

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JAN 4 1980
DATE ENTERED	FEB 8 1980

**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. Mary's Church and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

220 East Jefferson St.

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Johnson County

CODE

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_PARK

\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_BOTH

\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_OBJECT

\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_NO

\_\_MILITARY

\_\_OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. Mary's Church of Iowa City, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

220 East Jefferson

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 52240

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Iowa City

Iowa

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Mary's Church in Iowa City was begun in 1867. Its overall dimensions are 65' x 145', and it is constructed of brick on a stone foundation, with trim also of stone. The round arch is a prominent element of the design, used for the entrance portals, windows, and belltower elements.

The side elevations are divided into 7 bays, each with a stained-glass window, by buttresses flanked by flat brick pilasters. The buttresses were added in 1907, to stabilize the walls of the nave. Toward the rear on the east side is a small entrance with round-arched doorway set in a small gable-roofed (with parapet) vestibule.

The main elevation is dominated by the central tower, which rises two stages to be capped with an octagonal spire. The three portals are framed by compound round arches, with keystones and impost blocks of limestone. Each side portal is surmounted by a tall, round-arched window.

The first stage of the tower contains the main entrance and two superimposed pairs of round-arched windows beneath a shallow gable trimmed with stone. Above this rises the bell-and-clock chamber, the cornices of which are arched to accommodate clock faces on each side.

The principal exterior alteration (apart from the buttresses) is the very recent opening of a doorway on the west side, to allow access to the handicapped and elderly.

The sanctuary features a vaulted ceiling, the arches rising from impost blocks set high on the walls. The color scheme is principally blue, pink, gold and cream, and there is a great deal of stencilling on the walls and ceiling (dating from 1941). Of note are the main and side altars, each with a high, elaborate reredos featuring polychrome statues, crockets and finials. The main altar (crafted by the firm of Alert and Kloustie, Cincinnati), was installed in 1869, the other two in 1872 and 1900. The rich iconography is carried round the walls of the nave, to include stations of the cross in plaster bas-relief (obtained from Germany in 1892) and more polychrome statuary. The tracker organ was purchased in 1883 from the Moline (Illinois) Organ Co.

Across the rear of the nave is a balcony (not original) supported with large metal braces and metal columns.

The rectory, built in 1891, has a wood frame structural system and brick veneer. Overall dimensions are 47' x 67'. The house is basically a large brick box, with pointed hip roof broken on the east and south by large gabled wall dormers ending in shoulder parapets. The asymmetrical composition of the front is dominated by the large veranda at the southwest corner which features large semicircular brick arches that provide continuity with the portals of the church.

# 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

1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

XXXXXXXXX Hugh Gilles, Dubuque  
A Groebel, Chicago

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Mary's Church is a well-preserved representative of Iowa's large-scale ecclesiastical architecture of the 19th century. Its form (tripartite front, central belltower and steeple) was very common in the Dubuque and Davenport dioceses during the 19th century, and many examples still exist, large and small, and in wood, brick and stone. It appears, however, that most of Iowa's Catholic churches of this period, form and size were more straightforwardly Gothic, eschewing the round arch for the pointed arch for windows and portals. Thus the use of the round arch in St. Mary's in Iowa City is a distinctive feature, since, in most other aspects, it is quite similar to the more prevalent Gothic Revival forms in its form and pronounced verticality.

Note should also be taken of the interior, which displays a number of early elements including altars, bas-relief sculpture and polychrome statues, many of which were obtained from Germany.

The church also serves as an anchor on the east end of a two-block stretch of Jefferson Street that is characterized by religious and educational buildings of large scale. The street is anchored at the west end by the Congregational Church (Gothic Revival, 1860's, National Register 1973) and St. Mary's School (now Center East, National Register 1977). On the south side of Jefferson, the view is dominated by university-owned buildings dating from the late 19th and 20th centuries, which stretch their massive facades along two blocks. On the north side of the street, east of St. Mary's School, is a small convent, the large Berkeley Apartments (National Register 1979), a monolithic Methodist church with concrete addition, St. Mary's rectory, and, finally, St. Mary's Church itself.

St. Mary's parish was founded in 1840 by Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli. A brick church, Greek Revival in form, was begun in 1841. The present structure was begun in 1867, the steeple added somewhat later. It was built around the earlier church, which was then razed. Although the architect for the present church is unknown, the construction was by Hugh Gilles of Dubuque and A. Groebel of Chicago. The 1907 buttressing was accomplished by local builder and parishioner, J.J. Hotz.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fuhrmann, Joseph. History of St. Mary's Church. Iowa City, 1916.  
 Kempker, John. History of St. Mary's Church, Iowa City, from 1893 to 1909 (ms., St. Mary's archives).  
 Aurner, Charles Ray. Leading Events in Johnson County, Iowa, History. Cedar Rapids: Western Historical Press, 1912.

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Iowa City West, Iowa

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 922240 4613160  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6 and 7, Block 67, Original Town Plat of Iowa City, Iowa.

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

M.H. Bowers, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Division of Historic Preservation

DATE

September, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

26 East Market Street

TELEPHONE

319-353-6949

CITY OR TOWN

Iowa City

STATE

Iowa 52240

# 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

*Adrian A. Anderson*

TITLE

Director, Division of Historical Preservation

DATE

December 3, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*William H. Busham*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 2-8-80

ATTEST:

*William H. Busham*

DATE 2-4-80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION