

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received JUN 14 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic St. Peter Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 301 South 9th St. not for publication

city, town Keokuk vicinity of

state Iowa code 019 county Lee code 111

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n.a.	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name All Saints Parish of Keokuk, Iowa Inc.

street & number 1414 Johnson Street

city, town Keokuk vicinity of state Iowa 52632

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Lee County Courthouse

city, town Keokuk state Iowa 52632

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title n/a has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

St. Peter Church (1881-85) is an outstanding example of the late Gothic Revival ecclesiastical style. The building creates a strong sense of vertical thrust using its central spire and side turrets and its thirty foot tall central stained glass window.

The original church combines a basilican plan (60 by 140 feet) with a striking Gothic main facade. A central 183' tall spire dominates the front and is supported partly by a shallow projecting pavilion, which is defined by heavy stepped square corner pilasters. Spired side turrets based upon octagonal corner towers (75' tall) flank the central spire and contribute to the Gothic upward thrust which is generated by the tall and thin vertical building components. Pointed arch side entrances flank the central door. Pointed arch window blanks are set immediately above these side entrances. Above the central door a compound pointed arch is combined with a uniquely constructed, stone capped gabled portico. A thirty foot tall pointed arch art glass window fills the front of the spire. Quatrefoil, latin cross and "yin-yang" shaped lights set within rosette forms fill in the tops of the window and door arches. Molded brick pilasters define the window blanks. Stepped corbeled tables define the eaves of the steeply pitched gable roof. A horizontal corbelled line underscores the termination of the central spire base. Above this point an eight sided offset tower supports four gabled facades, each of which encloses a pointed arch ventilator which is recessed between corner pilasters which are joined above the aperture. The eight sided spire rises to a cross shaped finial.

Six side bays with tall, thin (5' by 18') pointed arch art glass windows, separated by wall buttresses, constitute each side wall. A wrap-around vestry with a short six sided corner turret and two elaborate carved stone pedimented side entrances dates from 1905 and is executed in slightly different materials. The transept consists of seven panels, each filled with a pointed arch art glass window, again separated by wall buttresses.

The building is constructed of local clay brick, and uses magnesium limestone for coping on pilasters, sills and buttresses. The foundation is of rough coursed limestone. The roof is slate. Art glass from Munich is executed in a constant pattern, and was installed in 1884. Inside, the church retains a 1905 main altar of marble. The sanctuary level was raised at that time. A new exterior confessional and bath room replaced original confessionals in 1982. Pews, lighting, flooring and altar rail are all of recent origin. The original wooden front doors were replaced in 1968. Apparently some of the associated art glass was then replaced by clear thin horizontal panels of glass. In 1980 a concrete ramp and new steps replaced the original stone steps.

The interior of the church consists of three naves, the central nave filling two thirds of the interior space. A foyer and a double balcony are incorporated into the plan. The church faces to the southeast, the local plat not corresponding to cardinal directions. A rectory and garage are associated with the church but are not included in this nomination. The church is located on a highly visible elevation in the town of Keokuk.

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 1885

Builder/Architect William John Dillenburg

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

St. Peter Church (1881–5) is an outstanding example of the late Gothic Revival style in Iowa. It further represents the work of the architect William John Dillenburg and the sculptor Joseph Conradi.

St. Peter Church in Keokuk replaced the original St. Peter Church which was built by Father William Emonds in 1856. The first Catholic church in Keokuk, St. John, was built in 1849. With the secession of German Catholics to St. Mary Church in 1867, the St. Peter congregation served the English speaking Catholics in the area. Rev. Thomas O'Reilly (1843–1909), Irish-born pastor of St. Peter, supervised the present church construction, laying the cornerstone on June 12, 1881. Contractors included Crowell and Worley, of Keokuk, general contractors, Robert Burns of Keokuk, carpentry, Adam Mullen, of Chicago, roof work, and Mich & Co. of Chicago, glass. O'Reilly, who underestimated the cost of the \$50,000 project required the struggling congregation to pay for each building phase as they built, resulting in the long delay in completion. O'Reilly served the church as pastor until his death in 1909.

William John Dillenburg (1818–87) was the architect of St. Peter, it apparently being one of his later works. He resided in Milwaukee and later Chicago, and designed many churches, hospitals and other buildings in and around those cities. He is credited with assisting in the erection of the final phase of Cologne Cathedral in Germany.

Joseph Conradi (1867–1936), St. Louis sculptor and architect, was noted for his carved white marble altars (executed some twenty three main altars throughout the midwest, this being his only altar in Iowa), designed fourteen churches, and worked in several state capitols. He also worked on the Library of Congress building in Washington D.C., Los Angeles City Hall, the Mormon Administrative Building in Salt Lake City, and the Utah and Idaho State capitol buildings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Refer to Continuation Sheet 9-2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Keokuk Ia-Mo-Ill.

Quadrangle scale 1/24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	36	8	40	44	7	2	65	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 141, Original City of Keokuk, including Lots 1,2,3 and the easterly 5' of Lots 4,5, and 6. Includes only the church building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title James E. Jacobsen, National Register Coordinator

organization Iowa SHPO date 31 May 1983
Historical Building

street & number East 12th & Grand Ave. telephone 515-281-4137

city or town Des Moines state Iowa 50319

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 *John A. Anderson*

title Executive Director Iowa State Historical Dept. date 6/3/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

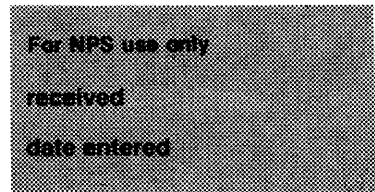
J. Alvares Byers Entered in the National Register date 7/14/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

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Hamilton, Illinois: Hamilton Press, 1982, pp. 29-32, 35-36, 49-50, 65.

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1904, 8 October 1905, 2 September 1909.

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Los Angeles Evening Herald Express, 17 November 1936.

Milwaukee Daily Sentinel, 27 March 1856, 9 January 1857, 24 April 1857, 27 April
1857, 23 February 1858, 26 March 1858, and 3 April 1858.

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