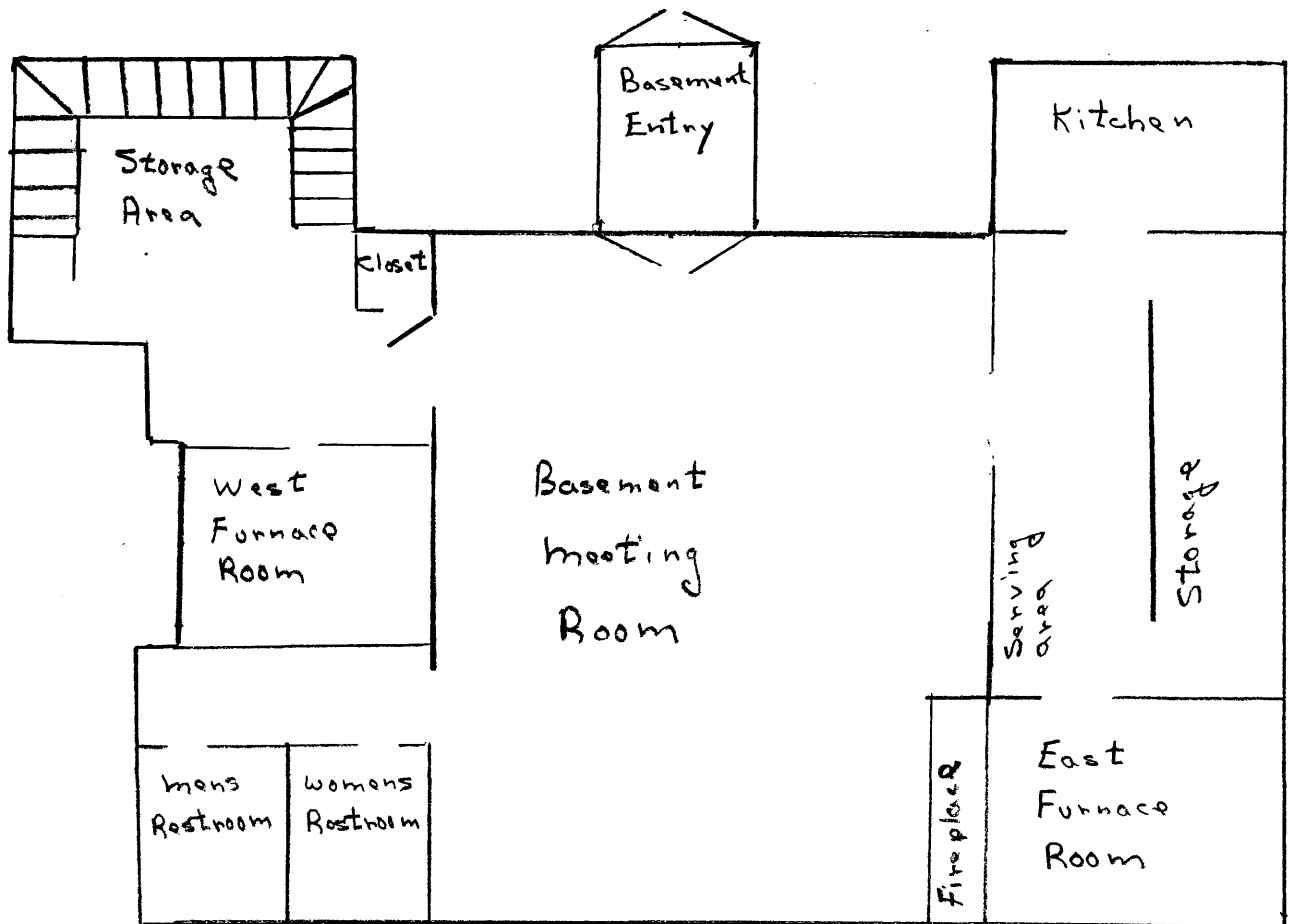
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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN SKETCH



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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. The building calls attention to its Dubuque-based architect, Guido Beck and his contributions to Catholic Church construction in the Archdiocese of Dubuque at the turn of the 20th century. Beck designed at least five churches in the area. St. Joseph's is notable for its architectural design, influenced by Late Gothic Revival styling. Grant Wood used the monumental massing of this church as a visual anchor in his celebrated picture "Stone City," painted in 1930.

The period of significance, under Criterion C, for St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is 1913, the year in which the building was completed and first placed into service.

Criteria Consideration A has been satisfied because this property derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction.

The property contains one resource for a National Register nomination--the church building, which is classified as a building and as contributing to this nomination.

BACKGROUND

Irish, French, Bohemian, and German immigrants settled Stone City, drawn to the village during the second half of the 19th century by employment in local stone quarries. St. Joseph's Church served as a social gathering place, where these immigrants assimilated the values of American citizenship, as well as to worship. By 1913, the members of St. Joseph's parish constituted most of Stone City's residents. The Irish totaled 150, the French 60, the Bohemians 30, and the Germans 10. Only one parishioner could not understand English. (*Annual Report 1913*) These statistics make no mention of native-born Americans. They clearly constituted a minority.

Establishment of St. Joseph's Parish

Originally, the religious needs of Stone City's immigrants were served by Catholic priests from Cedar Rapid and Anamosa. Worship was conducted initially in private homes in Stone City. In 1881, Rev. R. McCormick, a new pastor at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in Anamosa obtained permission to use a large hall in Stone City as a chapel. Fr. McCormick also established a Catholic cemetery in Anamosa, which has continued to serve the Stone City parish to the present day.

During the pastorate of Rev. Robert Powers (1886-1900), the Catholic parish south of Prairieburg, Iowa, (also known as St. Joseph's) became a mission of St. Joseph's in Stone City. Its building became known as the "brick church" to distinguish it from the stone church in Stone City. (Kurt)

By 1901, the Stone City congregation warranted the creation of a parish independent of Anamosa and with a resident pastor. The parish secured quarters for the priest. By 1904, or thereabouts, J. A. Green,

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

one of the founding members of the parish and one of the three principal owners of quarries in Stone City, donated a building as a rectory for St. Joseph's. In the 1880s, Green had built two identical stone houses on the west bank of the Wapsipinicon River. He subsequently transferred the title to the one nearer the river to the archdiocese.

By 1913, St. Joseph's parish numbered 250 souls. The size of the congregation warranted the construction of a new church building to serve the parish.

Erection of St. Joseph's Church

Appeals for money to construct St. Joseph's were linked to the Fourth of July, according to the *Anamosa Journal*.

STONE CITY CATHOLIC CHURCH

The people of the little town of Stone City deserve great credit for their fine work in raising money and bringing so nearly to completion their new church. The first money was raised on July 4, 1889. Then again on July 4, 1893, more money was added to the fund. (*Anamosa Journal*, June 26, 1913)

This newspaper account also provides further details about the building's construction:

Since that time the ladies and others of St. Joseph's parish have united in the undertaking. Pronounced, united, and systematic effort was not made until Father T. J. Norris became pastor at Stone City. Since that time, the work has been pushed.

The building is made of native Stone City stone, donated by the quarry men. The size of the building is 43 x 70. The cost price of about \$14,000 has already been raised, but the estimated amount of \$2,000, needed for furnishings, remains to be raised.

The work of breaking ground for the new edifice was commenced in June 1912. The building is expected to be finished by September.

Last Sunday afternoon, June 22, was selected as the day for the laying of the cornerstone. It was an ideal day for the ceremonies. About 2000 people were present. A special train of 3 coaches was run from Cedar Rapids and Anamosa. The cars were well filled from both places. People came by automobiles and carriage from all directions.

The fine Anamosa band entertained before and after the exercises, as well as in the evening. Many compliments were paid them.

The ceremonies commenced at four o'clock conducted by Archbishop Keane of Dubuque, assisted by Dean Toomey of Cedar Rapids, Fathers Sullivan of Cedar Rapids, Powers of

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Anamosa, McCormick of Monticello, Loughnane of Marion, Malley of Ryan, Albers of Cascade, Hauck of Fillmore, Foulkes of Dallas, Texas, and Norris of Stone City.

After the ceremonies, Archbishop Keane in a few well chosen remarks highly complimented the people of Stone City and vicinity for their great work.

In the corner stone had been previously deposited all present U.S. coins from one cent to one dollar. Copies of the following publications were also deposited: Catholic Citizen of Milwaukee, Catholic Messenger of Davenport, Gazette of Cedar Rapids, Republican of Cedar Rapids, Journal of Anamosa, Eureka of Anamosa, and Ave Maria of Notre Dame, Ind. There was also a greeting naming Pope Pius the Tenth, the three American Cardinals, Eminences Farley of New York, Gibbons of Baltimore, O'Connell of Boston, Archbishop J. J. Keane of Dubuque, Father Norris of Stone City, President Woodrow Wilson, Secretary of State W. J. Bryan, Gov. Geo. W. Clark.

The ladies served supper to about 500.

The evening exercises were opened by two solos, "Maid of Kildare" and "The Rosary" by Ed Crosby of Cedar Rapids, accompanied by his sister, Margaret.

Archbishop Keane delivered a magnificent address of about an hour's length, that was highly appreciated and praised by all. (*Ibid.*)

The construction of St. Joseph's provided employment for local stone workers and also an opportunity for them to contribute labor. The cost of teaming and labor for the building amounted to \$616.35. This was the actual cost expended by the church, but the real cost was greater. "Donations for hauling" were included in the total reckoning for hauling, a cost that amounted to \$5,980.75. (*Financial Report of the Building Committee*) Otto Braun, the job's general contractor, charged \$8,754.68 for his contract and extra work on the building. (*Anamosa Journal*, June 26, 1913) No doubt some of this expense went to local workmen.

The total cost to construct and furnish St. Joseph's Church amounted to \$13,112.06. A pamphlet, published soon after the project's completion honored donors, made a final accounting, and evidenced the parish's pride, gratitude, and business sense. Each subscriber, who donated \$1.00 or more, is listed by name, amount of donation, and item purchased. Donations to haul building materials are listed separately, along with all vendor names and costs. (*Ibid.*)

Education

Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, a debate was joined within the Catholic Church in America concerning the education of children. German immigrants generally favored the establishment of

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parochial schools, while other Catholics, led by the Irish, were willing to participate in public education. (Gabert: 670) St. Joseph's parish in Stone City never had a local parochial school. The absence of such a facility is of historical interest relative to this phenomenon. As the parish's 1913 census indicates, the Irish constituted a heavy majority of its membership.

Still, as members of St. Joseph's parish, parents were allowed to send their children to St. Patrick's school in Anamosa without charge. This benefit encouraged parents to remain members of St. Joseph's parish, even if they relocated away from the village. (Erwin Lowe). Religious instruction for children was also provided at St. Joseph's on Fridays. (Hoffman: 463)

Later Parish History

By the 1920s, the stone quarries at Stone City had declined. Cheaper Portland cement had displaced stone as a durable building material. Residents left Stone City to find employment elsewhere, and the number of parishioners at St. Joseph's declined as well. To address this change, St. Joseph's full-time pastor also served as the chaplain for Mercy Hospital in Anamosa. (Hoffman: 463-464)

Following World War II, St. Joseph's grew again in size as the post-war baby boom expanded the village and rural population. In 1959, the parish's population peaked at 316. Still, with farms consolidating and limited local employment, residents continued to move away. By 1982, the parish population had declined to 153. In the 1990s, the Archbishop of Dubuque initiated plans to close the church. St. Joseph's was officially closed effective September 14, 1992; but, at the same time, the church was designated an oratory. This status allows special services to be held in the building. Oratory status is reviewed and, if appropriate, renewed on a five-year basis. St. Joseph's oratory status has subsequently been renewed for five-year periods, the last beginning on September 24, 2002.

During this time, various arrangements provided resident or non-resident pastors for Stone City. From 1945 to 1947, the resident pastor at Sand Springs cared for St. Joseph's. The following three pastors at Stone City resided in the local rectory and also cared for the Holy Trinity parish at Baldwin, Iowa. From 1956 to 1962, the chaplain at the Iowa Men's Reformatory at Anamosa served Stone City, sometimes alternating with the pastor at Springville, Iowa.

A few physical changes occurred to the church building during these years—the biggest associated with road improvements. In 1977, the Iowa Department of Transportation sought to improve the gravel road leading into Stone City from the south. To facilitate this new construction, Jones County purchased about an acre of land from St. Joseph's for the new paving. (Barnes) Until this time, the road had remained without a hard surface. The road is now known officially as Jones County X28.

