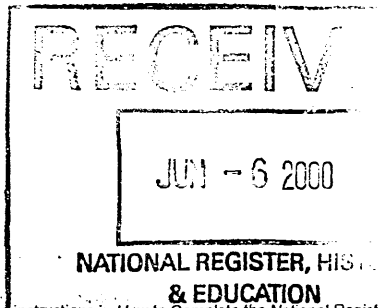


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 in the designated space. 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 Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church Complex

Other names/site number CD03-004

2. Location

Street & number 106 West 889th Road

Not for publication

City or town Bow Valley

Vicinity

State Nebraska

Code NE

County Cedar

Code 027

Zip code 68739-6079

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Lawrence Sommer
Signature of certifying official

5/31/00
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 this 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): _____

Edson H. Beall 2/5/00

for
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5 | | Buildings |
| 1 | | Sites |
| | 1 | Structures |
| 1 | | Objects |
| 7 | 1 | 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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Religion _____
- Funerary _____
- Education _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Religion _____
- Funerary _____
- Education _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Church – Late Gothic Revival _____
- Rectory – Four Square _____
- School – Colonial Revival _____
- _____

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Foundation Glacial Rock _____
- Walls Brick _____
- Roof Asphalt shingle _____
- Other _____

Narrative Description

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

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

County and State

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 a 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

1904-1950

Significant Dates

Church dedicated 1904

School built 1910

Rectory built 1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Architect: Josef Schwartz

Builder: Henry Stuckenoff

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 for additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 9 acres

UTM References (place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet).

| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 14 | 643235 | 4730420 | 3. | | | |
| 2. | | | | 4. | | | |

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 Jill Ebers

organization Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

date February 22, 2000

street & number 1500 R Street, Box 82554

telephone (402) 471-4773

city or town Lincoln

state NE

zip code 68501

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Archdiocese of Omaha, c/o the Most Reverend Curtiss

street & number 100 North 62nd

telephone (402) 558-3100

city or town Omaha

state NE

zip code 68132

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, (15 USC 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, with associated buildings, is located in Bow Valley, Cedar County, Nebraska. Bow Valley sits in the midst of rolling hills of farmland. The church itself occupies a central hill within the town, and is surrounded by the small residential neighborhood. Bow Valley's 100 residents occupy approximately two dozen houses. The church complex includes the cemetery, rectory, and school, located north and east of the church, and the 1952 grotto is found near the church at the eastern base of the hill.

Church

The 1903 Romanesque Revival church is cruciform in plan, with a transept and apse to the rear of the church. An asphalt shingle, cross-gabled roof follows the cruciform arrangement of the interior, and a small spire, covered in tin, is located at the intersection of the gables. The front façade contains a central bell tower entrance located under a high recessed arch, with a rose window and smaller stained glass windows below. A 200-foot broached spire, with crosses and clocks on each of the four primary sides, graces the bell tower. The façade also contains a large roundel window, which is mimicked under both of the cross gables. The church has a foundation made of glacial rocks, which were procured from the fields of nearby farms. The walls are primarily red brick, made by a local brick manufacturer, with stone belt coursings and arched window caps. Engaged buttresses of brick and stone support the walls. The church retains its original stained glass windows, which have recently been re-leaded. Aside from the large window above the main entrance, there are two large panels on the front façade. There are five large arched panels on either side of the nave, a set of three arched windows in a modified Palladian arrangement on either side of the chancel, one in each side altar, and two in the apse. Each window depicts the life of a saint.

The sanctuary has high, vaulted ceilings with columns at regular intervals. It contains eighty pews of rich oak; each pew seats six. The original oak confessionals remain, although one has been enlarged and modified. The original oak arcaded altar rail separates the chancel from the nave. The apse and side altars contain large altars with statuary and a depiction of the Last Supper. A choir loft, which contains the pipe organ, is located at the rear of the church, under the rose window.

