

905

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. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Marble Street and Leezer Avenue N/A not for publication

city or town Echo vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Umatilla code 059 zip code 97826

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.)

Jan Hamrick July 1, 1997
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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

Date of Action

Carl R. Ferguson 9/29/97

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

City of Echo and The Meadows Historic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant: Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Spanish (Portuguese) Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stucco

roof asphalt (Composition shingles)

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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):

- Checkboxes for documentation types: preliminary determination, previously listed, National Register, National Historic Landmark, Historic American Buildings Survey, Historic American Engineering Record.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage

Architecture

Period of Significance

1913-1946

Significant Dates

1913

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

C. M. Himebaugh, architect

Carl Searchermeyer, builder

Primary location of additional data:

- Checkboxes for locations: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State agency, Federal agency, Local government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

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Continuation Sheet**

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SUMMARY

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church was built as a variation of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in 1913. The church was built by members of Echo's Portuguese community. The basilican church has a stucco exterior, a projecting two-story entrance vestibule topped with cross, and a parapet that is decoratively battlemented. Stained glass windows adorn the west windows. In fair-good condition, the building has minor alterations. The building is currently not in use.

SETTING

St. Peter's Church is located on Lot 1 and 2 of Block 3 of the West Lawn Addition to Umatilla County. The building is situated on a corner lot at the intersection of Marble and Leezer streets (gravel roadways). Residential buildings are north, south, and west of the church, and an open field is east of the building. A fence extends along the south and east property line. The lot has few plantings. A central sidewalk leads up to the front stairs and extends around the west side of the church. A fuel tank is located directly east of the entrance. The church is located on the west side of the Umatilla River in the Westlawn neighborhood.

PLAN

The one-story building measures 31 ft. (east-west) by 51 ft. (north-south). Rectangular in plan, the building has a small projecting front entrance vestibule measuring 5 ft. by 12 ft. The interior of the church is divided into the main chapel, two small rooms flanking the altar, confessionals, a furnace room, and entrance vestibule.

EXTERIOR

The rectangular building has a moderately to steeply pitched gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The central wooden cross tops the raised stepped front parapet and the two-story projecting entrance vestibule. Heavy Spanish style moldings embellish the parapet.

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Pilasters on the west and east elevations separate the tall windows. Large rectangular boxed caps, projecting above the eaves, crown the pilasters. The caps are finished with a metal coping and constructed of wood. The windows are divided into nine lights; stained glass windows have been placed in the interior of the church on the west elevation (nine-light windows on exterior). Recessed stucco panels are above the windows. A molded projecting stringcourse extends around the perimeter of the building. Another stringcourse is located below the windows. The base of the church is slightly buttressed. The church has a concrete foundation.

The double front entrance vestibule is decorated with double entrance doors with arched windows, heavy brackets, a central window on the upper portion embellished with a keystone and the central cross above. Windows flanking the entrance vestibule are cut at a diagonal to match the slope of the gable. A wide concrete staircase with iron pipe railings lead to the entrance. The back entrance door is on the south elevation.

INTERIOR

The exterior double wooden doors open into the entrance vestibule. Another set of swinging double paneled doors separate the vestibule from the chapel. Confessionals and a small furnace room with balcony above line the north elevation of the chapel, flanking the swinging doors. The three wood confessionals, located in the northwest corner, have a scalloped crest and are divided by Tuscan pilasters. A sculpture of an angel is directly east of the confessionals. The statue fount holds the Holy water at the entrance to the chapel.

Wooden beams span the arched ceiling. Globe lights hanging on chains light the interior. The lower portions of the walls are plastered and the upper portions have been covered with wood paneling (north, west, and east walls). A slightly projecting stringcourse separates the two wall finishes. Some of the plastered walls are painted in pastel colors. The wood floors are covered with carpets.

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The nave is flanked by oak pews and leads to the sanctuary. The sanctuary is slightly raised above the nave and contains the altar, communion table, and statuary. Religious statuary, painted in pastels, flanks the recessed, arched altar alcove. The elaborate altar, made in Chicago and donated by the Cunha and Higginbottom families, is made out of a plaster-like material and wood but is faux painted to look like marble. The arched altar displays a sculpted figure of Jesus which is flanked by decorative Corinthian columns.

