



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name St. Lawrence Catholic Church  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Bellevue-Cascade Road (County Road D61)  not for publication  
city, town Otter Creek  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52079

### 3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, IA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 6/10/92  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 7/24/92  
 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 Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Structure

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian:

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Gothic

---

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Limestone

---

walls Limestone

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---

roof Composition Shingles

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other Wood frame

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

St. Lawrence Church (1883) is located on the north side of the Bellevue to Cascade Road (County Road D61), just west of the village of Otter Creek. To the east of the church is a brick rectory from 1908, and to the west is a brick school building from 1913. St. Lawrence Cemetery is located behind the church to the north.

The church is a rectangular limestone building with gable roof. It measures 50'8" x 106'6" with a projecting tower on the facade measuring 15' x 19'. The building faces due south. It features a symmetrical facade with Gothic arched windows flanking the tower. The front entrance is located in a Gothic arched opening at the base of the tower. New doors replace the original ones. Above the entrance is a tall slender Gothic window, with a medallion containing a cross above that. This medallion is repeated on the sides of the tower at the same level. Above the limestone tower the spire rises as an octagon with louvered Gothic openings in the belfry. The spire culminates in a cross. An early photograph shows the church without the spire, but no firm date has been established for its construction. (A new bell was purchased in 1919, but there was no notation concerning the spire.) Six windows are symmetrically arranged on the side elevations, with a rose window on the north (rear) elevation. Above the rose window, high in the gable, is a round ventilation opening. A small segmental arched door is located at the NW corner of the rear of the building. A cross is located at the north end of the roof, over the altar. The stonework on the church is of coursed cut blocks approximately 8" high and varying in length from 6" to 20". The stones on the facade have a rusticated surface, while those on the side and rear elevations are simple stone blocks. The side elevations are of blocks relatively consistent in size, while stones on the rear vary greatly in both size and shape. The corners of the tower and the SW and SE corners of the main block are buttressed. Openings throughout are Gothic arched. Those on the facade feature surrounds and are of rusticated stone. The facade windows flanking the tower are double windows within a single stone arch. Openings on the other elevations utilize dressed stone for the arches and sills. Dressed stone is also used for the watertable. A stone stringcourse is found

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1883

Significant Dates  
1883

Cultural Affiliation  
N.A.

Significant Person  
N.A.

Architect/Builder  
Fridoline Heer, of Dubuque

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

St. Lawrence Church (1883) is significant under Criterion C as a good example of the use of the abundant local limestone for a variety of building types in Jackson County.

Of the 217 limestone buildings and structures that were inventoried in the county-wide survey, only seven were churches. St. Lawrence is the only one of these to have been designed by a well known architect, Fridoline Heer of Dubuque. Built in the popular Gothic Revival style, it is remarkably similar in design to the earlier St. Patrick's - Garryowen (1854), being rectangular in shape with a gable roof and central spire. Each church also features six windows on the side elevations. The stonework on the facade and tower of St. Lawrence is of rusticated blocks with buttressed corners. The c.1875 tower of St. Patrick's features this same treatment, leading to the thought that Heer might have been the architect for that addition. St. Lawrence has a rose window in the north elevation, an element not found on other stone churches in the county.

The 1883 church was not the first for the St. Lawrence parish. A small stone church was completed on this site in 1866. Within a few years it was too small, and a nearby frame Methodist church was purchased. The present church was started in 1882 under the pastorship of the Rev. P.J. Clabby. The white marble cornerstone was laid with great ceremony on June 24, 1882. It is said that over 2500 people were in attendance, with Communion being administered to over 200. The Bishop of Dubuque officiated, assisted by clergy from surrounding parishes. The Dubuque Daily Herald noted on March 7, 1883 that a committee from Otter Creek was in town to discuss the church construction with architect Heer, and said, "The building when completed will be a fine one and will cost \$12,000." Another source gives the cost of the building as \$20,000, and yet a third says that by the time it was finished the church cost was closer to \$30,000! All the stained glass windows were donated by members of the parish.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.  
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879.  
St. Lawrence Catholic Church: 1883-1983. A Centennial Publication.  
St. Lawrence Files in the Jackson County Historical Society Library.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 

1	5	6	9	0	1	7	5	4	6	7	8	8	6	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the area historically associated with the church. This nomination includes only the limestone church, and does not include the cemetery or any other buildings or structures located on the site.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant (515) 682-2743  
organization Jackson County H.P.C. date May 1992  
street & number J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt telephone (319) 652-3181  
city or town Maquoketa state IA zip code 52060

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on the front of the church. A white marble date stone is located on the SE buttress,

St. Lawrence's Church  
June 24, 1883

The only apparent exterior alteration is the installation of new entry doors. Interiors were not addressed during the limestone building survey. The interior of St. Lawrence has been redecorated over the years, but retains the altars that were placed in service during the first twenty years. The stained glass windows were all gifts of early parishioners.

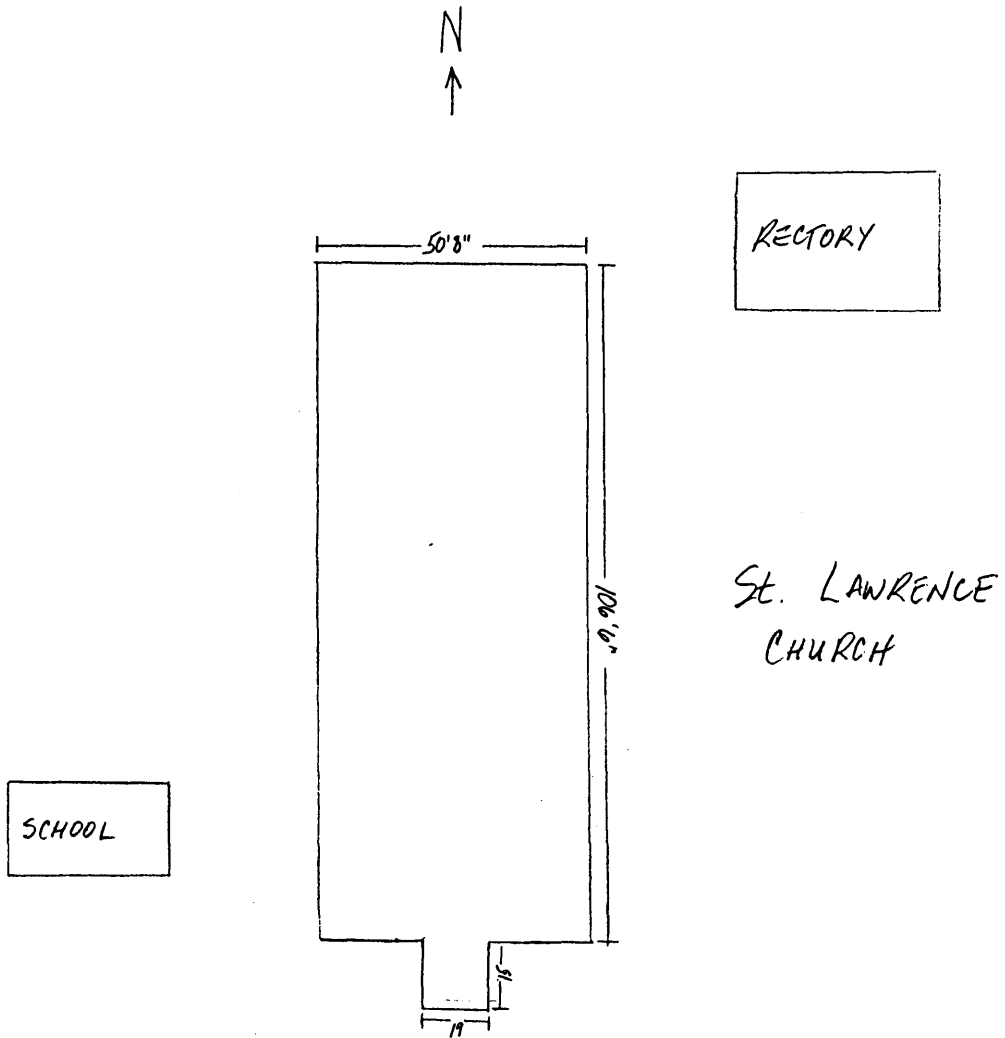
Although St. Lawrence is located in the middle of a church complex, it is the only building of the group that is being nominated. The significance of St. Lawrence is based on its limestone construction.

