orm No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

23

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church AND/OR COMMON St. Peter's Church **2 LOCATION** WI K **STREET & NUMBER** 7125 County Trunk K NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Second Ashton VICINITY OF STATE CODE COUNTY CODE 025 55 Dane Wisconsin

## **3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESI	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)			COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	X RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	-YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	XYES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Diocese of Madi	son	
STREET & NUMBER		
15 East Wilson	Street	
CITY, TOWN		STATE
Madison	VICINITY OF	Wisconsin 53703
<b>5 LOCATION OF</b>	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE,		
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	Dane County Courthouse	
STREET & NUMBER		
	210 Monona Avenue	
CITY, TOWN		STATE
	Madison	Wisconsin 53709
6 REPRESENTA'	<b>FION IN EXISTING SURVEY</b>	(S
Wisconsin Inver	tory of Historic Places	
DATE		V
1977	FEDER/	AL XSTATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS St	ente Wigtomianl Cogioty of Wiggo	noin 916 State Street
	ate Historical Society of Wiscor	
CITY, TOWN	dison	STATE Wisconsin 53706
rid		#19COUSTU 33100

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONI	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK	DNE
≚EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	ϪUNALTERED ALTERED	Xoriginal moved	SITE DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Peter's Church is located in the village of Ashton, Town of Springfield, Dane County. In both size and quality of design, the tall structure dominates all other small structures in the village. One mile west of State Highway 12, the village is located in the midst of rolling farmland, giving added visibility to the church, whose spire can be seen from several miles around. The site of the nominated property includes a large Colonial Revival rectory, L-shaped cream brick old school/convent, buff-brick modern school, cemetery, and parking lot. None of the other structures is included in the Ko'c see 41. Sup  $\frac{\pi}{26}$ 

The church's design is symmetrical, dominated by a center, staged square steeple rising from a two-story narthex/loft. The rough-cut coursed limestone walls are accented by stone-trimmed buttresses, water table, and pointed arches. Small apses project from the rectangular mass on the east and west just south of the narthex. On the south, the projecting tall apse (containing the altar) is framed by one-story ancillary sacristies connected by a one-story passage. Stone-trimmed limestone buttresses punctuate all wall surfaces, marking the nave and apses into bays into which pointed arch windows are set. The level of the front concrete steps (replaced in 1977) is maintained by a contrasting stone water table around the building.

The principal entrance is set within the steeple, recessed beneath a large pointed stone arch. The double wooden doors are enhanced by oversized, decorative black iron hinges. The jambs to either side are filled by three-quarter Corinthian columns; overhead, the tympanum is filled by a quatrefoil overlight behind a suspended lantern. The entrance is surmounted by a stone-framed rose window. The upper stages of the steeple contain triple lancet windows on each face, and large, pointed arch louvres in the belfrey beneath the steep, octagonal spire. The spire and the gable roof over the nave are covered with the original slate shingles.

The rectangular nave is contained by a wide, vaulted ceiling with gold-leafed rib and The vaulted apse at the south end contains the pinnacled altar, a larger tiercerons. version of the subsidiary altars in the raised sanctuary to either side. Decorating the expanded spandrels over the altar arches is a delicately-painted mural depicting Christ with his disciples. The nave is filled with two rows of oak pews divided by a center aisle, lighted by two rows of suspended lanterns. Set within the deep window reveals are windows of stained glass, varying in theme but of uniform high-quality design and tonality. Other interior furnishings included a simple table-like altar (a result of redecoration in 1977) placed in the sanctuary before the high altar, a large, carved wood pulpit with pinnacled canopy against the east wall, carved wood lecterns to either side of the center altar, and wood kneelers and chairs in the sanctuary. A choir loft with heavy wood balustrade overhangs the north end of the nave above the narthex. The apses to the east and west at the north end contain a baptistry and grotto respectively; the former is enclosed by an iron gate and contains an altar, and the latter is protected by plate glass windows and door providing a view of the rock formation and statuary within Interior walls were repainted during remodelling in 1977, at which time the oak floors were carpeted.

The road-side site also includes the cream brick old <u>school</u>/convent on the west side of the church, and the grand clapboard Colonial Revival rectory on the east. The former, a two-story-plus-attic L-shaped house, has distinctive applied timbering in its front

## **8** SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DAT		BUILDER/ARCH		2
1900-	COMMONICATIONS	INDUSTRY INVENTION	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
1800-1899 1900-	COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT		
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	$\underline{X}$ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In many senses, St. Peter's Church of Ashton is that community's preeminent building. Constructed as the second parish church in 1901, the well-designed native limestone Neo-Gothic church still serves as a visual landmark and social and education nucleus of the area. Parish records document the social significance of the parish, and the degree of attention given to construction of the most significant piece of architecture in the vicinity.

#### Architecture

Distinguished by the textural and technical quality of its exterior, constructed of blue limestone quarried at local farms, St. Peter's Church is further significant in the sophistication of its Gothic design. Essentially a small country church, its wellintegrated subsidiary masses (narthex, side chapels, and apses) and well-proportioned details give the structure a monumentality belying its size. The retention of the original slate shingle roof contributes to the integrity of the structure and the coloristic quality of design. Of special note in the interior is the delicately-toned and finely-scaled mural over the sanctuary.

