

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 20 1985

date entered 2/3/86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Ss. Peter and Paul Church of Novy Hradec [sic]

and/or common Saints Peter and Paul Church (Preferred)

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town New Hradec N/A vicinity of N/A

state North Dakota code 38 county Dunn code 025

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Saints Peter and Paul Church Parish (Father Raphael Stovik, O.S.B.)

street & number N/A

city, town New Hradec N/A vicinity of N/A state North Dakota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dunn County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Manning state North Dakota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes N/A no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Saints Peter and Paul Church of New Hradec, North Dakota, was designed by Mandan architect Nick Ressler and was built in 1917. The church and its accompanying boarding school facility are housed in a 46' by 110' rectangular structure that today remains essentially unaltered (except for front step deterioration and replacement) since the time of original construction. The school occupies the east 38' and the church the west 72' of the building.

The building foundation is of poured concrete, rising four feet above ground level, and is incised on the exterior to resemble cut stone. The structure is of common brick, faced with buff and medium brown finishing brick. The building exhibits Gothic influence with its Tudor arched window tracery, buttresses, and brick label molding. It is capped by a wood frame, asphalt shingled gable roof. Originally the roof was punctuated by small gabled vents which were removed in 1955 during re-shingling.

Above the medium brown brick watertable course, buff colored brick is pierced by rectangular windows which exhibit Tudor arched window tracery and are enhanced by medium brown corbelled brick label molding. The buttresses are capped at regular intervals by cast concrete moldings. At the east (school) end of the building, projecting gabled bays and accompanying gablets are all topped with metal flashing.

The church entrance consists of original tongue-in-groove oak doors with original hardware. The doors are surrounded by a corbelled brick Tudor arch with medium brown corbelled brick Tudor arched hood moldings. It is capped by a semi-elliptical arch housing a triple set of windows with Tudor arched tracery. These windows are now protected by a wood frame, six-paned storm window. A decorative circular motif is placed at the gable peak and is repeated at the gable ends. The original entrance stairs were replaced in the mid-1960s due to structural deterioration. The bell tower houses a voiced bell behind wood louver windows, and is topped by a wood framed, wood shingled octagonal spire rising above brick corbelled dentils.

An enclosed wood frame entry with wood lap siding and hipped roof serves as an entrance to the church basement on the south elevation.

The main floor of the church is a simple nave with square ended chancel, and it seats 300 people. Two sacristies adjoin the sanctuary. The semi-elliptical arch motif is repeated in the original carved walnut communion rails, reredos, and plaster Stations of the Cross. Noteworthy are the wall roundels and profuse plaster statuary, particularly the angel benitiers flanking the entrance. The integrity of materials and fixtures is reiterated by original oak pews, hardwood floors, and brass light fixtures. The baseboard, window trim, and choir loft woodwork are of fir. A cry room was enclosed at the back of the church in 1962, and accoustical tile was added to the ceiling in 1956.

(See continuation sheet)

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DESCRIPTION, continued

The school occupies two floors at the east end of the building and the entire basement of the structure. It consists of five classrooms, two dormitories, dining hall, three nun's cells, and refectory. The rooms retain their original hardwood floors, baseboards and trim, along with original paneled doors, transoms, and hardware. The original windows in the school were replaced in 1958 with glass block and aluminum frame windows.

Overall, Saints Peter and Paul Church exhibits a very high degree of integrity of building materials and design quite outstanding in the southwest part of the state.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1917 **Builder/Architect** Nick Ressler

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

This church/school is outstanding for a rural church of Euro-American design for it maintains an extremely high degree of integrity of original materials and design. It is also significant for it serves as the cultural cornerstone upon which a highly unique ethnic group, namely the Bohemians from the Crimea, built the community of New Hradec, North Dakota.

The New Hradec settlement was founded by families from Czechohrad, in the Crimea, in July of 1887. They were the descendants of persons from the Chrudim district of Bohemia who migrated to the Crimea in 1861. These people settled in an area to the north and west of Dickinson, North Dakota, where their descendants are today. They are, according to ethnologist William Sherman, the only known, documented settlement of Bohemians from the Crimea in the United States.

The parish of Saints Peter and Paul was formally begun with the erection of a wood frame church in 1898. This structure was destroyed by fire May 7, 1917. In August of 1917 the parish of Saints Peter and Paul platted the town of New Hradec and began selling lots.

The cornerstone for the present church/school building was laid August 19, 1917, by Abbott Placidus Hoenerbach, O.S.B., of Assumption Abbey, Richardton, North Dakota. Dedication services were conducted in Czech and German. The building was designed by Mandan architect Nick Ressler, who received \$300; Charles Bakke of Dickinson was contractor, receiving \$24,313.15. The erection of this structure in late 1917 and arrival of the Sisters of Notre Dame from Mankato, Minnesota, to begin classes January 8, 1918, was, according to Sherman, "a significant force in maintaining the cultural integrity of the entire Bohemian community." (Prairie Mosaic: An Ethnic Atlas of North Dakota, page 14.) Classes were held until 1950 in this building, at which date they moved to a new, adjacent boarding school. The last Czech-speaking nun left with the close of the school in 1969. Three generations of children from this area all attended this boarding school, receiving at least some portion of their instruction in Czech. These children were schooled, fed, and housed in this one building.

The church/school is a physical manifestation of the Czech people of this unique community. It was through this institution with its Czech hymns, sermons, books, and organization that these people preserved their ethnicity. They supported this institution, that support manifesting itself in the donation to the church of the Saint Wenceslaus altar by the Zapadni Cesko Katholicka Jednota (Workman's Organization) and by the raising of \$15,000 and the pledge of an additional acre of produce from each farmer on Saint Stephen's Day (December 26), 1922.

(See continuation sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than 0.5 acres

Quadrangle name New Hradec North, North Dakota

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minutes

### UTM References

A 

1	3	6	6	0	9	1	0	5	2	0	7	1	8	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 4, Block 4, New Hradec, North Dakota

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark J. Halvorson

organization N/A date September 24, 1985

street & number 2010 Xavier Street, #314 telephone 701-224-9655

city or town Bismarck state North Dakota 58501

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *James E. Shroy*

title North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer date December 5, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Beth Goodeno* date 2/3/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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SIGNIFICANCE, continued

It is through this institution that Czech spirit is kept alive in this community to this day. Czech as a conversational language may be heard in the vestibule, Czech hymns still resound from the choir loft, and Czech organizations still meet; these examples demonstrate the determination of a people to preserve their cultural heritage for future generations. That heritage is manifested by a structure, the Church of Saints Peter and Paul, of New Hradec, North Dakota.

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