

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
other names/site number Cedar Catholic Church

2. Location

street & number Four miles west on E 19, 1/2 mile N on gravel road not for publication
city or town Churdan vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Greene code 073 zip code 50050

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (see continuation sheet for additional comments).

David A. ... SHPO 5/27/92
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 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 **Entered in the National Register** Date of Action

Shelton Byers 7/10/92

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Name of Property

Greene County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious Structure/Church

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religious Structure/Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

limestone

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1915

1920

Significant Dates

1915

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Steele, William LeBarthe, Architect

Maver, C. F. and Company, Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Name of Property

Greene County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan L. Nugent
organization N/A date 5-15-92
street & number RR 1, Box 66A telephone 515-389-3602
city or town Churdan state Iowa zip code 50050

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the complete form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name St. Patrick's Catholic Church
street & number c/o St. Columbkil's Rectory telephone _____
city or town Churdan, state Iowa zip code 50050

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Name of Property

Greene County, Iowa
County and State

Description

Located on a gravel road in northern Greene County a short distance west of Churdan, the site of St. Patrick's Church is one of the highest points in Cedar township and overlooks the Cedar Creek Valley. It has been known as St. Patrick's, Cedar, because the original settlers clustered around the Cedar Creek and all references to the area, including the township, became known as Cedar. A local landmark since its completion in 1915, this 41 x 70 foot rectangular edifice rests on brick foundations, features walls of matt-faced, vitrified brick with stone and concrete trim, and is capped with a steeply pitched gable roof, originally covered with wood shingles but now sheathed in asphalt ones. Designed by William LeBarthe Steele in a period version of the Romanesque Revival mode, the church features such hallmarks of the style as the semicircular arch for window and door openings, the utilization of square tower and projecting pavilions of different heights with parapets that flank the facade, and the prominent employment of wall and corner buttresses. In 1919 the church suffered major fire damage, but one year later it was repaired largely to its original state with the exception of side entrances which were removed. Although the building has undergone some alteration over the years, Steele's original design has been maintained and it has a good degree of both exterior and interior integrity.

The present church, which was erected in 1915, was preceded by a wood frame building built in 1872. The present structure is a Romanesque style of matt-faced brick and stone. It was designed by William L. Steele, a devout Catholic and renowned architect. It was built by C. F. Mayer and Company of Humboldt, Iowa.

St. Patrick's, Cedar, is located in the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Township 85, Range 32, Section 23 of Cedar Township, Greene County. It is four miles west on E. 19 and one-half mile north of Churdan, Iowa. It is located on one of the highest points in Cedar Township and overlooks the cedar Creek Valley and the original settlements. It adjoins the cemetery whose graves closely border it.

It is a rectangular shaped 41 x 70 foot edifice whose primary construction is brick and stone. Its original wood shingle roof has been replaced by gray asphalt shingles.

The exterior landscaping included a wire and poured concrete post fence which was removed after it became overgrown and deteriorated. The privies (contributing), one of brick and one of hollow tile and stucco, are still intact and in use as there has never been inside plumbing in the church. The covered stables were razed after the use of automobiles became common. Tall evergreens border the war memorial and flag pole as well as the south boundary of the property. The drive has been graveled and extended through the cemetery.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
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The approach to St. Patrick's, Cedar, is through the original ornate wrought-iron gateway labeled ST. PATRICK'S and ascending the original poured-in-place concrete steps with poured sidearms. The south gable end of the church is dominated by a large original stained glass rose window. All the windows in the building are arched with stone sills. The cornerstone, which was opened and resealed in 1972, is located in the southwest corner of the bell tower. The tower is engaged in the southwest corner of the building and the front entrance is gained through the offset bell tower by way of the original poured-in-place concrete steps with brick side arms finished in stone. The bell tower has a flat crenelated top. The bell chamber has two wood louvers on each exterior surface. The bell was destroyed in the fire of 1919 and never replaced. The middle portion of the tower has two small stained glass windows on each of three sides. There is one large stained glass window on the west side of the tower foyer. The front wooden double vestibule doors have been replaced by glazed brown steel doors which are topped by a large stained glass window. The original doors remain in storage. To the east of the tower and projecting from the facade of the nave is the infant cry room. This projection also has a crenelated top similar to the tower top and contains two stained glass windows. The southeast corner of the east side has a small projection with one small stained glass window. This room has been and continues to be used as a confessional. The east side of the church has four bays with symmetrically placed stained glass windows between the structural pilasters. The outside entry to the basement lies within the fourth bay. The northernmost window on the east side illuminates the sacristy. The north side of the building has four small stained glass windows, two of which flank either side of a small stucco surfaced hollow tile entrance portico. The west side has five large stained glass windows symmetrically placed between the structural pilasters. There is one small stained glass window in the small projection at the north end that is part of the sacristy.