Complete records of the church's construction were kept. Architect Anton Dohman of Milwaukee, about whom little is known, was hired to produce the design for \$460. J. H. Owens of Mazomanie was the mason contractor; Paul Oppermann of Milwaukee was the carpenter contractor. Painting was contracted to Henry Riles of Middleton, and decorating to H. J. G. Gaetner of Milwaukee. Two Milwaukee manufacturers, Biersach & Wiedermeyer and C. Colnick, produced the iron work. Hardware was provided by Peter Paulus of Milwaukee, and the L. J. Mueller Company of Milwaukee furnished the furnace. E. Hackner of La Crosse, a well-known builder of sanctuary furnishings, built the three altars, pulpit, rail, altar furniture, and pedestals for statuary. All were made of butternut. Total cost of construction came to \$22,646, a substantial sum in 1901.

#### Social/Humanitarian

Inseparable from the predominantly German and French settlement of Springfield Township, St. Peter's parish records provide the history of the local populace, pre-dating state statistics. The first settler in the area, Joseph Spahn, Sr., arrived from Bavaria, Germany in 1848. During the next four years, Catholic families of Cologne, Germany and

<sup>1</sup>Cornerstone.

<sup>2</sup>Parish records.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Parish records of St. Peter's Church

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Bier, Francis A., "St. Peter's Church: Centennial 1861-1961," Parish Centennial Committee, 1961. Catholic Historical Publishing Company, Geschichte der Katholischen Kirche in Wisconsin,

Milwaukee, WI, 1899.

TTEST:

# Parish Records, St. Peter's Church, Ashton, Wisconsin VERIFIED

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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<b>III</b> FORM PREPARED I	3Ý		
NAME / TITLE			
Msgr. Andrew R. Bret	nes Pastor		
ORGANIZATION			DATE
St. Peter's Church		<u> </u>	August 1979
STREET & NUMBER Box 222, 7121 County	Trunk K		TELEPHONE (608) 831–4843
CITY OR TOWN			STATE
Middleton			Wisconsin 53562
<b>12 STATE HISTORIC P</b>	PESERVATIO	N OFFICER C	EDTIFICATION
	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF		
NATIONAL	STA	TE	LOCAL <u> </u>
As the designated State Historic Pre	servation Officer for the	National Historic Preser	vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I
-			it it has been evaluated according to the
criteria and procedures set forth by t	he National Park Service		1
		(V. I.	. Alle.
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	CER SIGNATURE	Kielu	un praise
TITLE Director, State H	istorical Societ	v of Wisconsin	DATE 6/18 80
FOR NPS USE ONLY		·	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS P	ROPERTY	IN THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER / /
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DATE 9/18

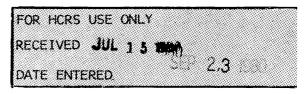
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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



St. Peter's Church, Ashton, Dane County, Wisconsin

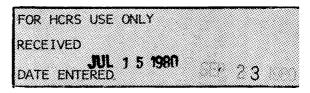
#### **CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

Description (continued)

gables and oversize contrasting brick voussoirs over the windows. The entrance in the center of the eastern leg of the "L" is covered by a small, open gableroofed porch; the angle and western leg are spanned by a balustraded, half-hiproof porch with latticed crawl-space underneath. The large, two-story-plus-attic rectory features a full, first-story open balustraded porch with Ionic columns, denticulated entablature, and concrete-block foundation. Picturesque elements of the asymmetrical design include a polygonal corner tower to the east, and Palladian gables on the north and east and a tall interior brick chimney set in the pyramidal roof.

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



St. Peter's Church, Ashton, Dane County, Wisconsin

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### Significance (continued)

Alsace-Lorraine began arriving, providing impetus for establishing a parish and constructing a church in 1861. In 1867, a school was constructed opposite the church by the congregation. Until a public school was constructed in 1920, St. Peter's School provided the community's sole instruction in reading, writing, arithmetic, and religion in both German and English, serving as the primary means of acculturation. Lay male teachers taught in the schools until the Franciscan Sisters of Manitowoc moved into the parish convent constructed in 1905. Even after the public school began to relieve some of the burden on St. Peter's, the Franciscans taught in that facility as well, providing an unusual example of co-operation between church and state.<sup>4</sup> The church continues to function as the dominant social organ of Ashton in its services and sponsorship of social activities.

<sup>4</sup>Francis A. Bier, "St. Peter's Church Centennial, 1861-1961," Parish Centennial Committee, 1961. FHR-8-300A (11/78) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HERS USE ONLY RECEIVED JUL 1 5 1900 DATE ENTERED. 2 3

St. Peter's Church, Ashton, Dane County, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER 11	PAGE 1

FORM PREPARED BY (continued)

Diane H. Filipowicz Architectural Historian

Historic Preservation Division	February, 1980
State Historical Society of Wisconsin	
816 State Street	(608) 262-2970
Madison, Wisconsin 53706	