

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 11 1986
date entered APR 11 1986

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

1. Name

historic St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

and/or common St. Barnabas Wedding Chapel

2. Location

street & number Chestnut Street _____ not for publication

city, town Montrose _____ vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Lee code 111

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lee County Historical Society

street & number

city, town Keokuk _____ vicinity of state Iowa 52632

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office

street & number Lee County Courthouse (South Half of County)

city, town Keokuk _____ state Iowa 52632

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (1869-71, c. 1902) is Gothic Revival in its design. This simple church with rectangular plan, flat-buttressed walls and a square tiered tower, was constructed in stages using locally quarried limestone. The building, adjacent to an early cemetery, marks the northern terminus of the town of Montrose.

This single story church building is rectangular on plan (40'9" x 30'4"). A small rectangular chancel, centered on the west rear measures ten by fourteen feet, and a vestry room with rear entrance and a door to the chancel measures seven by nine feet. A belfry tower, centered on the east or front face, measures ten by fourteen feet.

The building is actually oriented to the northeast, and is parallel to Chestnut Street which runs parallel to its southern sidewall. The thirty-five foot tall belfry, a 1902 addition, partially reorients the church to this street. Doors, set beneath pointed Gothic arches are centered in the east and southern sides of the belfry base. Flat pilasters wrap around each exterior corner of the belfry base. On the second floor, three semi-circular arched narrow single light windows, the central one taller than its equal sized companions, are centered above the front door. The third level is stepped slightly back and marked with a projecting belt course. On the third level, two gothic windows are set within a broad semi-circular in wall arch. The parapet is flat, with raised flat corners. The southern belfry face matches this arrangement element for element except that the door is smaller in scale and is a single door. The north belfry face has no openings on the lower two levels.

The stonework on the belfry is lighter than the blue limestone used on the building's core. Square cut, irregularly faced ashlar stone was used on the belfry. Rough cut, irregularly coursed stone was used on the original building. The steeply pitched gable roof has turned eaves. The eaveline is 14 feet above ground. Stepped pilasters, four to a side wall, and doubled at each front corner, add structural support, measuring two feet quare at the base. Three double hung sash windows (6/6) with transoms, are evenly distributed along each side wall, and are set beneath gothic arches with keystones. The arches themselves are smooth faced and project as drip molds beyond the wall plane. The westernmost of these, on each side wall, is a memorial window of colored and leaded glass. The stone walls measure one and three-fourths feet thick at their base.

A rear chancel window, consisting of three narrow gothic windows set beneath a broader flattened gothic arch, is centered in the west chancel wall. The vestry room area has a rear door and a plain window (both sealed).

The end walls rise to an elevation of twenty-eight feet at the gable peak. Conventional high pitched roof framing is used with one inch sheathing and an earthtone asphalt composition shingle covering. Interior walls are finished with plaster directly applied to the stone face.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 2

The original church lacked the belfry. Its east wall was blank save for a double door entryway set beneath a Gothic arch. The thick stone walls projected beyond the recessed doorway and transom. A corbelled brick chimney projected from the west end of the roof ridge and apparently serviced an in-wall flue. Stove heat serviced the church as late as 1913. The church was electrified in 1918. The present day chancel and vestryroom were present as early as 1895. The belfry appears first on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps by 1902.

A corner flue and metal stack located in the southwest corner replaced the main stack by the time the belfry was in place. A partial cellar was excavated (with a cellar door entrance on the north face) and a furnace added prior to 1927.

During the period of vacancy, beginning in 1960, considerable vandalism occurred. The churchyard was used to graze horses. A 1979 report noted that "Much of the original glass has been broken, and many of the windows are covered with boards." In 1980 several items were removed for reuse in other Episcopal parishes, including the chancel glass windows, the organ, and two carved chancel chairs. The original pews, two memorial windows, and the church bell remain.

The church is centered on the south half of Block 34, which is low located along the northern edge of the town limits. The town plat fronts on the Mississippi River and the streets are not aligned to the compass. The completion in 1913 of the dam at Keokuk raised the river level several feet, and inundated what had been the mouth of Jack's Creek, an area which included the northern half of Block 34. The northern corner of the town plat was vacated. Beneath the chapel is an early cemetery, dating to either c. 1800 or to the 1830's. The excavation of the cellar beneath the building struck one grave, coins found therein dated from the late 1700's. A more contemporary and unrelated cemetery, developed to the west and north, but all markers and records were lost. Some stone fragments are stored in the church. Because nothing visual remains from this cemetery, and because it fails to relate to the architectural theme of significance, it is not included in this nomination. It is probable that graves will be included within the identified boundary area which is associated with the church itself. The east lawn of the chapel includes a number of replanted Christmas trees, which are arranged in an avenue leading to the chapel.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1868–71, 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion C: Architecture

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church (1869-71, c. 1902) is a locally important example of Gothic Revival architecture. The main portion of the sanctuary, erected between 1868 and 1871, is constructed of locally quarried, rough cut, irregularly coursed, blue-gray limestone while the tower, added in 1902, is of square cut, irregularly faced, somewhat lighter ashlar. The latter addition exhibits a somewhat more formal Norman Gothic influence with its round headed windows and flat buttresses and may reflect a conscious design decision on the part of the parish vestry to update their church by bringing it in line with the Episcopal tradition of following traditional English ecclesiastical design.