Two rooms flank the altar alcove. The room on the east is used a preparation room and garment storage room and the room on the west is used for storage. Each room has a window inside. The west storage room has a door on the south side that leads to the church yard.

Four stained glass windows are on the west side of the chapel. The stained glass windows are designed in purples, blues, yellows, and reds with a diamond pattern in the background framing geometric shapes and a central oval motifs.

ALTERATIONS

Historic photographs show that a stepped solid wall flanked the front stairway, the present exterior staircase are flanked by a pipe railing; wood paneling on the upper portions of the interior walls; carpeting an interior of chapel; installation of modern globe lights.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Peter's Catholic Church, designed by Hermiston architect C.M. Himebaugh, is significant under Criterion C as a fine example of the Spanish or Portuguese Colonial Revival style, reflecting the building traditions of the Portuguese community that had settled in Echo. The church displays distinctive characteristics of the style in its basilican form, stucco exterior, battlemented parapet, and central projecting entrance tower surmounted by a cross. The single central tower is typical of churches in Portugal, whereas churches of the Spanish High Renaissance commonly have twin towers flanking the entrance. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church is unusual for its time in being constructed of stucco on wood lath, wood frame, instead of concrete.

Bishop O'Reilly of the Baker Diocese* presided at the dedication of the church in 1913; Father Butler of the Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston was the first priest, traveling from Hermiston to say Mass. The first baby baptized in the church was Delphine Ramos, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ramos. The angel statue font which holds the holy water at the entrance of the sanctuary was a gift of the Ramos family. The elaborate altar of faux marble was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. George Higginbottom and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cunha. Many other Catholic families in the Echo area also donated funds for the construction of the church and for the interior furnishings. The church has many of the original liturgical artifacts and vestments.

The church has not been in regular use since 1979 and is presently owned by the Fort Henrietta Foundation; however, it is available for use for church events and tours. The church remains complete with its furniture, vestments and other liturgical accessories.

St. Peter's Church at Echo is significant also under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage. It is a rare, extremely well preserved icon for Portuguese immigrants who settled in eastern Oregon. The cultural group contributed importantly to the livestock branch of Oregon agriculture. Several immigrant groups raised sheep on the high desert plateau. The Scots-Irish and Portuguese gravitated to the northeast (Grant and Umatilla counties); the Basques to the southeast (Malheur County). No other building in the environs of Echo is more powerfully associated with the Portuguese culture, which is a continuing presence in Umatilla County, apart from the nearby farmstead of Joseph Cunha, a leading member of the community in the historic period.

*Baker City, a major trading center in eastern Oregon through the peak of hard rock mining activity in the Blue Mountains, was a diocesan headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church beginning in 1903.

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“A Handbook of Information Regarding Umatilla County, the Richest Agricultural
County in the State of Oregon”.

Echo News. Echo, Oregon: 12/25/36.

Hermiston Herald. Hermiston, Oregon: 9/17/36.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated area is in Section 16, T3N, R29E, Willamette Meridian and is legally described as Lots 1 and 2 of Block 3, the West Lawn Addition, Umatilla County, Oregon. It is otherwise identified as Tax Lot 2000 at said location.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This lot defines the historic and current property boundary.

See Map 3N 29 16

CANCELLED
TL 2300
17CC
12CC

HEPPNER ECHO (Old Heppner - Echo Co. Rd.) CO. RD.



AVENUE

FRANKLIN ST.

