

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Corpus Christi Church

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

416 North 8th Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Dodge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sixth

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

CODE

COUNTY

Webster

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

__COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Corpus Christi Parish Center

STREET & NUMBER

401 No. 8th Street

CITY, TOWN

Fort Dodge

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Webster County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Corpus Christi Church is an architect-designed example of Romanesque /Gothic brick vernacular as it appeared in America in the late 19th century. Its 175-foot steeple rises from a rectangular block (128' x 58') which is six bays long and three bays wide. Constructed of locally burned brick, locally quarried limestone and slate, the building is noted for its strong vertical tower and for the coloration and variety of its well-executed ornament. Visible for miles, the tower consists of a rectangular base, an octagonal drum and a six-sided spire. It is placed at the gable end which contains the main entryway to the building. The base of the tower comprises nearly half its full height. It is pierced by tall, round arched openings with louvres. Its corners are marked by mitre capped vertical elements rising from below, and atop these large stone pinnacles. The second component of the tower is pierced by eight round arched openings with decorative heads and louvres. The third component is an extremely tall and slender spire with peaked gables at its base.

The church proper is treated as ornamentally as the tower. Surface textures range from the heavy rustication of the stone block foundation, to soft brick and to the smooth carved stone caps and hoods. The walls are animated by a variety of openings, fully round or arched, by recessed panels, by ornamental brick and window tracery. Added elements are stepped gables, buttresses, window hoods with keystones, castellation, round, mitred and compound-arched. The interior, although not described here, has apparently suffered little alteration through the years. Its chief elements are its spacious nave, its gallery and fine stained glass windows. Some remodelling has occurred in the interior. The plan, however, is basically the same as the original -- a central aisle, two side aisles, supporting posts of columns, a sanctuary, two sacristies, and, at the rear, a choir loft. All wood timbering is covered with plaster. A skylight appears above the apse.

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 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fred Herr

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Corpus Christi Catholic Church is of historical significance for several reasons:

1. It is of such a height and prominence in the city as to be one of the city's most conspicuous landmarks. For years it was the highest structure in town. Clearly visible for fifteen miles to the north, west and south, it has been a familiar focal point of the city-scape for nearly a century.
2. The Church possesses architectural merit for its association with Fred Herr, (Fridolin Hear, Sr.) the architect, of Stuttgart and Dubuque, Iowa, who also designed the Dubuque County Courthouse, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Francis Convent and the Dubuque County Poorhouse. Its design is High Victorian Romanesque, and exemplifies that era's interest in the picturesque.
3. It exemplifies the use of native materials, for the limestone and brick were derived from deposits in this area.

Corpus Christi Parish was the first in the Sioux City Diocese. From the mid-1850's until well into the sixties, priests from here served the great stretch of prairie wilderness extending northward from Fort Dodge to Emmetsburg and Spirit Lake, and westward to Sioux City.

When Father Lenehen arrived in 1870 to begin 27 years of ministry to his parishioners, there stood only a little old church that eventually became a chapel. During the spring of 1879, plans were laid for the new church to be designed by Fred Herr. The quarrying of stone began in November, 1879, and continued until 1880. Work went on throughout the years 1880-1882, under the supervision of A.V. Lambert, a Fort Dodge architect, with visits by Mr. Herr. The church was ultimately dedicated January 1, 1883.

The church stands today as a tangible link to the past and the settlement of Northwest Iowa.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Corpus Christi Parish in its Diamond Jubilee, 1856-1931 (1932).

Pratt, H.M. History of Fort Dodge and Webster County, Iowa, I. Chicago: Pioneer Publishing Co., 1913.

Goeldner, Paul K. Temples of Justice. Unpublished thesis, Columbia University 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 0 0 2 1 0 0	4 7 1 0 0 6 5 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

John H. Mitchell, Parish Director

ORGANIZATION

Corpus Christi Parish

DATE

12 July 1974

STREET & NUMBER

142 No. 9th Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Dodge

STATE

Iowa

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 B. Anderson

TITLE

Director, Div. of Historic Preservation

DATE

5/3/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Attest:

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/8/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/2/76