

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 98000381                      Date Listed: 5/1/98

Property Name: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

County: Woodbury              State: Iowa

          none            
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Sunda McClelland*  
Signature of the Keeper

May 1, 1998  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Significance

Criterion Consideration A is, hereby, indicated to correspond to the property's ownership and use as a religious institution.

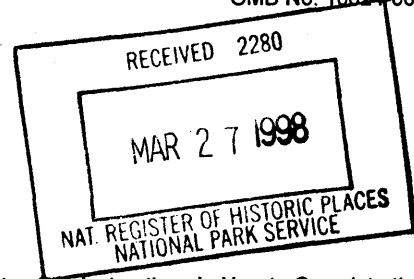
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Beth Foster of the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on May 1, 1998.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**



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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 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, work processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number 900 -6th Street

N/A  not for publication

city or town Sioux City

N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51101

**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.)

[Signature] DSHED 3-6-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 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:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 5/1/98

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Holy Trinity Greek Othodox Church  
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA  
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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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**

0

**7. 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 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL:  
Italian Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
concrete

walls brick  
terra cotta  
concrete

roof Terra Cotta

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark an "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 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.)

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Heritage/European

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1926

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1926

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Reische & Sanborn

William L. Steele

**9. Major Bibliographic 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 713760 4707940

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

Glenda Castleberry and Kathleen Golden

name/title

organization Siouxlandmark Corporation

date September 13, 1996

street & number 2311 Nebraska Street

telephone 712-258-4239

city or town Sioux City

state IA

zip code 51104

### 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 Greek Orthodox Community of Sioux City

street & number 900 6th Street

telephone 712-255-5559

city or town Sioux City

state IA

zip code 51105

**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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Woodbury County, IA

## 7. Narrative Description

Located on a hill above downtown Sioux City, in a primarily commercial section of the city, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is a local, eclectic example of the Italian Revival influenced style. This style is evident in this structure's simple modular proportions and clarity of design together with the use of arches above columns at both front entrances. The long rectangular building features a side gable red tile roof with a small circular dome, tall rectangular and round arched stained glass windows with brick arched surrounds. Along the front facade there is a wide 9-riser concrete staircase that leads to a double wooden front door with round arched, stained glass transom window above. A gable roof over the front door and arched transom, is above two decorative columns. A projecting round bay with shed roof is located on the east end of the front facade. This bay, and its twin on the south facade make up the transept plan on the interior of the church. Alterations to this facade are minimal. The only visible alterations include a sign board above the front double doors, covering what appears to be decorative stone detailing, and a decorative wrought iron railing added to the center of the stairs and around the low brick wall defining the porch area. Both alterations appear to have been made sometime after 1975.

The Jennings Street side of the building (the west facade) is symmetrical featuring a centrally placed double door, which is an exact duplicate of the front door and its surround. The door and surround is flanked by tall round arched stained glass windows with a decorative arched brickwork surround, and capped by a red tile gable roof with a cross straddling the ridge-line. Because of the severe slope of Jennings Street this facade features an arched at-grade entrance into the basement area. The centrally placed entrance door is flanked by a pair of arched windows. The door, originally an arched double door, has been replaced with a smaller, single, squared door. Bricks have been added to fill the arch. Other alterations include the removal of a concrete name block that was built into the low brick wall above the basement entrance. This name block may have been removed when the wrought iron railing was added to the brick wall sometime after 1975.

The south facade is a near duplicate of the front facade - arched stained glass windows, a round bay with shed roof extension. The rear facade has a centrally located round bay with shed roof and is flanked on either side by a arched brick pattern.

The interior of the church features original light fixtures, wainscoting, altar, icon screens, and hardwood flooring. Conducive to the Italian Revival style the floor plan is rectangular and open. There are no internal structural pillars to block the view to the altar area. At the back of the sanctuary and near the Northwest entrance are stairs leading to a balcony area. At the front of the sanctuary and behind icon screens, as is common in this religion, there is a separate altar room three steps up from the main sanctuary area. Two separate side partitions are behind the screens, one for the priest's office and the other for various uses. This also is common in this religion. Uncommon to this religion is the large, heavy looking, brick altar which is considered a contribution of architect William L. Steele as it is more his style than the religion's style. This room has a terrazzo flooring and the walls did have ornate stenciling. However, in 1995, the church sustained heavy smoke and fire damage. A number of the icon screens were either severely damaged or destroyed. The building is undergoing substantial restoration including repair of damaged icon screens and repainting some damaged and/or lost stenciling.

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Holy Trinity Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Woodbury County, IA

Section number 8 Page 2

**8. Statement of Significance**

Criterion consideration A has been satisfied because the property drives its primary significance from architectural and historical importance. Constructed in 1925, the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church meets Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a local example of the Italian Revival style of architecture. As a work of architectural significance, the church also meets Criterion Consideration A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with the Greek community in Sioux City. The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 50th Anniversary edition indicates that Holy Trinity was the first Greek Orthodox Church building constructed in Iowa. This significance also appears in a newspaper article in the Sioux City Tribune on October 5, 1925 as a part of the dedication story as follows: "The new church, which is of handsome brick fireproof construction, is the first building to be built in the state of Iowa expressly for the housing of a Greek congregation, according to Andrew Stamopoleus, president of the Greek Community club." Although there is evidence that there were three other Greek congregations in Iowa worshipping in structures, it appears as if those structures were not expressly built for use as Greek Orthodox Churches.

Criterion C

Architectural Significance

The building is a local (eclectic) example of an Italian Revival influenced style. The long rectangular building features a side gable red tile roof with a small circular dome, tall rectangular and round arched stained glass windows with brick arched surrounds. Along the front facade there is a wide 9-riser concrete staircase that leads to a double wooden front door with round arched, stained glass transom window above. A gable roof over the front door and arched transom, is above two decorative columns. A projecting round bay with shed roof is located on the east end of the front facade. This bay, and its twin on the south facade make up the transept plan on the interior of the church. Alterations to this facade are minimal.

At this time very little is known of the contracting firm, Reische & Sanborn. Sioux City Directories for the years 1923 and 1924 indicate that Reische & Sanborn, an engineering and contracting firm specializing in concrete construction, was responsible for constructing Sioux City's North Junior High School and Sacred Heart Hospital in LeMars. More research is needed to develop a history on Reische & Sanborn. It has recently been discovered that the Architect was William LaBarthe Steele, a prominent architect in Sioux City for three decades, and known nationwide for his Prairie-School style Woodbury County Courthouse, a National Historic Landmark. This fact is documented in "Vital Statistics and Professional Record of Wm. L. Steele, Architect, Omaha, Nebraska, September, 1941", in Purcell and Elmslie Collection, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota on page 3 and entered as the "Greek Catholic Church of Sioux City, Iowa." In a Sioux City Tribune article dated October 3, 1925 which covered the dedication ceremonies is an advertisement, on the same page very near the article, from William Steele which says "Congratulations to the Greek Church and the Greek Community upon their unusual accomplishment, and upon their service to the community - Wm. L. Steele, Architect, 502 United Bank Building".

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Holy Trinity Greek  
Orthodox Church  
Woodbury County, IA

Section number 8 Page 3

Criteria A:

Ethnic Heritage/European

Beginning around the turn of the Century, Greek immigrants began arriving in Sioux City. At that time, the nearest Greek church was in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1918, seventeen members of the Sioux City Greek community attended New Years' services in Omaha and came back to Sioux City with a commitment to begin a church here. Mr. Peter Nelson, a Sioux City participant in the Omaha services, convinced his fellow Greek Orthodox Christians to attend a meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall to discuss "... the acquirement of the spiritual center, as well as a small piece of land for our eternal rest" (n.p., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 50th Anniversary). He went on to ask that people bring their friends, families and acquaintances along with a "... certain sum of money, analogous to your financial strength" (n.p., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 50th Anniversary).

That evening Mr. Nelson and his fellow organizers raised \$1,668 toward the construction of their own church. Within one year of that initial organizational meeting, the new congregation purchased land at the corner of 6th and Jennings Streets for \$35,000. Fund raising efforts continued and by 1920, the fledgling congregation erected a temporary church building. By 1924 plans for a new church moved forward. March 29, 1925 the congregation celebrated as contractors set the cornerstone in place. A reported 400 individuals from as far away as Chicago attended the event. Contractors completed the building that fall and on October 4, 1925 and the congregation formerly dedicated their new church. The Sioux City Tribune newspaper article in the March 25, 1925 issue has an article which referred to the ceremony for the laying of the Cornerstone. That article indicated that this church "is considered as one of the greatest events in the history of the Orthodox church, as the building will be the first of its kind in Iowa." A later article dated October 3, 1925 indicates that the church is one of the most beautiful in Sioux City and the middle west and is the fourth Greek Orthodox church in Iowa.