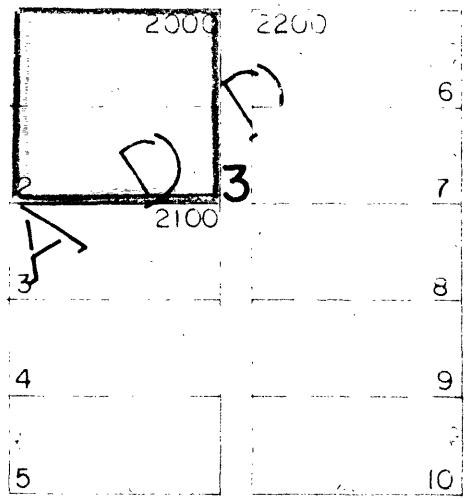
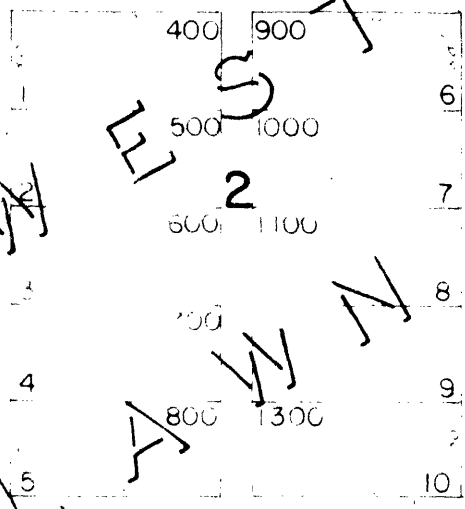
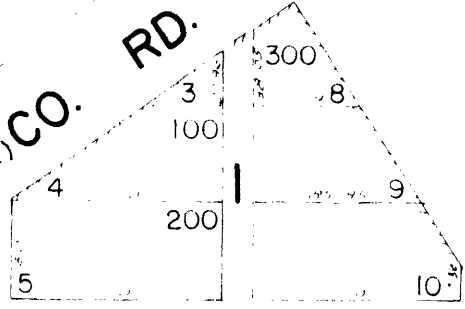
STREET

MARBLE ST.

LEEZER

CHERRY ST.

