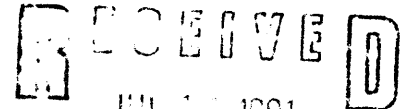


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 Fritz Chapel
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Route 2 (Spruce Creek Rd) not for publication
city, town Bellevue vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Jackson code 097 zip code 52031

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Limestone Architecture of Jackson County, Iowa
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.
David L. [Signature] 2/5/91
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. Carol D. Shull 8-30-91
 See continuation sheet.
 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious structure

RELIGION/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century

foundation Limestone

Other: Luxembourgian

walls Limestoneroof Composition shinglesother Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This small limestone chapel, measuring 8'1"x 7'2", is located on the north side of the Spruce Creek Road, at the intersection of a farm lane. The chapel occupies a triangular plot of land, with four tall spruce trees along the west side, and a white picket fence enclosing the lawn in front of the chapel. The chapel consists of three stone walls, with an open facade on the south elevation. A set of iron gates featuring a cross pattern is located on this open facade. The interior is plastered, and furnished with a stone altar with a hand carved crucifix. The gabled roof is covered with composition shingles.

The stonework on this small chapel is of cut stones, most about 6"x 10", laid in courses. It appears that some repointing has been done within the past few years.

The site of this small structure, at the side of the road in this valley, is quite beautiful. Approaching from the east, you round a corner, and there is the chapel with its neat fence and trees, totally isolated, the only other man-made structure in sight being a bridge a half mile down the road.

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

1852

Significant Dates

1852

Cultural Affiliation

Luxembourgian

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Mathias Fritz

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

This small limestone chapel is significant under Criterion C as an example of vernacular limestone design from the mid-19th century.

In 1852 Matthias Fritz and his family emigrated to this country from Luxembourg. They ultimately settled here in Jackson County, in the valley of Spruce Creek. It is said that Fritz erected this chapel in thanksgiving for a safe voyage. Tradition has it that Fritz was a stone mason by profession, but he is not listed in any of the census records as such. No other buildings have been attributed to Fritz. A long-time resident remembers hearing stories about a number of stone masons who lived on small farms (40 acres) in the area, but traveled distances to work, often for a week at a time. Fritz may have been such a mason.

The Fritz family was one of many from Luxembourg to settle in Jackson County. Tete des Morts Twp., immediately north of Bellevue, had a large number of Luxembourgian families. Many were clustered in the area around St. Donatus, while others located on farms in the area, spreading into Bellevue and Prairie Springs townships as well. Fritz Chapel is located on the Bellevue/Tete des Morts township line. The Fritz family apparently was not a part of the Luxembourgian St. Donatus parish, as they are buried in St. Joseph's cemetery in Bellevue. It is very possible that they worshipped at the small "neighborhood" church of St. Nikolaus a mile east of the chapel that had been established by German Catholics (the Niemanns and Rolings).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atlas & Plat Book of Jackson County, Iowa. 1893; 1913.
History of Jackson County, Iowa. 1879; 1897.
Unidentified, undated newspaper articles about the chapel.
Interview with Ed Ernst conducted by Bel Tubbs, 28 January 1991.

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	7	0	6	5	8	0
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4	6	8	5	3	4	0
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C

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B

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A parcel of land located on the north side of Spruce Creek Road where it intersects with the Ernst private lane in T87N R4E Sec 33 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$. This parcel is irregular in shape, bounded by the lane on the east, the road on the south, and is enclosed by a fence. It measures approx. 40'x80' following the fence, and extending ten feet to the north beyond the chapel rear wall. See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This nomination includes the chapel and fence, the area historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

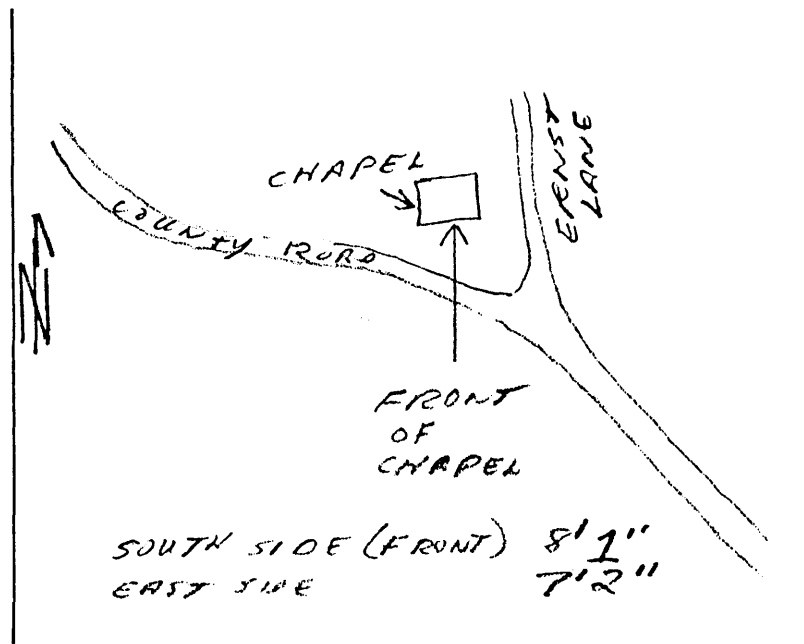
name/title <u>Molly Myers Naumann, Consultant</u>	(515) 682-2743
organization <u>Jackson County H.P.C.</u>	date <u>May 1991</u>
street & number <u>J.C. Courthouse, 201 W. Platt</u>	telephone <u>(319) 652-3181</u>
city or town <u>Maquoketa</u>	state <u>IA</u> zip code <u>52060</u>

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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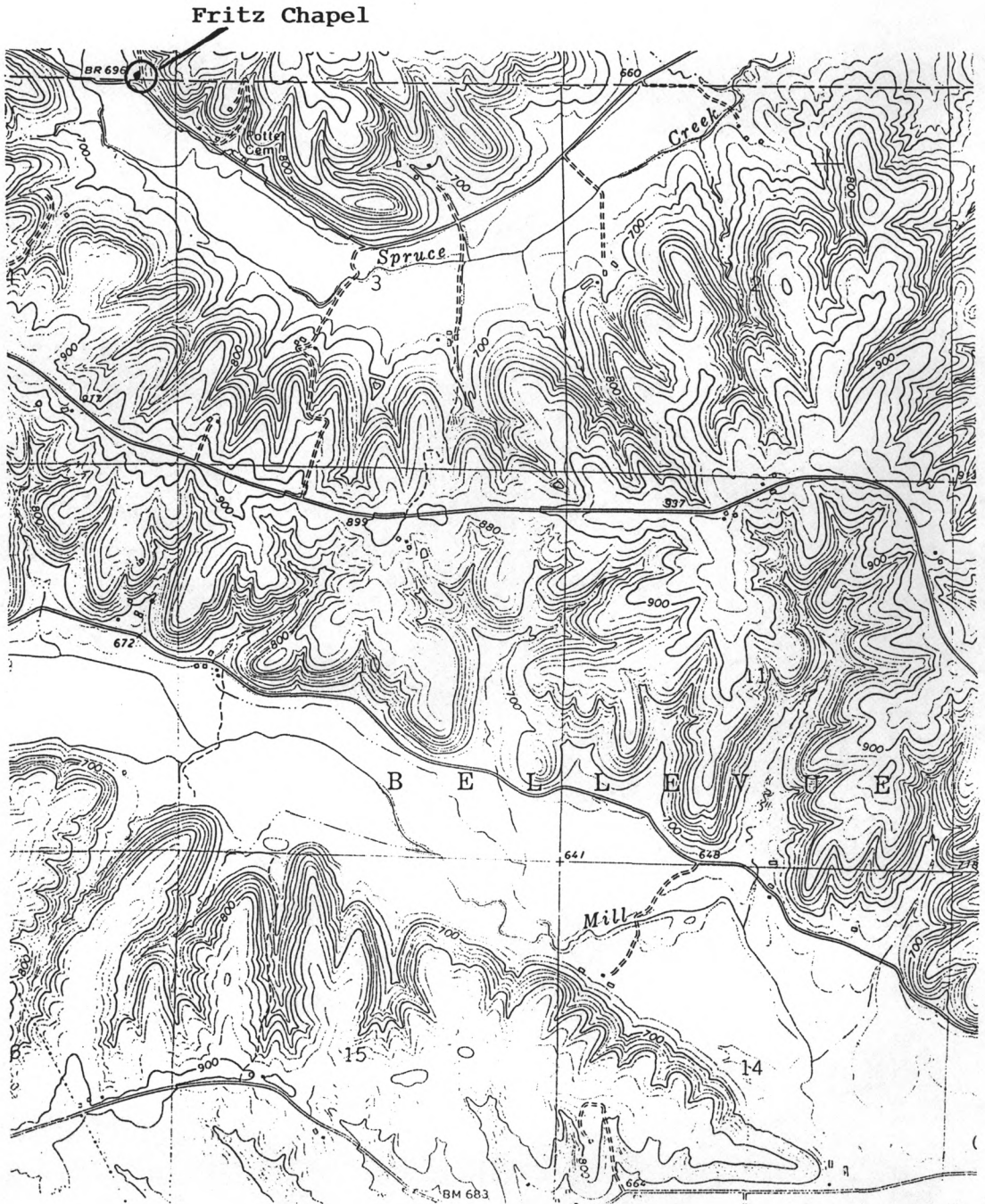