One enters an open foyer in the bell tower which features an oak stairway to the choir loft and a niche containing a life-like stature of St. Patrick. The infant cry room can be entered through a door on the right.

A large swinging glazed door separates the foyer from the nave of the church. The interior walls are plaster on lath with a coating of textured plaster. The heavy timber open-truss scissor rafters are finished with laminated oak veneer supported by heavy timber wood joists which are enhanced by laminated oak veneer. The bronze and glass hanging lamps were purchased from St. Joseph's Church of Lohrville, Iowa, when it was razed and are original to the era. The varnished oak pews are original to the church; however, the kneelers have been replaced with padded ones. The statues of the Virgin Mary, Sacred Heart, and Adoring Angels grace the altars of the sanctuary.

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
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They, along with the altars, have not been changed. Above the sanctuary is a latticed window with its intricate open design. The oak floors have long been carpeted as has the tiled foyer. The small choir loft is situated above the infant cry room in the rear of the nave. The projecting balcony is encased in wood and stained a medium oak. The other interior wood is of dark oak. A small pump organ dates from the period of significance and is still in use. The sacristy can be reached by a door to the west of the main altar and consists of two small rooms connected by a narrow passage behind the apse. It is mainly used for storage of vestments and altar supplies. The rear entrance to the sacristy is through a doorway from the portico into the narrow passage. The full basement may be reached through a door in the floor of the northwest corner of the sacristy as well as the outside entrance. The basement houses the furnace. It was originally heated by a wood and coal furnace and later converted to fuel oil. To my knowledge this Lennox Model #SS800C is the original furnace. The heat ducts and wiring are all exposed. The non-structural veneer of hollow core tile was plastered. These walls are badly deteriorating, and we are planning to replace them with red brick. The exterior foundation is of solid brick and is intact. The flooring is poured concrete.

On June 15, 1919, St. Patrick's, Cedar, burned. All the wooden, plaster, and glass surfaces of the interior of the church structure were destroyed. Only the brick walls remained. There was no water or chemical protection, and nothing could be done but to watch the beautiful building burn. The building was only insured for \$15,000.00, although it had cost over \$24,000.00 to build and furnish. There was much pressure on the congregation to combine with the German parish of St. Columbkil's of Churdan rather than rebuild. They had little money but the loyal Irish Catholic population of St. Patrick's once again rallied their strength and faith and rebuilt the beautiful church which stands as a monument to the determination of its people and a guardian of the resting place of its forbearers. The rebuilding was done during the tenure of Father Francis McNeil who had served at Schaller when that church was designed and built by Steele in 1913. Although we have no record of Steele's consultation on the rebuilding of the church, it would seem plausible that he would have been consulted on the design changes since he had built so many churches for the diocese and was acquainted with Father McNeil. The rebuilding was superintended by a Mr. Parker from Iowa City and much of the labor was done by parishioners. The basic design of the church was retained. Only the ornate side entrances were modified to simple bays and the bricks reused in the construction. The changes are not unlike other exterior wall designs of other churches built by Steel. The rebuilding was completed by August, 1920.

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
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The following modifications or alterations to the original church have resulted in little or no change in the building's integrity.