Cemetery

Two paths lead to the cemetery, located up the hill from the church. One path heads northwest from the church parking lot, and the other begins just north of the rectory. The cemetery contains several hundred scattered upright headstones, and a large iron crucifix at the end of the path that led from the rectory.

Rectory

The 1926 rectory is a two and a half story Four Square with an asbestos shingled, hipped roof. The roof has two hipped dormers, one on the front and one facing east, each with three small windows. It has boxed eaves with two decorative brackets on each side of the house. The residence has a concrete foundation and is clad with a brick veneer. The façade has an enclosed front entry with three one-over-one double hung windows, and topped with a broken pediment. The front façade retains its four original pairs of 1/1 double hung windows, and three smaller windows. Windows on other sides of the structure have been replaced with vinyl. A small one-story side entrance is located on the East side of the building. It also acts as a small balcony. There are two small contributing garages located to the east of the rectory.

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Continuation Sheet**

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

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Section 7 Page 2

School

A 1910 brick school building was built nearby, southeast of the rectory. The two and a half story, colonial revival building has a concrete foundation and brick walls. The asbestos shingled roof is hipped with a shed dormer on the front and hipped side dormers. The front façade has a central, vestibule entry with a pair of two-over-two double hung windows on each side. There are four sets of one-over-one windows on the front façade, with an additional pair over the vestibule, flanking a statue of an angel. The windows on the first floor and in the stairwell have three-layered brick lintels. The modern playground that has been added to the west of the building is noncontributing.

Grotto

The Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima, located downhill from the front entrance to the church, was dedicated on May 30, 1952. It was dedicated to world peace and as a memorial to the men of the parish who served in the armed forces. It is constructed of the glacial rocks found on surrounding farms, similar to the foundation of the church that had been built fifty years earlier. The rocks form a cave-like structure and a closed fence surrounding the statuary. An iron gate allows entrance into the grotto.

Alterations

The historical integrity of the Ss. Peter and Paul Church is intact. Very few changes have been made to any of the buildings in the complex. Church patrons added a basement to the church in the mid-1960s, accessible from the rear of the building. The rear entrance and a wheelchair ramp were both added to accommodate ADA requirements, with the ramp located on the northern side of the building, facing the cemetery. It is not visible from the bottom of the hill, or the main facades. The town built modern playground equipment to the west of the school building. Several windows on the sides of the rectory have been replaced with vinyl. The sanctuary itself has been refurbished within the last few years. Generally speaking, no major alterations were made. The windows were re-leaded, but are the same windows that have been there for years. The only major addition during this refurbishment is the stenciling that has been applied to the walls. Lines and filigree designs in pastels and 23 karat gold line the vaults in the ceiling and arches throughout. Aside from these alterations and additions, the complex and the town surrounding it appear much as they have for several decades.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church complex (including church – 1903, school – 1910, and rectory – 1926) in rural Bow Valley, Nebraska, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C. The church is the only example of a Romanesque Revival church in rural Cedar County, Nebraska. It has massive articulated wall structures, round arches and vaulted ceilings. The rectory is a fine example of a Four Square; the simple design is devoid of ornamentation, but maintains the common form. The school is a colonial revival rectangular structure, with symmetrical windows and a central front entrance. These buildings, combined with the cemetery and grotto, create an astonishingly intact Catholic complex in a small, predominately German-American, town that has been centered on their flourishing church since the late nineteenth century.

In 1864, eight families from Michigan answered the call of the Homestead Act of 1862. Originally from Westphalia, a district of Germany, they would again migrate in order to pursue different opportunities. The homesteaders would work hard for several decades in order to improve their claims. Within six years the predominately Catholic settlers would initiate the steps necessary to establish a parish in their district. In 1870, a committee of three gentlemen traveled to Dakota City to purchase 80 acres, at a cost of one hundred dollars, for the use of a new parish. A simple frame church was built in Bow Valley in 1875, adequately serving the purposes of the parish for twenty-five years. By the turn of the century, however, the small frame church was no longer adequate to serve the purposes of the growing congregation. Under the direction of Father Bimbach, the foundation for the new church, designed by Josef Schwartz, was laid in 1901.