The formation of the Greek Orthodox parish in Sioux City is documented in other articles in the Sioux City Tribune and the Sioux City Journal at the time of the dedication of the building and the story is a source of pride to the congregation then and now. Stories refer repeatedly to the Sioux City Greek "colony". The colony numbered 300 on the day the new building was dedicated. The idea of the organization of a Greek Orthodox church was first brought about by Peter Nelson who with 17 other "colony" members attended a Greek festival at Omaha Nebraska in May of 1918. They returned so enthused over the festival that they suggested to other colony members that a church should be built. There is no mention of them seeing a similar church building in Omaha, only that they enjoyed the Omaha colony's festival.

Both in the Holy Trinity records and the Sioux City Journal article dated October 4, 1925 a story emerges regarding the great pride these early Greek immigrants had in being a part of America and having the freedom to worship. That article reads "The little Greek colony, which was struggling to become a real American colony, worked for unity of purpose, for self betterment, and for those things which would help them to better American citizenship."



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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Woodbury County, IA

**8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)**

The article continues to describe how Greek soldiers returning from war had fought under the American flag for the county they had adopted and assisted in many ways to "lift their fellow countrymen to the better plane of citizenship and moral welfare." Similar reports further demonstrate this strong love of America and of how America "had opened the doors to Greeks, giving them the opportunity denied since the fall of Greece in 1458, the right to worship as they pleased."

A special meeting was called the latter part of May 1918 in the Knights of Columbus Hall and the idea was accepted to build a church. This was recorded as the first time that a meeting of the members of the Greek colony of Sioux City had been held according to an article about the dedication ceremony in the Sioux City Tribune, October 3, 1925. On that same page is an advertisement from William Steele which congratulates the Greek Community upon their unusual accomplishment. Members and officials of Holy Trinity church reportedly commented that they were "highly gratified that it was possible for such a comparatively small congregation to erect a church building which is a credit to the community, and which takes rank among the most beautiful church edifices of Sioux City." Many other churches were also represented at the dedication ceremony and a speech was given by the head of the local Episcopal Church (St. Thomas) all indicating great community support for the small Greek community.

During the meeting held after the laying of the cornerstone, Building Campaign President Alex Kazos, (also a Church board member) was reported as giving a history of the Greek Orthodox religion and told attendees how the Greek Christians met and worshiped secretly continuously for more than 500 years following the fall of Constantinople in 1458. He also talked about how great American was in that they were allowed to worship freely. The result of his impassioned speech, it is reported, was the raising of another \$5,000 to go toward the building of the Church. Total costs of the building were reported to be \$75,000 with the land included the total costs of the Church were \$100,000. This was noted as being a great achievement for the Greek parishioners as they numbered so few. The following items were reportedly placed in the cornerstone: a copy containing the names of the presidents of the Archons of the Athenian States and the names of the President of the United States, the Governor of Iowa and the Mayor of Sioux City. Again at the dedication ceremony, it was mentioned that the church is looked upon as a monument to the fact that the Sioux City Greek community has found religious freedom in America, after centuries of persecution.

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National Park Service

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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Woodbury County, IA

**9. Bibliography**

- Sioux City Tribune newspaper article, dated March 25, 1925
- Sioux City Tribune newspaper article, dated October 3, 1925
- Sioux City Tribune newspaper article, dated October 5, 1925
- Sioux City Journal newspaper article, dated October 4, 1925
- Vital Statistics and Professional Record of Wm. L. Steele, Architect, Omaha, Nebraska, September, 1941", in Purcell and Elmslie Collection, Northwest Architectural Archives, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Sioux City Directories. 1918 - 1926.
- Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church 50th Anniversary edition. Not published. No date.
- Twenty-fifth Anniversary: The Hellenic Orthodox Church (Holy Trinity). Sioux City, IA. 1951.

**10. Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 7-8-9, Block 37 and the West 1/2 , South 44 feet of the North/South alley, Middle Sioux City Addition.

**11. Boundary Justification**

The boundaries indicated in this application are the legal boundaries historically associated with the Church.