The brick has been tuckpointed.
Plexiglass has been installed over all windows.
Some replastering has been necessary.
The door to the east end of the sanctuary was closed off in the 1960's when ductwork for heating was added.
The altar rail was removed and stored; a new altar was added.
Electricity was installed replacing the gas lanterns when a Kohler Electric Light Plant was installed in the 1920's (this was later removed when the REC came to the area).
The finial copper cross was struck by lightning and is stored.
A new asphalt roof was installed in 1990.
The front doors were replaced.

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Name of Property

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Significance

St. Patrick's Catholic Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C and Criterion Consideration A as one of the finest examples of rural church design in Greene County. Designed by prominent Sioux City architect William LeBarthe Steele in a period revival version of the Romanesque Revival, this church is one of the best examples of this style in the county, and is the first example of Steele's ecclesiastical work identified there to date.

Steele designed churches and religious-oriented structures for the Diocese of Sioux City as well as many public buildings and private homes. His most notable work was the Woodbury County courthouse in Sioux City, Iowa.

Steele was born in Springfield, Illinois on May 2, 1875. He was the son of Robert C. and Mary E. (LeBarthe) Steele. He received his elementary and secondary education in the Springfield public schools, graduating from high school in 1892. He then entered the school of architecture at the University of Illinois, where he graduated in 1896 with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He next entered the office of Louis Sullivan of Chicago who had gained considerable note as the architect for the Chicago Auditorium, the Chicago Stock Exchange Building, and as founder of the "Prairie School" style. Later Steele worked for S.S. Beman of Chicago, the Westinghouse Company of Pittsburgh, Alden and Harlow of Pittsburgh, and Sidney Hickert also of Pittsburgh who specialized in church architecture.

Steele came to Sioux City in 1904 and for a time was associated with Wilfred Beach under the name of Beach and Steele. Afterward he practiced architecture alone until 1926. In 1914, Steele was awarded the contract for the Woodbury County Courthouse. The completion of this building brought him national prominence as an architect. Among other noteworthy structures designed and built by Steele are the First Congregational Church of Sioux City, Sacred Heart Church of Ft. Dodge, Immaculate Conception School in the Morningside area of Sioux City, St. Vincent's Hospital of Sioux City, Sacred Heart Hospital of LeMars, and St. Joseph's Hospital of Ft. Dodge. Steele was apparently greatly favored as an architect and builder by the Diocese of Sioux City. Although it has not been possible to confirm how many structures he did build, it is apparent that he was constantly in demand by the diocese during the early 1900's. The following churches have been positively identified as the work of Steele. This information is for comparison only, these are not being considered for nomination. They are St. Joseph's, Anthon; Immaculate Conception, Cherokee; St. Cashmir's, Sioux City; Holy Name, Marcus; St. Joseph's, Schaller; and Blessed Sacrament, Sioux City. All of the above churches have reflected his choice of brick and stone with Romanesque and Gothic revival influences. Although the towers all differ, they all feature arched windows and most have pilasters and a basic rectangular form. They all reflect his variation of design to conform with each building's surrounding environment.

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Steele left Sioux City in the late 1920's and worked with the firm of Kimball, Steele, and Sandham of Omaha, Nebraska. He died on March 4, 1949, and is buried at Calvary Cemetery in Sioux City, Iowa.

Steele learned his craft at a very noteworthy moment in American Architectural history. At the turn of the century, Chicago was the cradle of a new distinctly American Style, dubbed the Chicago or Prairie School. This style was heavily influenced by the Romanesque architecture of the early Catholic Church. Instead of very dark, ominous structures, with the use of iron and steel, the structural skin became lighter and more dynamic as well as highly ornate. The chief proponents of this philosophy were H. H. Richardson and especially Louis Sullivan with whom Steele worked for over three years.

In this particular church, basic elements and principles of this style can easily be seen by the combination of vitrified brick and stone trim on the window sills and the base of the building, the use of structural iron lintels and central tension supports in the scissor trusses, and use of ornate brick fenestration all over the exterior of the building, especially on the bell tower and along the eve of the nave. Also evident of the Romanesque style is the use of a slender finial at the south pinnacle of the nave and the strong emphasis of heavy structural elements on the exterior facade.