Ss. Peter and Paul Church was built in 1903 in the Romanesque Revival Style that was a revitalization and adaptation of a style that originated between the ninth and twelfth centuries of the Common Era. The fresh use of the heavy masonry walls, rounded arches and high vaulted ceilings reached its height in the United States in the first decade of the twentieth century. While its popularity was spreading in Nebraska, it was not nearly as common as other building styles, such as the Gothic Revival. Of all the churches built in Cedar County, Nebraska, Ss. Peter and Paul is the only Romanesque Revival church in the county. Its high degree of historic integrity makes it an excellent candidate for the National Register.

The church contains many features common to the Romanesque Revival. It has high rounded arches over both windows and the front entrance. The arched windows are also capped by a decorative stone string course, characteristic of the style. The rose window located on the front façade is a common feature, although this is a smaller interpretation of that detail. The front façade is symmetrical around a center line. There is also a small spire at the gable intersection.

While the teaching of the children of the parish had fallen into the hands of one of Bow Valley's original settlers, Conrad Weisener, the growth of the community quickly required the construction of a school building. The current brick school building is actually the third school that was built in Bow Valley. It originally contained two classrooms and a winter chapel on the main floor. The basement and the second floors provided living space for the Sisters who ran the school, and the attic provided rooms for boarders. The school is a colonial revival style building, though it is lacking in excessive detail. The form, dormers, and symmetrical placement of ribbon windows are common to the style.

The rectory is a fine example of a Four Square, even lacking some of the simple ornamentation that frequently adorned other examples. The house has a low pitched, hipped roof with a few decorative brackets underneath the boxed eaves, and

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Continuation Sheet**

Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

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Section 8 Page 2

a symmetrical placement of double-sash windows. The continued use of brick made by a local manufacturer unites the three primary buildings in this complex, unifying the group as an aesthetic whole. One glance at the neighborhood, and it is obvious that there is a connection between these buildings.

CRITERIA EVALUATION

Bow Valley was established by German-Americans over 135 years ago, and continues to be a community united by their common heritage and their faith. A glance through the church roster emphasizes their cultural unity through a list of German surnames that is punctuated by the names of the original settlers. They maintain traditions that their forebears initiated in order to remember and do honor to their homeland, including the annual *Schuetzenfest*.

Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church and the associated buildings are eligible for the National Register due to their architectural value. The church meets the requirements established under criterion consideration A in that it derives its primary significance from its architectural distinction. The sheer scale of the church and its accompanying buildings, with the cemetery and grotto, show the importance that this community placed on its religion. The central location of the church within the town mimics the symbolic central nature of the church to its community. The church has always been the spiritual and social center, as well as the educator, of Bow Valley, and the edifices that they built to house these functions reflect this well. Ss. Peter and Paul Church is massive compared to the size of Bow Valley itself. It was built in this scale in order to better serve the entire Catholic community of the surrounding vicinity. Its dominance on the landscape and its architectural distinction illustrates the importance placed on its planning and design.

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Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Complex

Name of Property

Cedar County, Nebraska

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McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997.

Olson, James C., and Ronald Naugle. History of Nebraska. 3rd edition. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1997.

Rifkind, Carole. A Field Guide to American Architecture. Penguin Books, New York, 1980.

