

St. Peters Episcopal Church
Ogle County
Grand Detour

HABS Ill. No. 174

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1.

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. Ill. 1.

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, District Officer
435 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Grand Detour, Ogle County, Illinois

Owner - St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Date of Erection - 1853

Builder - William Kennedy

Present Condition - Good

Number of Stories - One and belfry

Materials of Construction - Unfinished limestone, laid random, wood frames and cornice and wood belfry.

Additional Data - Early in the nineteenth century the French located a trading station and named the place after the peculiar course of the Rock River, Grand Detour, and by 1837 quite a little village had grown up on the peninsula. It was here that John Deere made his first chilled plow and established his factory. Besides that industry there were several stores and blacksmith shops, a wagon factory, a saw mill, a flour mill and a cradle factory.

In 1845 Reverend Abram Joseph Warner, was sent out by the Domestic Missionary Society to "Rock River and parts adjacent". He visited Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon and other places, but decided that the most promising location was Grand Detour, which had become one of the most important settlements in the northwestern part of the State.

On May 15th 1847, the Parish of Saint Peter was organized and the following officers elected; Wardens, S.M. Harrie and Willard A. House; Vestrymen, Leonard Andrus, Solon Cumins, Horze H. Paine, Captain Solomon Chase Cotton, Carlton Bayley, George Cushing and E. Wells Dutcher. The Vestry at once bent their energies towards a permanent church home. A lot had already been given, and plans drawn for a suitable stone church.

On June 7, 1849 ground was broken and the church was finished May 17, 1850.

Soon after the towns of the south and west were developed by the railroads and Grand Detour became almost depopulated. The church gradually became unfit for use because of lack of repair and remained closed for over fifty years.

The natural beauties of the scenery began to attract artists and touriste to Grand Detour in 1900 and the town began to thrive again. Mr. William Andrus, a son of the first settler put the church in excellent repair and eervices have since been conducted by the Rector of Dixon every Sunday afternoon. A new oak altar was then placed in the church. Biehop Anderson officially visited this church in June 1909 and expressed hie great appreciation of the loyal devotion of Andrus in renovating this quaint little church.

This information and the copy of the Specifications which follow were furnished by Rev. Amos Bosworth, 417 Brinton St., Dixon, Illinois.

Specifications

Specifications for building a church of the following dimensione, viz. forty five feet in length by twenty four feet in width from out to out foundation wall; to be two and one-half feet underground and eighteen inches out and two feet thick. Main room to be fifteen feet high and eighteen inchee thick and built of good etone and lime - the inside of building to be plastered with three coat plastering hard finish. Gable and walls to raise twelve feet from square walls and to be one foot thick. The building to have seven windows and two doore according to the plan - the roof to raise twelve feet, to be shingled with pine shingles - a suitable cornice of pine according to plan - the ceiling to raise three feet from top walls with the exception of seven feet over the gallery, which is to be etraight ceiling - gallery to be eeven feet wide with four stepe - nine feet long. Deck to be nine feet square with spire fourteen feet high - vestibule seven feet wide under gallery. Chancel to be raised seven inches from the aisle - steps to be nine feet long with doors to be built of pine and capped with black walnut. Floors to be laid with pine tongued and grooved together - to be twenty four steps in the lower part of church. Caeings and finish to be of pine. The work to be completed in a good and workmanlike manner and built and finished according to the plan. The building to be painted with three coats of paint.

This agreement made and concluded this fourth day of June AD 1849 by and between William Kennedy of the County of Ogle and State of Illinois, party of the first part and the trusteee of said Saint Peter'e Church in the town of Grand Detour, in the County and State aforesaid party of the second part. "Witnesseth".

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That the said party of the first part for and in consideration of this agreement has agreed and by these presents does agree to build a church upon lots numbered eleven (11) and twelve (12) in Block number nine (9) in said town of Grand Detour to be built and finished in a good and workmanlike manner according to the foregoing specifications and a plan of the same which is now drawn. The said party of the first part furnishing all the materials for the completion of the same, the said building to be commenced by the fifteenth day of June instant and finished by the first day of December next, and the said party of the second part have agreed in consideration thereof to pay to the said party of the first part the sum of fourteen hundred and twenty two dollars, one hundred dollars of which to be paid when the first tier of joist are laid in said building and five hundred dollars when the same is enclosed and the balance to be paid on the completion of the same."

The Grand Detour Centennial now being held (June 1937) has attracted state-wide attention to the old town, and much publicity has been given St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Chicago newspapers, as well as elsewhere.

By Margaret A. Jones

Approved Edward J. [Signature]

PW

7/28/37