A few elements that cannot typically be found in the Romanesque style can be identified within the Gothic revival style that was typical of that era, such as a steeply pitched roof and a central rose window in the rear facade.

St. Patrick's, Cedar, became the hub of the social and religious activities of the area Irish families. They held dinners, dances, plays, musical programs, box socials, card parties, and hosted a softball team and a youth organization. Local legend tells of liquor being smuggled into the area and stashed in the hollow inside a tombstone during prohibition.

St. Patrick's, Cedar, is one of the few remaining churches established as a rural mission church and it has never had a resident pastor. The first Mass ever known to be celebrated in the Cedar vicinity was solemnized by Father Marsh from Ft. Dodge. He came every three months, saying Mass in the homes of the pioneers. In 1872, ten acres of land were donated by Miles and Julia Fitzpatrick and a wooden structure was erected from native timber. Parts of this foundation are still visible north of the present building. This was the first Catholic Church in Greene County. The cemetery established around the church was officially deeded to the Diocese of Dubuque and John Hennessey as the Archbishop of Dubuque for the establishment of the Sioux City Diocese. In 1912, Bishop Garrigan deeded the church property to St. Patrick's Church. In 1936, due to poor management,

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
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the church property was foreclosed. The people of St. Patrick's successfully purchased their church for \$1700.00 at the sheriff's auction. Once more they became the legal owners of their church.

St. Patrick's, Cedar, was the first of seven Catholic mission churches established in Greene County. St. Patrick's began in 1872, St. Joseph's, Jefferson, and St. Bridget's, Grand Junction in 1873 and St. Columbkil's of Churdan was established as a mission outpost in 1884. St. Paul's, Scranton, began in 1889 and still later St. Mary's was disbanded in 1954 and later razed. St. John's and St. Patrick's remain mission churches. Only St. Joseph's, St. Columbkil's and St. Patrick's have kept their original brick church structures. They were all designed by architects, but only St. Patrick's was designed by Steele.

St. Patrick's, Cedar, is one of three active rural churches in Greene County. Friend's Church in Kendrick Township is located on the west central edge of Greene County in the picturesque Horseshoe Bend area. It celebrated its centennial in 1991. The original wood building was destroyed by fire and has been replaced by the present frame building. Greenbrier Methodist church is located in Greenbrier Township in south central Greene County. Its wood frame building was constructed in the late 1880's and has had several additions. Although it is not active, Pleasant Hill Church in Grant Township in Section 5 of southern Greene County remains intact and holds services once a year. It was built in the mid-1800's and is of wood frame in the colonial style with strong federal influences. It is typical of the early wood frame churches built in the Midwest in the 1800's.

There were over twenty churches in rural settings in the county during its history. With the exception of St. Patrick's, all the churches were of Protestant denominations. All their buildings were of wood frame construction and when their congregations were disbanded the buildings were eventually razed. Only St. Patrick's, Cedar, was of brick in the Romanesque Revival style and was designed by an architect.

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St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar Greene County, Iowa Name
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Bibliography

Churdan Centennial History Book, Miller Printing and Publishing,
Odebolt, Iowa, 1982.

Sr. Kevin Cummings, Archivist, Diocese of Sioux City, telephone
Interview, November 17, 1990.

The First Hundred Years, St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Cedar,
Churdan, Iowa, 1872-1972.

Warranty Deed Record, Greene County, John J. Fitzpatrick and wife to
John Hennessey, Archbishop of Dubuque, July 3, 1875.

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Section number 10 Page 1

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Name of Property

Greene County, Iowa
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the SW corner of the SW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec 23, Twp 85, R32, thence N 175', thence E 150', thence S 175', thence W 150' to point of beginning. Greene County, Iowa.