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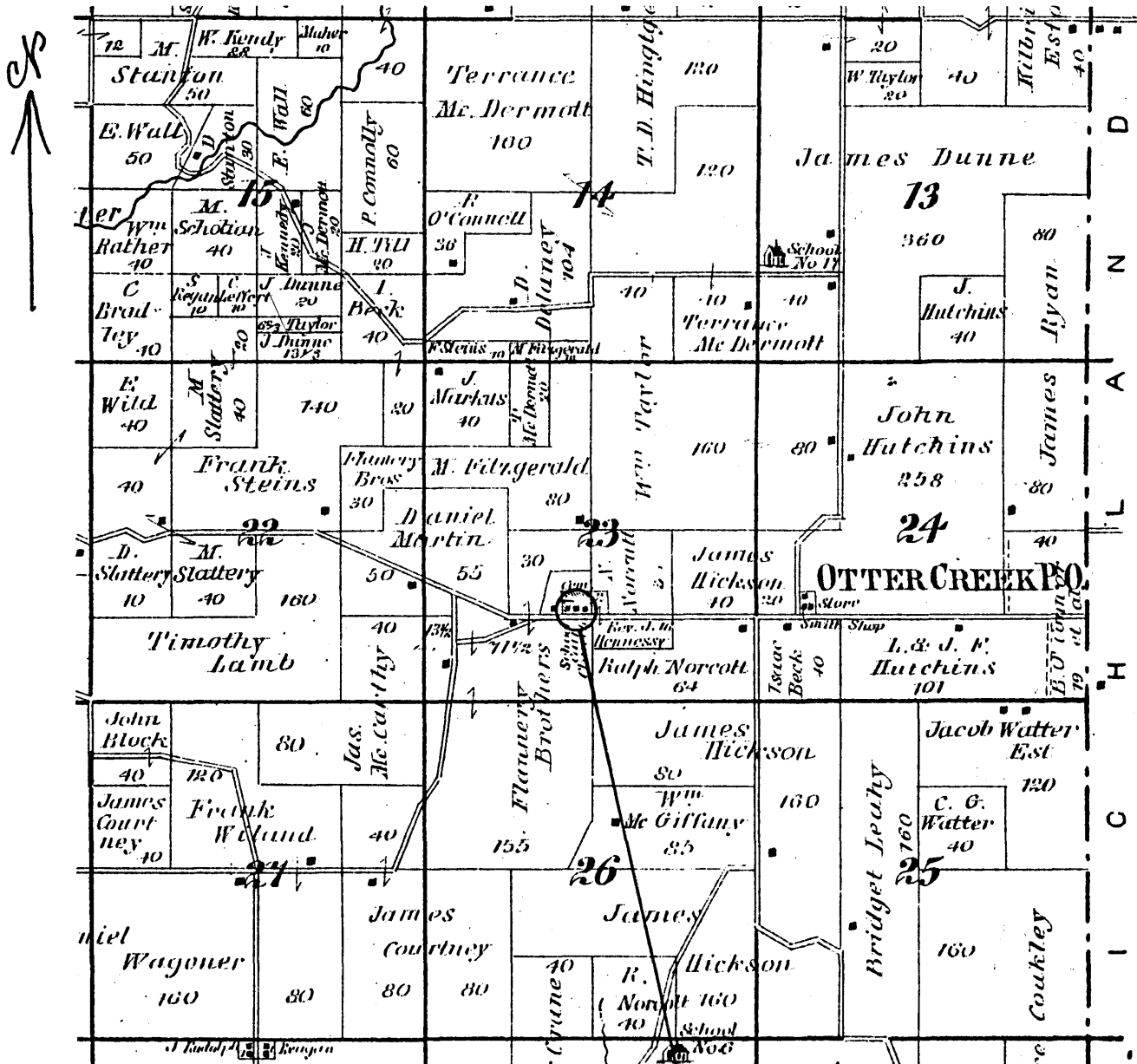
BELLEVUE - CASCADE ROAD