The town of Montrose, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, midway between Keokuk and Ft. Madison in Lee County, was originally established in 1837 under the name "Fort Des Moines." A major impetus to its early development was its proximity to the Mormon city of Nauvoo, Illinois. Four churches were established in the town by 1860: Presbyterian (1852 frame church, moved, extant), United Methodist (1894 building, altered), Latter Day Saints (1883 building, altered), and Catholic (1850's, non-extant). An Episcopalian mission church was established in early 1862. These five churches co-existed into the present century and were joined by the Church of the Nazarine by 1927. With the exception of the last named body, all of the town's churches are located within four blocks of the river. St. Barnabas was the furthest north of these. The town's population was nearly one thousand in 1879, stabilized at 800 between 1895 and the First World War and then declined (625 by 1927). All of the churches had fairly small congregations, St. Barnabas' membership in 1879 numbered forty adults and eighty children.

Robert F. G. Page was rector when land for the church was provided in mid-September 1867. Construction was delayed as funds were slowly raised, until 1869 and even then, a final completion date comes only in 1871. Blue limestone was readily available due to the construction of a canal between Montrose and Keokuk. The stone was hauled a mile from its source to the building site on the northern edge of town, along Jack Creek. The church was constructed by its congregation. Matthew Richardson, J. S. Lakin and J. N. Ballou are credited with having finished the interior, including the furnishings. Primary documentation for the construction is lacking, but the building is said to have been completed only by 1871. A June 1871 report to the Diocese by Rev. Jacob Rambo noted that the building was complete except "to put in the windows and lay the floor." Total cost was \$2,000, the congregation was debt-free by 1879.

Known originally as Grace Episcopal Church, the name was changed in 1881 to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. St. Barnabas was never a church in its own right, but rather a mission church, ministered by rectors from nearby Keokuk or Fort Madison churches and an occasional Episcopal layman's group from Keokuk.

The congregation at first had shared quarters with the Methodists in the latter's church. A second hand bell, the gift of a St. Louis parish, was hung on a frame outside the Methodist Church until the belfry was constructed c. 1902. At that time the church gained its own belfry and a new primary facade, when the Norman-influenced entrance tower was

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Nauvoo-IA-ILL

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	5
---	---	---

6	3	1	3	9	1	7	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4	1	4	8	1	7	7	1	6	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

The southern one third of Lots 9 and 10, Block 34, Original Plat, Montrose. Contains only the church building. Block (northern half submerged) bounded on south by Chestnut, on south, 3rd on east, 4th on west.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

Iowa State Historical Department

organization Iowa Office of Historic Preservation

date February 28, 1986

street & number E. 12th & Grand Ave.

telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines

state Iowa 50319

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

Rowell J. Lohrke

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 28, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

Alvin Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/11/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

The women of the church raised the money for the stone vestibule and belfry. Local oral sources credit the construction work to 1910 but the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1902 shows the completed belfry in place. The architect and builder are not known.

The church continued in active use until 1960. A twenty-two year period of vacancy ensued. An attempt was made to relocate the local library to the church in 1974. The church was deconsecrated and some of its components were distributed to still active churches. The Narthex windows went to St. Paul Episcopal Church, Durant, in Cedar County in 1980, and some other interior items were lost. The glass was an 1870 gift to St. Barnabas from steamboat captain Thomas Ward. Only two parish members remained living by 1979. A local historical society organized in 1981 and received the deed to the church from the Episcopal diocese. The building was restored for use as a wedding chapel and also houses the meetings of the society each month.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Hancock, Mrs. Carolyn. Montrose in Retrospect. Montrose: TELCON, 1969.

History of Lee County, 1879. Chicago: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1879, pp. 675-77.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Lee County, Iowa. Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1887.

Roberts, Nelson C. Story of Lee County, Iowa. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1914, Volume I, pp. 161-2

Kennedy, J. P. "Early Days in Montrose" The Montrose Journal, a series of articles 26 April 1923 - 15 November 1934.

"The Renovation of St. Barnabas Church" Fort Madison Democrat, 4 December 1982, p. 10.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Montrose, Lee County, 1895, 1902, 1913, 1927.

Standard Atlas of Lee County, Iowa. Chicago: Geo. A. Ogle & Company, 1916.

"Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Durant, Iowa" Undated church brochure.

Oral History:

Dates, names of interviewers, and locations of interviews are not identified for the following oral history sources:

Martha Hamilton, Professor Emeritus of Art and Architecture, Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois.

Marie Jemison, former St. Barnabas church member.

Adele Kennedy, former St. Barnabas church member.

William L. Talbot, Local historian, author of history of St. John's Episcopal Church, Keokuk.