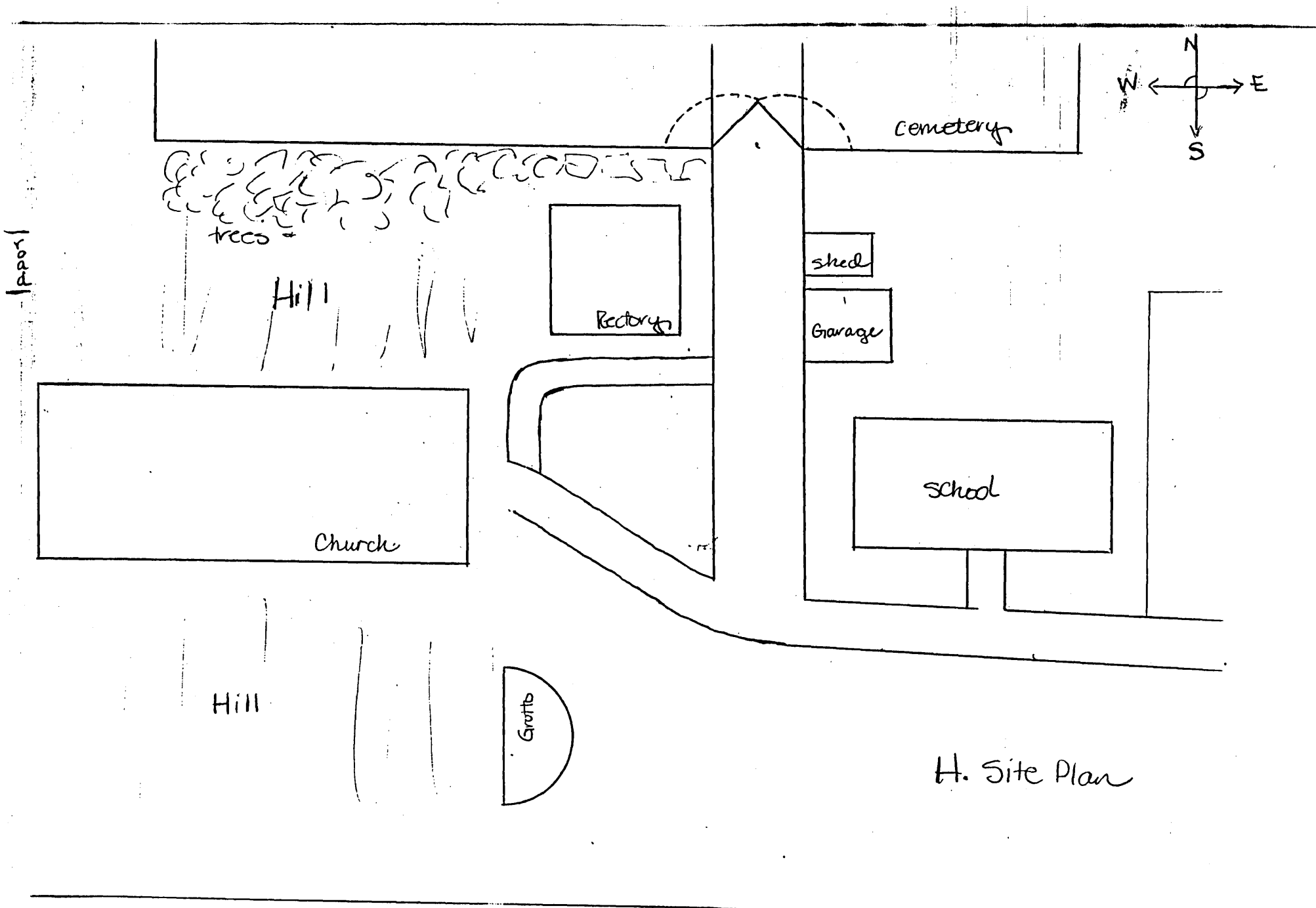
“Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Centennial, Bow Valley, Nebraska, 1877-1977.”

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is described as the southeast ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 25, township 32, range 1 east in the Heavenly Heights Subdivision, Bow Valley, Nebraska.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Complex are those that have historically encompassed the buildings and sites belonging to the church, and nothing more.



road coming from Highway 15 to downtown Bow Valley (approx. 1 mile)