GUIDO BECK

German-born Guido Beck (1853-1936) substantially contributed to a high point in Catholic ecclesiastical architecture, which occurred in northeastern Iowa during the late 19th and early 20th

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centuries. Although Beck also designed secular buildings, his powers as an architect are best seen in these churches and their Late Gothic Revival-influenced styling. Within this context, St. Joseph's, Stone City, is distinctive because of its solid massing, squat tower, and a fortress-like appearance.

Background

Beck was born on January 25, 1853 in Tafertsweiler, a village near Sigmaringen in the southern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg (known as the Province of Hohenzollern at the time). Particulars concerning Beck's early life and education are not known. He emigrated to the United States in 1885 and settled in Dubuque, Iowa.

Beck must have received training as a builder before his emigration, because he quickly began his architectural practice upon arrival in Dubuque. By 1886,

Guido Beck was practicing in the firm of Heer & Beck (probably Fridolin J. Heer, Sr.) and in the following year became a member of the Architectural Association of Iowa. In 1888 he was in practice alone, and then for 1889 through 1892 and for 1895 the city directories list the firm of Beck & Heer (Martin Heer). An advertisement for this last firm in 1895 identifies its work as: "Churches, Schoolhouses, Court Houses, Residences, etc., and All Kinds of Architectural Drawings." In 1899 Beck was again practicing alone and continued in practice through 1927. (Shank: 20)

During his career, Beck practiced, off and on, with two different partners, both of whom possessed the same last name. Circa 1886, Beck practiced in the firm of Heer & Beck in Dubuque. Fridolin J. Heer, Sr. was his likely partner. From 1889 to 1892 and in 1895, Beck practiced in the firm of Beck & Heer in Dubuque. Martin Heer was his partner in that firm. (Shank: 20, 79-82) These dates come from Dubuque city directories.

Beck likely practiced solo during some of the years not listed above. It is likely that Beck and Fridolin J. Heer, Sr. terminated their partnership at the time Heer's son, Fridolin J. Heer, Jr. joined the firm in 1887. After the dissolution of his partnership with Heer, Beck continued to reside in Dubuque and to practice his profession. (*Ibid.*: 20) Guido Beck died on June 20, 1936.

High Point of Ecclesiastical Design

Guido Beck's designs for St. Joseph's, Stone City, and four other northeastern Iowa churches contributed to a high point of ecclesiastical architecture in the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

During the late 1890s and early years of the 20th century, northeastern Iowa enjoyed a Golden Age of Agriculture, along with the rest of the state. The price for agricultural products reached a level later used as a benchmark for parity with other goods. In northeastern Iowa, the strength of the local

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agricultural and industrial economies, a sense of religious identify among its many Catholic residents, and a spirit of optimism, fueled by the elevation of Dubuque into an archbishopric in 1893, spurred new construction to unprecedented levels. The aim was to replace small and sometimes impermanent churches of earlier generations with edifices commensurate with the dignity befitting an archdiocese.

Guido Beck's contributions to this panoply are discussed below. Other local architects contributed to this high point of ecclesiastical design as well. Architectural historian Wesley I. Shank has noted, for example, that Fridolin J. Heer, Sr. and Fridolin J. Heer, Jr., his son, increased their emphasis on church architecture during the late 19th century. An advertisement for the firm in 1875 listed architecture, civil engineering, and interior design as specialties. By 1889, the firm had added, "Church Work a Speciality" to their advertisements.

The mention of church work added to the 1889 advertisement indicated that commissions for church, school, and other institutional buildings in Dubuque and elsewhere for the Roman Catholic church were important to the firm. (Shank: 80)

Within a generation, Beck, the Heers, and other architects had transformed Northeastern Iowa into a land of towers and soaring steeples. Although retaining its status as the seat of the archbishop, the Cathedral of St. Raphael in Dubuque, completed in 1861, paled in grandeur.

Guido Beck Opus

Much, but not all, of Beck's work was located in northeastern Iowa. The table on the following page lists Beck's designs documented to date. Most are of Catholic churches.