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St. Lawrence Church

1893 Jackson County Atlas, Otter Creek Twp.



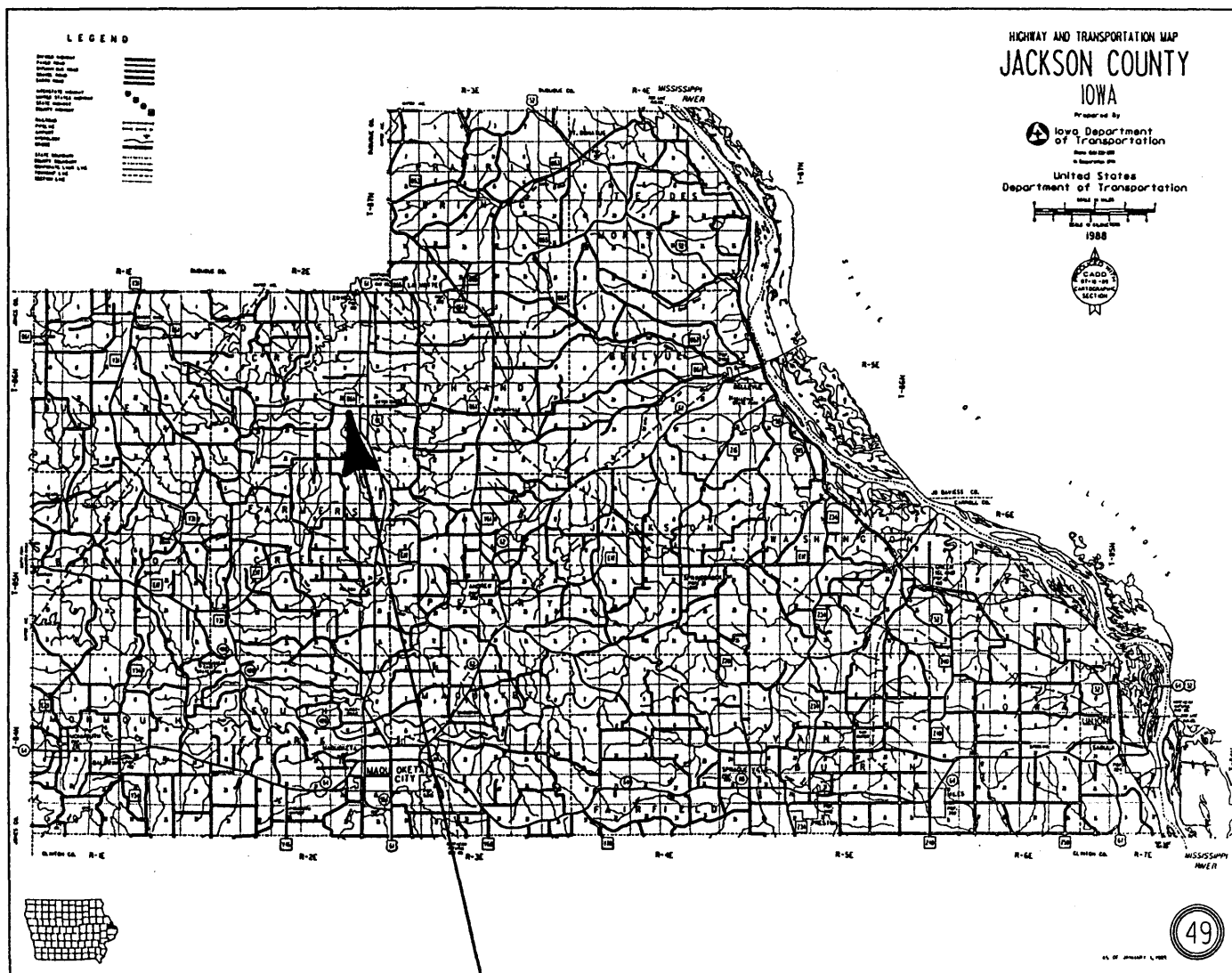


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Location of St. Lawrence, Otter Creek Twp.

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In the rose window over the high altar are found the words "Donated by Father Clabby and the Poor."

In the Multiple Property Document Limestone Architecture of Jackson County: 1840-1880 it is noted in several places that the years are approximate, being c.1840 to c.1880. For this reason St. Lawrence falls within the period of significance of the MPD as well as meeting the integrity requirements outlined in it.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land located in T86N R2E Sec 23 Lot 2 SE $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , on the north side of County Road D61. The parcel is rectangular in shape with a N/S axis, beginning at a point 10' west of the NW corner of the building, thence south to the right of way on the north side of the road, thence east along right of way 70'8", thence north to a point 10' east of the NE corner of the building, continue north another 10', thence west 70'8", thence south to the point of beginning.