

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED APR 4 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON
same

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
212 West Grand Avenue

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN
Beloit

--- VICINITY OF

First

STATE
Wisconsin 53511

CODE
55

COUNTY
Rock

CODE
105

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Rector, Wardens, & Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Rev. John S. Bigler, Rector)

STREET & NUMBER
212 West Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Beloit

--- VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin 53511

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Rock County Court House

STREET & NUMBER
51 South Main

CITY, TOWN
Janesville

STATE
Wisconsin 53545

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Rock County Survey of Historic Sites & Buildings

DATE
1975

--- FEDERAL --- STATE COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Rock County Historical Society

CITY, TOWN
Janesville

STATE
Wisconsin 53545

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a beautifully preserved early Gothic Revival building of buff limestone. The main block of the church is 40' x 58' 6", with articulated five-bay sides and a three-bay facade, fronted by a three-story tower (12' x 15' 6"). The tower is surmounted by an octagonal pointed spire which soars 100' above ground. Tall lancet windows are flanked by engaged, stepped buttresses at the sides of the building. The buttressed corners are topped with pointed finials, and the corners of the tower are buttressed, as well. Pointed arches punctuate the tower front. Above the doorway is a tripartite window of simple tracery at the second level and, above a simply dentiled string course, are two lancet windows on the third level. The rugged texture of random-cut ashlar limestone contrasts with the smoothness of finials and roof.

The basic space of the nave is unaltered. The ceiling, of dark pine, is braced with crossbeams which extend between the windows and which support rondels under the ceiling ridge. They are original. The interior walls are plastered a light cream color. In 1892 the chancel was enlarged by 12 feet, with a new stone wall. A wooden gallery and organ loft was erected at the north (entrance) wall, and new stained glass windows were installed. Electricity was added. In 1945 a new set of pews, third for the church, was installed.

The screen and apse were remodeled in 1967 by Noble Rose, AIA, who also designed the contemporary limestone hall which was added to the rear. This is sensitively integrated with the original structure and provides a connection with a brick wing of offices further south.

Contemporary sculptures of bronze and treated brass, by O. Verne Shaffer, well-known local artist, provide focal points which do not detract from the Gothic structure and in fact are an important addition to the church. The 1971 crucifix at the altar is noteworthy. In 1975 a columbarium was created under the church, reached from the 1967 hall. The church is excellently maintained, and the preservation of its architectural integrity has been a conscious factor in any recent additions.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BELOIT, WISCONSIN

Paragraph 3 of the Description, supra, is amended to read as follows:

The screen and apse were remodeled in 1967 by Noble Rose, AIA, who also designed the limestone hall which was added to the rear. This is sensitively integrated with the original structure and provides a connection between the rear of the original part of the church and a two-story beige brick building which was built a short distance behind the church in the 1950's. The latter building houses offices, classrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and other facilities. Although it has become a rear wing due to the connection made by the 1967 addition, the auxiliary structure at the rear is not considered significant for purposes of this nomination.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 1848-51 BUILDER/ARCHITECT C. W. Otis (attributed to)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is significant as an outstanding example of early Gothic Revival architecture constructed of native Wisconsin limestone and excellently maintained in active use since the first services were held there in December of 1851. It is among the oldest existing stone Gothic churches in the state and is the oldest church in continuous service in Rock County. Its cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1848 on land, donated by John Hackett, on the west side of the Rock River. The church was consecrated, with all debts paid, on March 27, 1856, by Bishop Jackson Kemper. Church records show that the rector, the Reverend Mr. Millett, paid "an architect" \$75.00 to draw plans for the building.¹

The plan, dimensions and elevation are virtually identical to the "original sketch plans" by C. W. Otis for Grace Episcopal Church in Galena, Ill., as recorded by the HABS.² In the execution of St. Paul's the only variation from Grace is the use of stone voussoirs for the arches instead of moldings with labels. The design of St. Paul's may be attributed to Otis on these grounds. C. W. Otis, of Buffalo, N.Y., may have moved to Illinois as a young man; Grace is his only known work.³ Local tradition without documentation links St. Paul's with at least the influence of Richard Upjohn, which is a fairly safe statement.⁴

Col. Benjamin Vail was the contractor, and a Mr. Persels was the carpenter. Sills and beams were cut at Beloit's Big Hill (now a park) and hauled to the site by oxen. Ox wagons also hauled the doors and windows, which came from Milwaukee.

Whoever the architect may be, the building is a worthy example of early Gothic Revival architecture in the upper midwest. The fine proportions, the beautiful workmanship of the stone, and the gracefulness of the spire commend it. Nestled between railroad tracks, parking lots, and the Beloit Municipal Center, its height no longer commands spatial dominance of the city, but the excellently maintained quality of its architecture and the active use by its congregation show it to be a continuing landmark of the city.

St. Paul's was designated a Wisconsin Registered Landmark in October, 1967.

1. Book of Beloit, 1936, p. 112.
2. W. L. Olson, Plans of Grace Church, Galena. Historic American Buildings Survey: Ill. 150.
3. Withey, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects, Deceased, Los Angeles, 1956, p. 450.
4. Interview with Rev. George Bersch, Feb. 4, 1975; files of Beloit College.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Beloit Journal, Aug. 21, Dec. 11, Dec. 25, 1851.
- Book of Beloit, (Beloit, 1936), pp. 111-112.
- Douglas, Nancy B. and Hartung, Richard P., Rock County Historic Sites and Buildings, (Janesville, 1976), pp. 37 (plate 12 f), 39, 195-197.
- History of Rock County, (Chicago, 1879), 644.
- Interview with the Reverend George Bersch, Feb. 4, 1975.
- Files of Rock County Historical Society: "St. Paul's Church."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.75

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	3	3	2	4	3	0	4	7	0	7	2	5	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy Belle Douglas, Preservation Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Rock County Historical Society

DATE

December 3, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 896

TELEPHONE

(608) 756-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Janesville

STATE

Wisconsin 53545

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

Richard M. Kinner

TITLE

Acting Director
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE

1/25/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

William L. Galt

DATE

4/4/78

ATTEST:

Wayne Colz

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.15.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