GUIDO BECK DESIGNS (NONINCLUSIVE)

<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
Eichorn Building	1888	1296 Central Ave. Dubuque, IA	OOE 2003 NR Criterion C
House (4-story)	c. 1888	Dubuque, IA	Status unknown
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church	1897-1898	Elkader, IA	NR listed
Jesse P. Farley House (addition)	199	6 th & Bluff St. Dubuque, IA	NR contributing resource Cathedral Historic District
St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church#	1900	Dubuque, IA	Extant, not evaluated
St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church	1903	Remsen, IA	OOE 2004 NR Criteria A & C

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<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
St. Columbkille's Roman Catholic Church*	1904	Dubuque, IA 1230 Rush	Extant, not evaluated
Roman Catholic Church	1904	Staceyville, IA	Not evaluated
St. Joseph's Chapel & Auditorium	1909	Loras College Campus Dubuque, IA	OOE 1973 contributing to potential historic district
Sisters of St. Francis Home (addition)	Unavailable	Dubuque, IA (?)	Not evaluated
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church	1913	Stone City, Iowa	OOE 2002 NR Criterion A & C

OOE NR Opinion of Eligibility by consultant.
NR National Register of Historic Places.
* a.k.a. West Hill Catholic Church.
a.k.a. West Dubuque Catholic Church.

All of the above designs are in the Archdiocese of Dubuque, except St. Mary's, Remsen, which is in the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa.

In approaching ecclesiastical design, Beck faced two basic issues—what building material to employ and how to design the tower. The answer to the first question was usually predetermined. Stone was chosen for Elkader and Stone City because of its ready availability. When stone was not readily available—as at Dubuque and Remsen—brick was the more likely choice.

Church towers and steeples play major roles in ecclesiastical design because of their visual power. Beck preferred to center his towers on the front façade of his churches and to crown them with steeples. This is evident at St. Joseph's, Elkader; St. Anthony's, Dubuque; and St. Mary's, Remsen.

Circumstances occasionally thwarted Beck's preferences. At St. Columbkille's, Dubuque, the parish built its new church in two phases, deferring the completion of its tower to the second phase, probably for financial reasons. Cost also likely precluded a steeple for this tower. (See Continuation Sheets 8-24 and 8-25.)

At Stone City, other circumstances prevailed. There, because the church perched on the bank of a steep hill, Beck tempered his preference for a centrally placed tower and steeple in deference to the terrain. Instead of a soaring steeple, Beck designed the church with a low, block-like tower. This tower visually anchors the main block of the church to its precarious site, like a stake driven into the ground. The rear foundation of the building acts as a further visual brake against the building sliding into the valley below. A secure and fortress-like feeling emerges from this combination of architectural elements. The use of stone for the building further reinforces this feeling.

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All of Beck's churches show the influence of Late Gothic Revival styling to one extent or another. St. Joseph's, Stone City, is distinctive in this regard because its massing and squat tower recalls those of many parish churches in Germany. (Page 1994) Late Gothic Revival detailing, such as the lancet windows and their tracery lighten the mass of the composition and relieve St. Joseph's from oppressive weight, but the building forcefully projects the appearance of an edifice securely rooted to the ground, rather soaring to the sky, as is typical of Beck's other ecclesiastical designs.

For his work at St. Joseph's in Stone City, Beck received \$150.00 "for plans etc." and \$25.00 for travel expenses. ("Financial Report of the Building Committee")

STONE CITY LIMESTONE

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church is the most fully developed example of locally quarried and cut limestone used for the construction of a building. The church illustrates the stone's warm and appealing light-beige color, as well as its durability.

Local quarries in Stone City became successful 19th century businesses. Prior to the Civil war, stone was used as a building material for foundations and walls. The advent of the railroads following the war resulted in a boom for the local quarries. They provided the railroads' insatiable need for road ballast and bridge piers. The Milwaukee road became the dominant customer for Stone City stone.