Boundary Justification

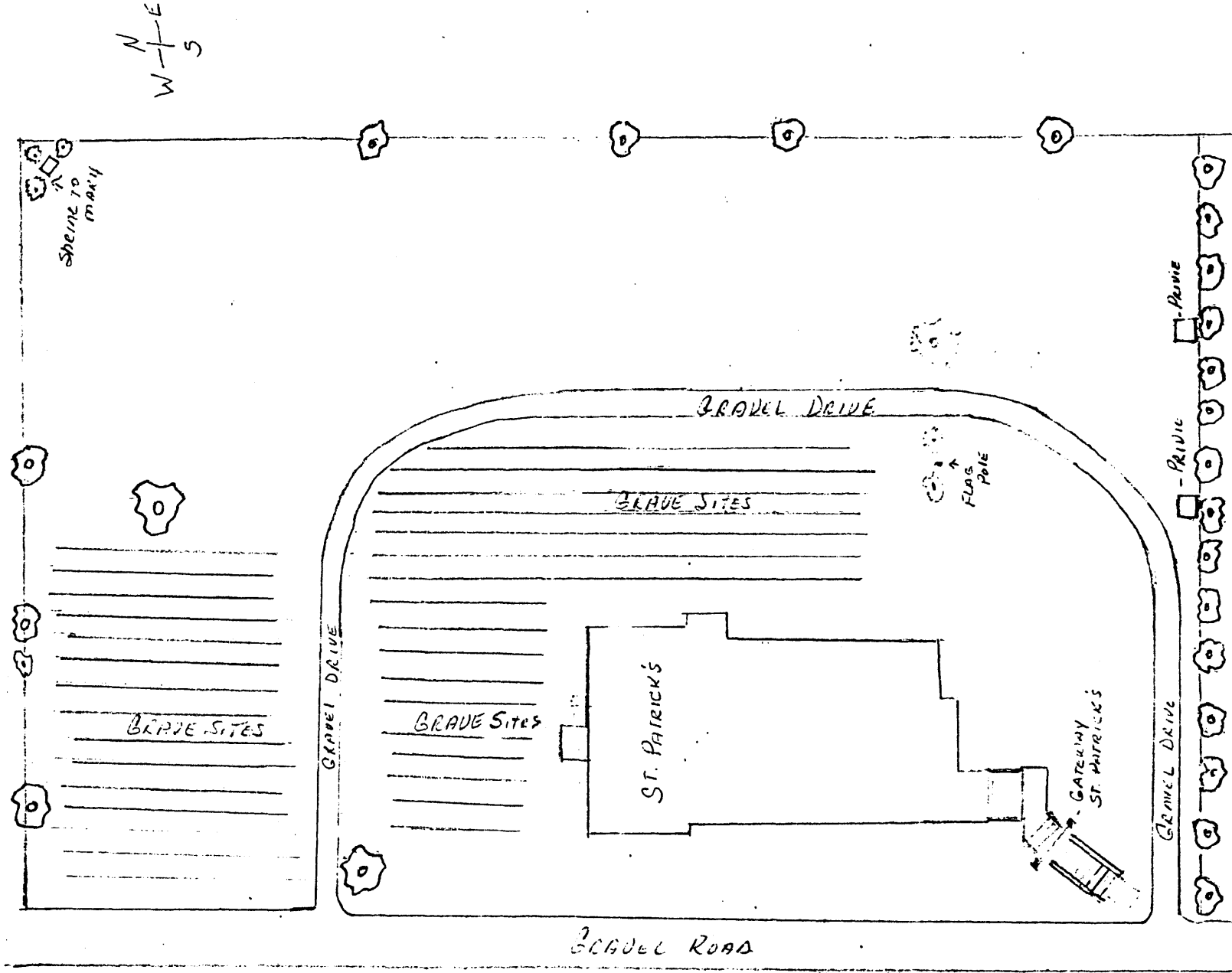
The boundary includes only the subject church and does not include the adjacent gravesites.

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Plan

CFN-259-1118



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photo Page 1

Name: St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Cedar
Address: Churdan, Iowa
Dates: August 1990 and 1991
Photographer: Joan L. Nugent
Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office
View:

1. Front entrance steps SW facade.
2. Southeast
3. Northeast
4. Northwest facade.
5. Southwest facade.
6. View of sacristy from choir loft looking north.
7. Rose window south facade.
8. Lattice windows to the north above sacristy.
9. Stained glass window west facade.
10. Door detail.
11. Stair detail northwest foyer.
12. Privies from the northeast.