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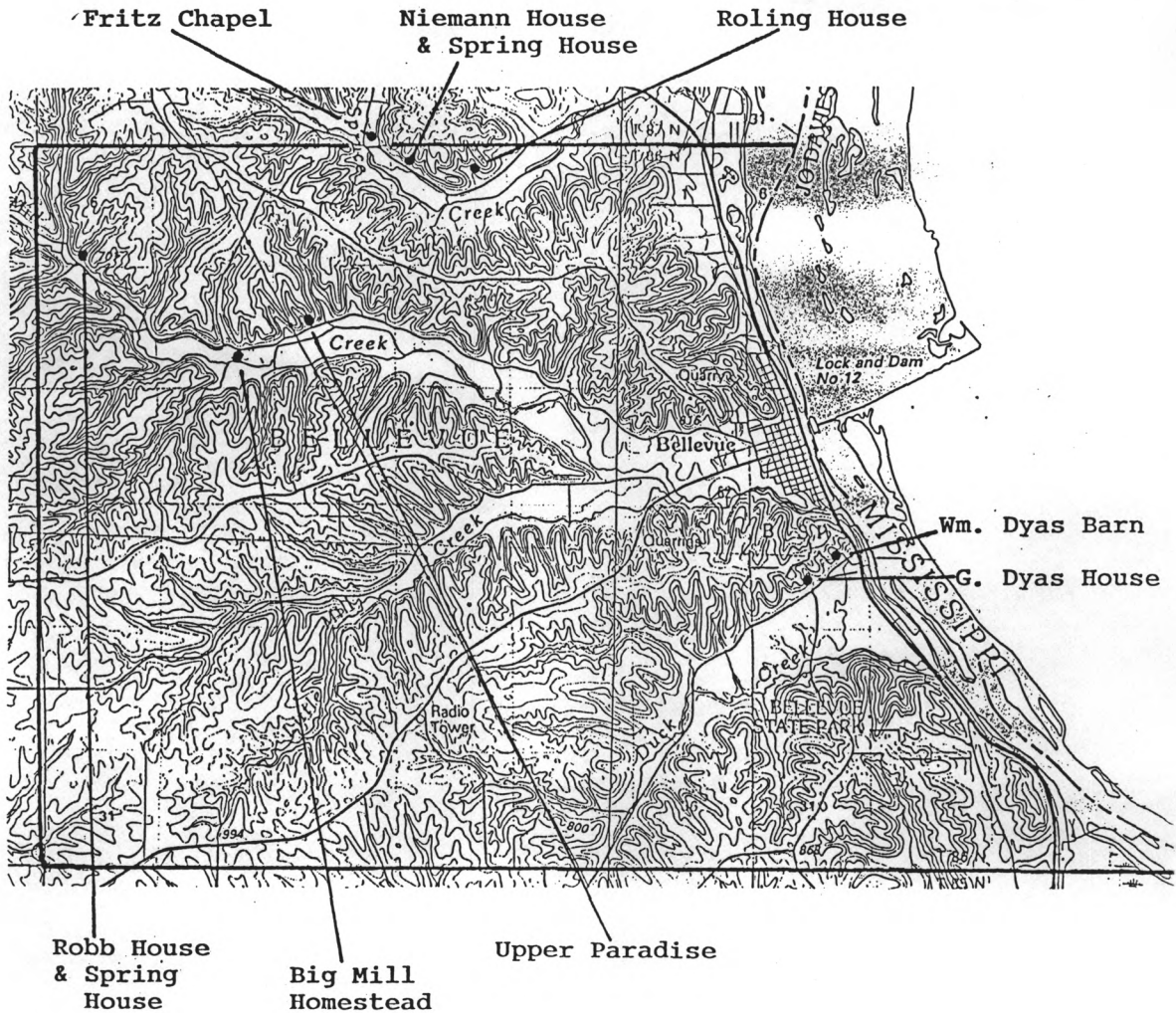


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Rural limestone resources being nominated
with this submission.

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

BRONZE PLAQUE ON ALTAR

Erected by Matthias Fritz
1819-1889

About 1852 in thanks to
God for a safe voyage for
his family from Luxembourg
to America.

WOOD PLAQUE TO RIGHT OF CHAPEL

FRITZ CHAPEL

In the mid 1800s Mathias Fritz and his wife Maria Forrett and their six children left Luxembourg for the United States. The ship completed the arduous passage in 42 days. It was a dangerous adventure during which Mr. Fritz vowed to God that if he gave them a safe passage to America he would erect a chapel. They left New Orleans by boat up the Mississippi River ending their journey in Bellevue.

They bought 34 acres of land near here where they lived for the remainder of their lives.

Matthias, utilizing his skills as a stone mason and carver, built the chapel on land that was donated by a friend. He carved the walnut arches from a single piece of wood, and also carved the Christ figurine.

Mrs. Fritz was killed in 1884 by a runaway team of horses. Mr. Fritz made her tombstone, which is located in St. Joseph's cemetery in Bellevue. Matthias Fritz died in 1889.

Their children cared for the chapel until the last Fritz child, Johanna Fritz Meier, died in 1945. The responsibility was then taken over by her children.

The first Mass heard at the chapel was on June 24, 1952, on the 100th anniversary of the chapel's completion.

The first annual Fritz reunion at the chapel was held July 27, 1980.

Today an organization called the Matthias Fritz Chapel Fund, Inc. has the responsibility of its preservation and upkeep of the chapel and grounds.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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