The advent of Portland cement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries inaugurated a major decline in the use of stone as a building material, when concrete supplanted it. Then, with the rise of the environmental movement in the 1960s and 1970s, the demand for natural materials increased again. Today, the Weber Stone Quarry Company (which took over quarry operations in Stone City in 1952) has achieved national prominence, with architects specifying the company's stone--quarried, shaped, and dressed on site--for public, commercial, residential, and other uses. In 2002, the company was working on a major contract for a new Walt Disney memorial auditorium in Los Angeles, California, which requires thousands of pieces of Stone City limestone to face the building. (Jim Mitchell)

The stone quarry business in Stone City is said to have begun in 1850, when David Graham opened the first quarry. Over the years, the quarry business expanded. Three big quarry operations emerged in Stone City. Henry Dearborn operated the earliest of them. J. A. Green became the area's biggest operator. His Champion Number 1 quarry opened in 1869. John Ronen, Sr., was the smallest of the Big Three. Locally, the stone from these various quarries was called by name. For example, the stone from the Dearborn quarry was called "Dearborn stone." (Axen: n.p.)

Henry Dearborn (b. 1828) was born in New Hampshire and relocated to Jones County, Iowa, in 1858. In 1859 he opened a quarry in Anamosa and ran it for one year. Then, in 1869, Dearborn opened a quarry in Stone City, reputedly one of the largest in Iowa. It employed 20 men daily. Dearborn was appointed postmaster in Stone City in the 1870s. (Jones County History of 1869)

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John Aloysius Green (1844-1920) was born in Ireland. He relocated to Stone City in March 1868 and opened the Champion quarries. Green, a Catholic by faith, strongly supported the local parish. He donated, for example, a house in Stone City to be used as its rectory and provided quantities of stone for the erection of St. Joseph's. (The John A Green Estate, where the Green family lived, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places [1978] and located on the southern outskirts of Stone City.)

John Ronen, Sr. was the third big quarry mine operator in Stone City. He, too, immigrated to the United States from Ireland.

When St. Joseph's Church was completed, its building committee made special note of the generosity of local quarries in its construction.

We, the Building Committee, wish to acknowledge the liberal donations of stone from all the quarries in Stone City; also in our own name and in behalf of St. Joseph's parish to thank all the benefactors of St. Joseph's church for their generous help and loyal co-operation. Building Committee: Rev. T. J. Norris, Rector, C. Dunn, Treas, A. Patnode, Secy. ("Financial Report of the Building Committee")

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

In the 1970s, a windshield survey for the State Historical Society of Iowa photographed St. Joseph's in Stone City but included limited information about it. In 2002, William C. Page, Public Historian, served as a Technical Advisory Network (TAN) consultant for the property. His report determined the building National Register eligible.

POTENTIAL FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The site's potential for archaeological research is, as yet, unevaluated. Potential significance would likely relate to quarrying operations in Stone City.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION

St. Joseph's Church would make a fine contributing resource to the Stone City Historic District, a district whose nomination to the National Register should rank as a preservation priority for Iowa because of its architectural and historical significance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project has been funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the State Historical Society of Iowa, Community Programs Bureau, through the Department of the Interior, National Park

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Service, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966; the opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Interior.

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The author of this nomination wishes to extend sincere thanks to members of the Jones County Historic Preservation Commission, Rose Rohr, Chair, and members of the local volunteer research committee for their support of this project. Gary Holzinger, a resident of Stone City and a trustee of the St. Joseph's Oratory, provided liaison with the Archdiocese of Dubuque and shared his considerable knowledge of local history. Fr. Loras C. Otting, Director of the Archives and Historical Records of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, answered many questions about archdiocesan history and administration. Additional thanks are due to the staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa, specifically to Barbara A. Mitchell, Architectural Historian, who administered the project for the Society, and Ralph J. Christian, Historian, who shared his knowledge of Iowa architects Guido Beck, Fridolin Joseph Heer, Sr., and Martin Heer.

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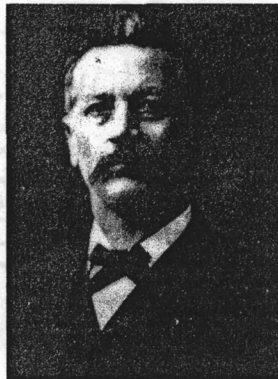
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GUIDO BECK, ARCHITECT

CIRCA 1903



This photographic portrait pictures Beck at the height of his career.

Source: Center for Dubuque History, Loras College.