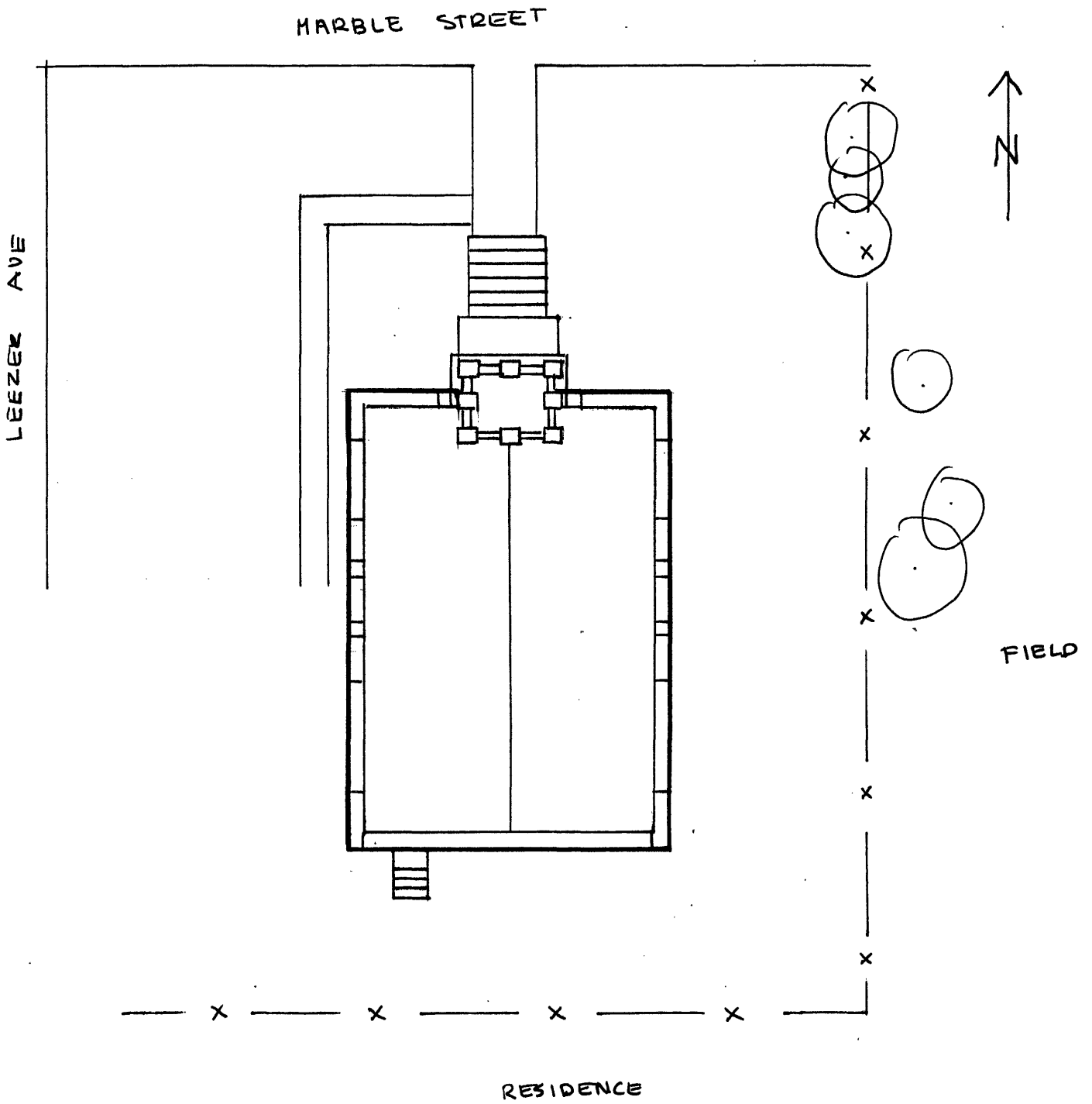
WALNUT



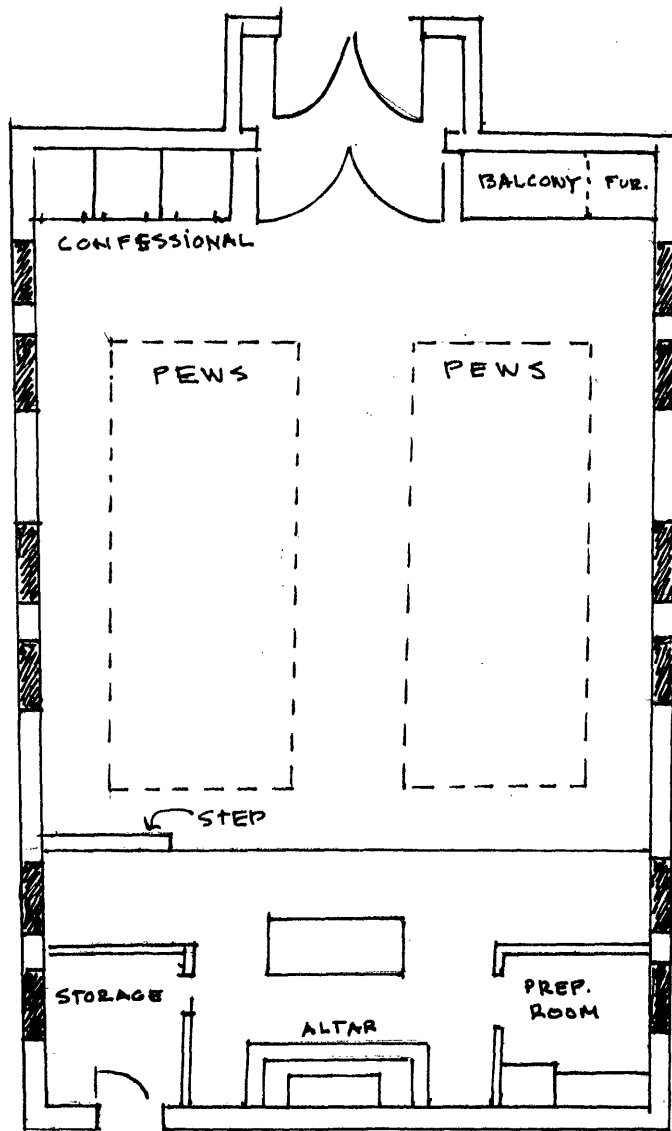
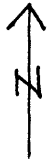
5-7

3N 29 16CB

See Map 3N 29 16



SITE PLAN
ST. PETERS CHURCH



NOT TO SCALE

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH
FLOOR PLAN

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The following information is submitted for all photographs:

Property: St. Peter's Church
Address: Leezer and Marble streets
 West Lawn Area, Umatilla Co., Oregon 97826
Photographer: Sally Donovan
Date: June 1996
Negatives: Marianne Kadas
 3602 SE Alder
 Portland, OR. 97214

Photographs:

Photo #1: General view of church looking south from intersection of Marble
 and Leezer streets.
Photo #2: North (front) elevation, looking south.
Photo #3: West elevation, looking east.
Photo #4: South (rear) elevation.
Photo #5: East elevation, looking southwest
Photo #6: Interior view of sanctuary, looking south.
Photo #7: Confessionals and pews, looking northwest.
Photo #8: Altar details, south end of church.