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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 27 1994

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 16 Second Avenue NW not for publication

city or town Pocahontas vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Pocahontas code 151 zip code 50574

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 C. [Signature] 1/13/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

Brenda McClelland

3/1/94

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	N/A	
		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.)

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)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

other: Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other Metal

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Religion
Ethnic Heritage
European
Architecture

Period of Significance

1883-1943

Significant Dates

- 1883
1894
1895

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hubel, Will

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):

- 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:

State Historical Society of Iowa
Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
Name of Property

Pocahontas County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	5	3	6	3	2	1	5	4	7	3	2	4	9	1
Zone	Easting			Northing											
2															

3															
Zone	Easting			Northing											
4															

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 Velma D. Poduska
organization Ad Hoc Committee date _____
street & number 74 Court Square telephone (712) 335-4257
city or town Pocahontas state Iowa zip code 50574

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Resurrection of Our Lord Parish
street & number 21 SW Third Street telephone (712) 335-3242
city or town Pocahontas state Iowa zip code 50574

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

CFN-259-1116

Located a short distance west of downtown Pocahontas, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church is a 1 1/2-story tall, rectangular-shaped, wood frame edifice, measuring 32 by 90 feet, and featuring a three-story, projecting belfry-entrance tower. Constructed in 1883, it was moved a short distance in 1894 and enlarged in 1895. This building exhibits a mix of stylistic influences. The Italianate influence can be seen in the round arched windows and especially in the paired brackets utilized on the belfry/tower. Greek Revival influence is evident in the elliptical fanlight with tracery over the entry; the stylized pilastered corner boards on the upper section of the tower as well as the fanlight motif employed here; and especially in what could be described as the high style lantern that caps the tower. Although there have been some changes to the building over the years, overall it exhibits a very good level of integrity.

The church consists of the original building of 1,280 square feet built in 1883 and an addition of 1,600 square feet built in 1895. Its siting makes the structure elemental to the community and to the community's fabric. It is situated next to the Pocahontas Public Library and approximately one block east of the Pocahontas Area Community High School. Its proximity to these buildings, and the residential area to the west, produces considerable pedestrian traffic in front of the church.

Saints Peter and Paul Church is a simple wood frame building of modest scale and handsome proportion. The massing of the building and the scale of wall penetrations and materials are used with good judgment and great ability to enhance the character and the presence of the building. The narrow clapboards, the height of the side walls, the relatively small size of the window openings, and the relatively large size of the bell tower and entry doors all work to create the sense of a building much larger and grander than it is. The building uses a simple interplay of shapes, scale, and massing in place of elaborate decoration. Where decoration is used, it is used with restraint and advantage. The focal point of the structure is the bracketed bell tower with its the sheet metal clad top, and handsome lantern which dominates without overpowering the aesthetics of the structure.

In 1894 the church was moved approximately 7/10ths of one mile from a location in the Calvary Cemetery on the east edge of Pocahontas to its present location on Lot 16 in Block 18 in the original town of Pocahontas. The church was relocated to make it more accessible to its members. The residential area of Pocahontas had developed to the west and south of main street. The moved church was now within walking distance for townspeople. The former location in the cemetery, although on a hill, was across a narrow flood plain and drainage ditch from the main part of town. The area is designated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, according to 1993 maps, as being a flood plain. A photograph of deep flood waters in east Pocahontas, dated 1913, is on file at the Pocahontas Public Library. The distance and dirt roads made the cemetery location inconvenient.

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In 1895 an addition of 1,600 square feet to the facade was built and the bell tower remodeled to its present style. Rectangular in plan, the church (32' x 90') rests on a concrete foundation and is supported by 2" x 10" floor joists and walls of 2" x 6" studs. One inch shiplap sheathing is used for the walls. The light green asphalt shingled roof is supported by 2" x 8" rafters. Poured concrete steps with capped side walls greet the visitor. The double entry doors are topped with a semicircular fanlight of blue/rose and orange/gold glass. The double entry doors, not original, were installed in 1949. The circular window in the bell tower is of colored glass with orange/gold in the center and fanlights of blue/rose. The evenly spaced side wall windows, 2' 10" x 7' 1", six on each side, are double hung, four over four, sash windows with rounded hoods and mottled-cream-colored glass imported from Bohemia circa 1929.

The eroding paint on the dome has revealed a design probably influenced by the tastes of the Bohemian pioneers. The bell tower holds two bells, Joseph and Agnes. Joseph is also a tolling bell.

The vestibule is 10' 2" x 10' which are the dimensions of the bell tower. Swinging double doors open into the main body of the church which has a 15' arched ceiling with six hanging lights. The interior door and window trim and wainscoting is painted. The walls of lath and plaster are painted. The wainscoting rises 45" to the window sills and the top trim of the wainscoting serves as part of the window sill indicating the wainscoting was part of the original construction.

A choir loft, 12' deep and the width of the church, probably added when the church was moved, is a dominate feature of the rear of the church. The loft, accessible by a narrow stairway, has a wooden rail of Victorian style and four small windows. The facade windows facing the front of the church are blue/rose in color. The small side windows are mottled-cream and match the large side windows.

The sanctuary altar is recessed and separated from side altars on each side. There is a small area behind the side altars and main altar for storage of vestments and altar supplies.

The church is furnished with oak pews, custom made oak altars, and altar rail of 1958 vintage. The beautiful white Victorian altar made in Spillville by "old world" artisans was removed in January, 1958. The interior of the church was not changed or altered, only the furnishings. Painting of the interior has covered over the biblical illustrations that once floated on the ceiling as well as the geometric Victorian designs of gilt, green and buff.

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The building has been heated by a succession of furnaces, from coal to fuel oil, located in a 28' x 32' unfinished cement block basement with a dirt and concrete floor. The chimney rises at the rear wall of the main altar. Rest rooms have never been added to the church. A water spigot has been added to the exterior, but the building contains no plumbing. There is evidence of knob and tube wiring in the bell tower, but the building has been rewired with modern materials.

The present condition of the church is good. It is in need of paint and cleaning. The bell tower appears to be solid. The roof line is straight and level. A few of the windows have been damaged by air rifles and flying footballs. The plaster is intact. There are no interior signs of water damage. The furnace is not working.

None of the interior work (window trim, wainscoting, balcony rail, plaster, flooring, stairwell to balcony) has been altered with the exception of the removal of the original altars, two on the side and the main altar.

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Saints Peter and Paul Church is locally significant under National Register Criterion C as the best example of Italianate and Greek Revival influenced church design in Pocahontas and as one of the best surviving examples of the design skills of Will Hubel, a pioneer builder who erected many of the first buildings in the community and surrounding vicinity. This edifice is the last of five wood frame church buildings standing in the community at the turn-of-the-century and one of fewer than five remaining in Pocahontas County.

The church is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the settlement of Bohemian people in Pocahontas County and, being the first Roman Catholic Church in the county, for its being a tangible expression of the arriving Catholic contingent in the county's religious makeup. The church was founded by Bohemian pioneers. Some arrived directly from their native Bohemia; others made stops in Chicago, Il; Tama, Johnson and Winneshiek counties in Iowa, before settling as early as 1870 in "Pocahontas Center" (Pocahontas) and in the surrounding townships.

By 1875 the population of Pocahontas County was 500 people. These early Bohemian pioneers tilled the soil to provide the meager living they enjoyed in their humble prairie homes and surroundings. Their homes were small shanties built on the open prairie where they were susceptible to the blasts of severe winter cold and the extreme summer heat. Many lived in lean-tos and overturned wagons until minimal shelter was built. Milled lumber and coal was hauled by wagon teams 45 miles from Fort Dodge. In their humble homesteads these hardy pioneers would gather to pray and ask God's blessings and guidance. Their only solace to sustain them on the harsh prairie in their battle with the elements and maintenance of a homestead was their faith and the support of their families and friends.

Early in 1875 Rev. Father T.M. Lenahan of Fort Dodge, Iowa, held the first Catholic service in the school house at Pocahontas and maintained an occasional service until 1881. At this time Pocahontas became a mission of Saint Patrick's on the Lizard (located on Lizard Creek just over the line in Webster County). At that time Rev. Father Matthew Norton was pastor of the Lizard Church and he conducted services regularly once a month in Pocahontas. Not having a resident pastor here, baptisms and marriages were usually performed at Saint Patrick's, which meant a long journey with the only means of transportation being the horse-drawn wagon.

In 1882 Warrick Price donated three acres of land, one-half mile east of Pocahontas for church and cemetery purposes. On July 20, 1882, the first load of material for the construction of a church was hauled to this location and the first Catholic church in Pocahontas was completed in 1883. The building project was directed by Will Hubel, assisted by men of this Bohemian settlement. Will Hubel commenced to reside in Center Township in the year 1871 and built nearly all of the first buildings in Pocahontas. He

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In 1923 for the Bohemian speaking parishioners, a great longing was fulfilled, to hear again the words of God spoken in their native tongue by Father Michael J. Kolvek. Realizing the needs of all parishioners, Father Kolvek would read the epistle and gospel in both Bohemian and English. Noted for his wonderful voice and love of music, he worked diligently with the choir which for many years had a great reputation. A new Moeller electric organ was ordered to replace the hand-powered one. The men of the parish who had faithfully turned the old organ for many years were happy to be relieved of this duty. Father Kolvek initiated annual bazaars and church suppers. Fine meals of kolaches, chicken, and trimmings, followed by games, bingo and dancing. Father Kolvek continued his work until May 1938.

It became most difficult for the bishop of the Sioux City Diocese to supply Saints Peter and Paul with a Bohemian speaking priest. after a succession of priests (Father W. P. Hyland, May 1938-June 1945; Father John Schissel, June 1945-June 1950; a venerable Irish priest, Father Gabriel Barry, June 1950-1951; Msgr. H.B. Karhoff, 1951-1954) in May, 1954, Rev. Father John Turza, a native of Bohemia Displaced by World War II, was appointed resident pastor of Saints Peter and Paul. He was well received by all and served several Bohemian-speaking parishioners until August, 1957. Succeeding pastors were Father Walter Bruch, 1957-1962; Father Thomas Nash, 1962-1969; Father Alfred E. McCoy, 1969-1971; Father J. Paul Alvey, 1971-1973; Msgr. Lawrence J. Hoffman, 1978-1989.

In 1975 Saints Peter and Paul Parish was officially joined with Sacred Heart Parish of Pocahontas and the new parish was named The Resurrection of Our Lord Parish. On January 1, 1978, it was announced from the altar that Saint Peter and Paul would be permanently closed. On February 25, 1978, the church was reopened at the insistence of the Bohemian faithful and a seven a.m. Mass was celebrated on Sundays. Many of the descendants of the Bohemian pioneers considered the seven a.m. Mass a further test of their faith and in order to keep their beloved church open as long as possible, 40-60 faithful would attend the early Mass. Due to a shortage of priests and in consideration of the work load for one priest in Pocahontas, it became impossible to keep the church open. The building was used for services until sometime after 1983 when it was the showcase for the centennial celebration of 100 years of Catholicism in Pocahontas. The church was referred to by many in the community, including priests, as the "mother" church in Pocahontas even though the large brick Sacred Heart Church towered over the small frame Bohemian church.

After 1983 the church was used occasionally for weddings and funerals for several years until the furnace and window air conditioning units fell into disrepair. Suggestions for future use of the church include library use for lecture groups and large displays, church museum, ecumenical services during the annual community celebration of Heritage Days.

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also built the Presbyterian church in Plover. The size of Saints Peter and Paul Church was 32' x 40' and the cost of material and labor was approximately \$2,000. Donations toward this building fund ranged from \$.50 to \$100.

The men of the parish assisted in the construction and maintenance of the building. Devotion was demonstrated when Anna Kopriva asked her husband, John, why did he help with the church construction during the winter when he had no socks? His reply, "Because it is my church."

In 1888 the church was painted at a cost of \$40 and vestments purchased for \$70. The exact date the altar and bells were installed is unknown, but it is known the main altar was built in Spillville, Iowa, by a Mr. Andera and donated by Mrs. Mary Payer, who also donated a picture of Saints Peter and Paul which was a part of the main altar. The picture was imported from Bohemia. Mrs. Payer was also the donor of the tolling bell. The church bells were named Agnes and Joseph and were brought from St. Louis, Missouri.

In 1887 Rev Father Norton died and Rev. Father M. Darcy became his successor. In 1889 Gilmore City became a permanent mission and Pocahontas became a part of it under Rev. Father T.D. Sullivan. In 1890 Pocahontas was served by Rev. Father D.F. McCaffrey of Fonda. The property described as Lot 16, Blk. 18, Incorporated Town of Pocahontas, was purchased in 1894 to be the new location of the church and the church was moved to its present location from the cemetery and an extension of 30 feet, completed in 1895, was added to the front facade.

The move was dictated by the settlement of the town on the west side of main street. The addition to the church was necessary to accommodate a part of the growth of the Catholic church membership in Pocahontas County which grew from 400 in 1885 to 1,300 in 1895. By 1903 the Catholic population had grown to 1,500 according to Flickinger's 1904 History of Pocahontas County.