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ST. COLUMBKILLE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DUBUQUE

GUIDO BECK DESIGN BUILT IN 1904



St. Columbkille's Church, as built in 1904, lacked a belfry, as shown in this postcard. The belfry was subsequently completed. (See next page.) St. Columbkille's Rectory (right) was built between 1887-1888.

Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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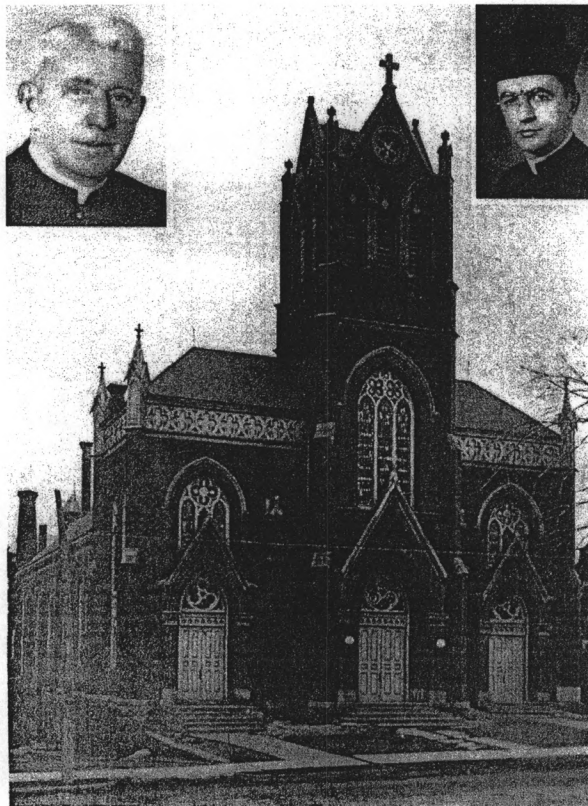
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ST. COLUMBKILLE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, DUBUQUE

GUIDO BECK DESIGN COMPLETED CIRCA 1912



REV. JOHN Q. HALPIN, PASTOR

REV. LAWRENCE CRANEY, ASSISTANT

ST. COLUMBKILLE'S CHURCH

The belfry at St. Columbkille's Church, shown here, was completed after 1910.

Source: Archives and Historical Records, Archdiocese of Dubuque.

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ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL, DUBUQUE

GUIDO BECK DESIGN BUILT IN 1909



Beck's design for this building addresses two problems shared with St. Joseph's: a difficult site and the need to offset the tower. The Castellations on the link between this chapel and an adjacent auditorium (far right) relate to Beck's use of them at St. Joseph's.

Source: William C. Page, Photographer, 2004.

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“STONE CITY”

GRANT WOOD, 1930



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ORAL HISTORY

Holzinger, Gary, with William C. Page, October 22 and November 27, 2004. Holzinger, who is a trustee of the St Joseph's Oratory and a next-door neighbor of the church, shared information about it and the Milwaukee Railroad, which served Stone City.

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Lowe, Erwin, with William C. Page, February 27, 2002. Mr. Lowe has lived in Stone City since his boyhood in the 1930s. He shared information about the community's history from his many years of residency.

Mitchell, Jim, with William C. Page and Rose Rohr, February 27, 2002. Mr. Mitchell, who heads operations at the Weber Stone Quarry Company in Stone City, conducted Page and Rohr on a guided tour of the quarry, explained its operations, and outlined some of the company's current projects.

Otting, Fr. Loras C., with William C. Page, October 22, 2004. Fr. Otting is Director of the Archives and Historical Records of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. He graciously made available the archdiocese's historical records and answered questions about the collection and canon law.

MAPS

United States Geological Survey; Anamosa Quadrangle; 1973.

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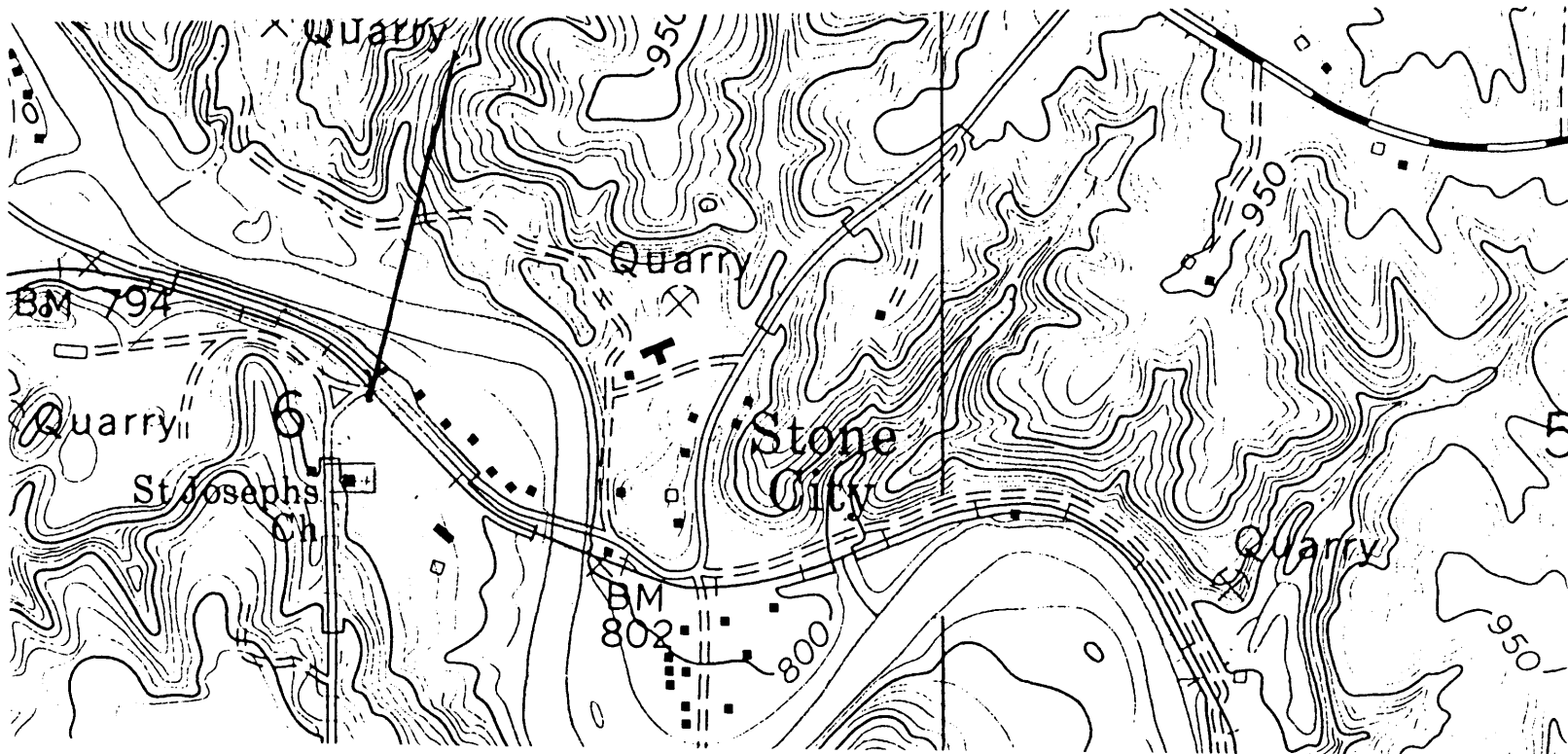
St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the Center of Section 6 of Township 84 North, Range 4 West, thence East 64 feet, thence, South 338 feet, thence West 64 feet, thence North 338 feet to the point of beginning

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Contains that portion of land directly associated historically with the church building, excluding about 5.5 acres +/- of unimproved property included in the title to the property.



Drawn boundaries not to scale.

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



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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Looking north
William C. Page, Photographer
October 23, 2004

2. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Looking southeast
Kirsten Thompson, Photographer
June 4, 2004

3. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Looking southwest
William C. Page, Photographer
October 23, 2004

4. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Looking west northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
October 23, 2004

5. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Looking north northeast
Showing (right) quarry cut
William C. Page, Photographer
October 23, 2004

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St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Jones County, Iowa.

6. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Interior of Sanctuary looking north-northeast
William C. Page, Photographer
March 17, 2006

7. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church
12472 County Road X28S (a.k.a. Stone City Road)
Stone City, IA 52205
Interior of Sanctuary looking northeast
William C. Page, Photographer
March 17, 2006