In June 1891 the church became a permanent mission under Rev. Father J.P. Broz who as the first resident pastor remained until April 1895. During Father Broz's tenure, the rectory which later served as the parish hall was built. Father Broz served all Catholics—Czechs, Germans and Irish. Prosperity in those days was only a word in the dictionary. Farmers were in debt, crops were poor, and prices for their produce very low. Roads or railroads were not surveyed nor did they exist. To travel it was necessary to follow trails through swamps and prairies. The Bohemians constituted a large portion of the population and more Bohemian families came to Pocahontas each year from various localities.

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The first baptism recorded in Saints Peter and Paul was Mary Votruba on August 17, 1891, daughter of M. Votruba and Anna Hanzerkov; sponsors were Vaclav and Maria Vodraska. The first marriage performed was that of Joseph Halousek and Anna Subert on December 7, 1891, and the first funeral was that of Margaret Cotte on December 24, 1891.

In 1895 Father Broz concluded his work in Saints Peter and Paul Parish and was succeeded by Rev. Father W. A. Pape who had the interior of the church decorated at a cost of \$1,800. Father Pape desired to build a parochial school which opened for the first time on November 23, 1896. the cost of the school was \$3,500. The services of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family, Dubuque, Iowa, had been secured to conduct the school and on November 19, 1896, four of them arrived to prepare for the opening day. The first year recorded an enrollment of 63 pupils. With unimproved roads and no autos it was a great hardship for farmers to bring their children to school. To help the situation, the school offered rooming quarters and board for \$1.25 a week. The first year there were nine boarders; the second year, 28. The boys slept in the rectory in order to make room for all.

A short time later in 1901 the German and Irish parishioners chose to establish their own parish which resulted in moving the parochial school to property which they purchased, Block 3, Fairview Addition; and changed the name of the school to Sacred Heart School and then constructed the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and rectory.

On June 7, 1901, Father V.A. Duda, a native of Moravia (adjacent to Bohemia in Central Europe) was appointed pastor of Saints Peter and Paul and the church was established as a Bohemian-speaking national parish with a membership of approximately 75 families. His desire to give the children special religious education as well as to learn the Bohemian language was achieved when he purchased property east of main street from the Pocahontas School District in 1906 for a school.

Rev. Father Alois Gryc arrived in the winter of 1911. Being a native of Bohemia, and lonely for his homeland and country, his stay at Saints Peter and Paul Parish was all too short. In the summer of 1912 he chose to return to his native land. His successor was Rev. Father Bohumil Kramolis who succumbed to illness after a short time as pastor. In the winter of 1912, Father Raphael Kubat O.S.B., from Chicago, was assigned as pastor and served until 1917. He was succeeded by Rev. Father H.B. Kramer who was a great lover of flowers and did much to beautify the parish grounds.

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CFN-259-1118

Major Bibliographical References

Flickinger, Robert E., "The Pioneer History of Pocahontas County, Iowa," publisher, George Sanborn, Times Print, 1904.

Wienhold, Florence; Pavik, Marie, "100 Years of Catholicism in Pocahontas 1883-1983", published 1983.

City of Pocahontas Centennial booklet, "History of First Church in Pocahontas," 1970.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries include only the church and the property associated with the Church since its move in 1894.

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 16 and 17, Blk 18, Original Incorporated Town of Pocahontas Section 36 Range 32 West of 5th Principal Meridian. (Lot sizes 50'x 150'.)

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Photo Section

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
16 Second Avenue NW
Pocahontas, Iowa 50574

Photographer: Velma Poduska

Negatives: Velma Poduska

Date of Photographs: February 18, 1992

Views: 1. S
 2. SE
 3. SE
 4. E
 5. SE
 6. W
 7. NE
 8. NE
 9. S
 10. Interior Choir loft
 11. Interior-Altar

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000086

Date Listed: 3/1/94

Property Name: Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church
County: Pocahontas State: Iowa

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda M. Clelland
Signature of the Keeper

March 1, 1994
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5. Classification
Property is hereby classified as a building.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Continuation sheets for the statement of significance are numbered and ordered incorrectly. Proper sequence requires that page 5 be changed to 7, page 6 to 5, and page 7 to 6.

Beth Foster, National Register coordinator for the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on March 1, 1994.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)