

These are parishes that have closed, but the dates of when they did so, is uncertain. Information that we have included is just an excerpt of history that we have found.

Monroe Holy Trinity

MONROE St. Peter Turner Co.

1901 Rev. P.F. Grabig built the church. Cost \$5000; families, 15.
 All the pastors beginning with Fr. Grabig have given services every Sunday and Holyday.
 Distance from Marion: 5 miles.
 Early settlers: Stabells, Schlechts, Kippes, Ballwegs, McInnis, Merrigans
 Vocations: one priest: Rev. Anton Kippes.
1947-1953 attended from Marion. By Joseph L. Zimmerman

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Monroe, South Dakota
 In May of 1900, George Schlect, Joseph Kippes, and Joseph Ballweg went to Sioux Falls to complete arrangements for the plans and specifications of a new Catholic church to be erected on the north edge of Monroe on land donated by the Joseph Ballweg family. Building began almost at once and the main part of the structure was sixty feet high. On August 24, 1900 two carloads of lumber arrived to be used in the church's construction.
 When the building was completed, F. A. Kratz painted it. The bell arrived December 2, so dedication services were held December 9, 1900. Priests from the Marion parish served the congregation consisting of about 50 families. Some of the early members were: Tim, Mike, and Tom Merrigan, Joseph Kippes, Joseph Ballweg, George Schlect, Steve Jesse, Charlie McInnis families. Father Grabig was the first pastor. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kippes were the first couple married in the church.
 Catechism classes were held every Saturday. Few of the classes were missed in spite of the distances some of the parishioners had to walk.
 In March of 1902 a cemetery was plotted to the rear of the church in the Ballweg grove of trees, but it was never used.
 On May 17, 1905 the church officially incorporated under the name "St. Peter's Church, Monroe."
 In 1947 the church temporarily closed its doors. But in 1949, when the Catholic church in Marion exploded, the Monroe church was again opened and used until 1953. Because of the shortage of priests and the declining membership, the church disbanded. In 1955 the building was torn down and the altar, bell, and some of the lumber was taken to Holyville Church. The remaining lumber was used to build the new parsonage in Marion.

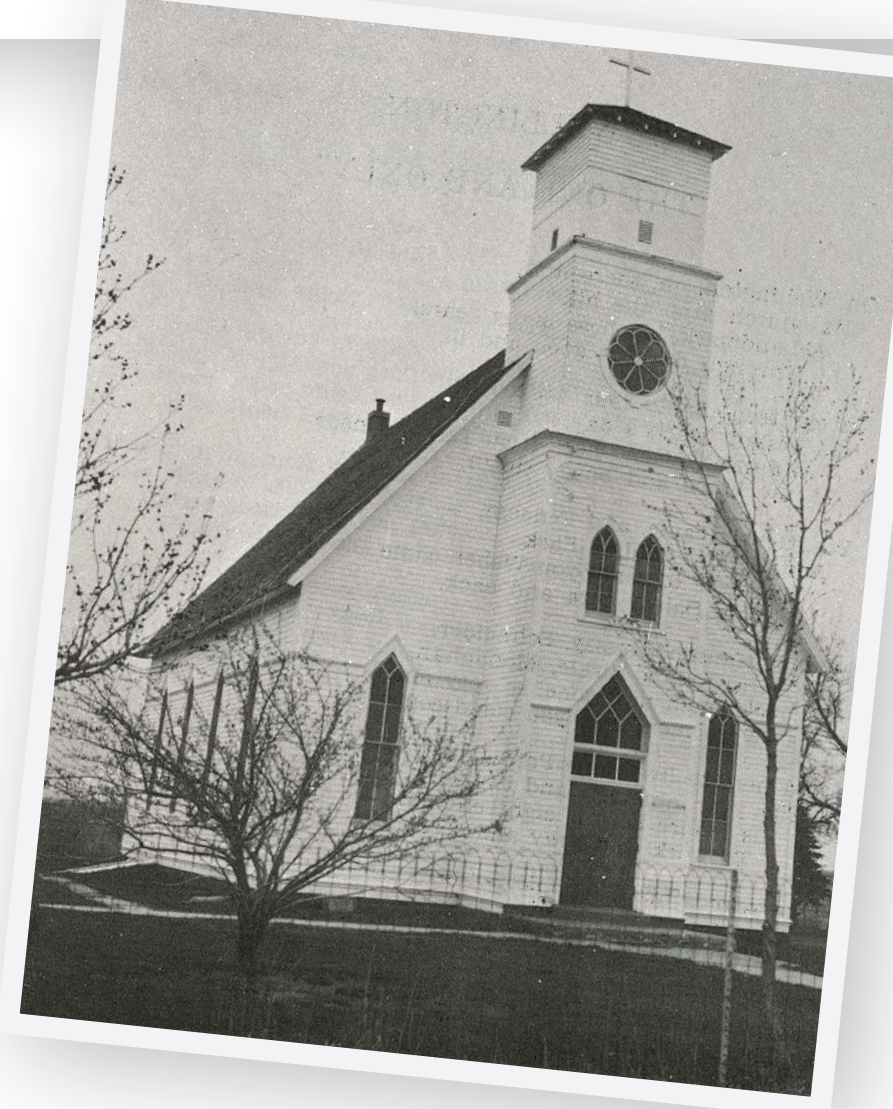


St. Peter's Catholic Church in Monroe built in 1900

Wellington St. Joseph

Wellington (Minnehaha County) St. Joseph

The next year (1894) Wellington was able to build after years of crowding into private homes for Mass. Charles Beaumont donated a five-acre plot for a church site. The building was completed Oct. 1, 1894, and Father Lawrence Link offered the first holy Mass in it. Parish picnics helped reduce the debt. No longer was it necessary to crowd into the Nick Reacy home for services or drive to Parker or Hartford for Sunday Mass. The priest came from Humboldt or Sioux Falls. After a rectory was built in 1909, the rural parish had a resident pastor for almost 20 years, Father Henry Luig serving from 1912 to 1930... After Father Luig's pastorate, St. Joseph's reverted to mission status. In 1969 the 30 Catholic families celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the parish. The frame church, erected in 1894, was still serviceable. Mrs. Henry Beck, choir directress for 47 years, led the liturgical singing. Bishop Lambert A. Hoch blessed the memorial Shrine of the Last Supper erected at the edge of the parish cemetery. A bequest of Henry Sipple financed the shrine as a memorial to parish pioneers. Father Thomas P. Coyne, pastor of the Wellington mission for more than 20 years, was honored on the occasion. (CD)



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC

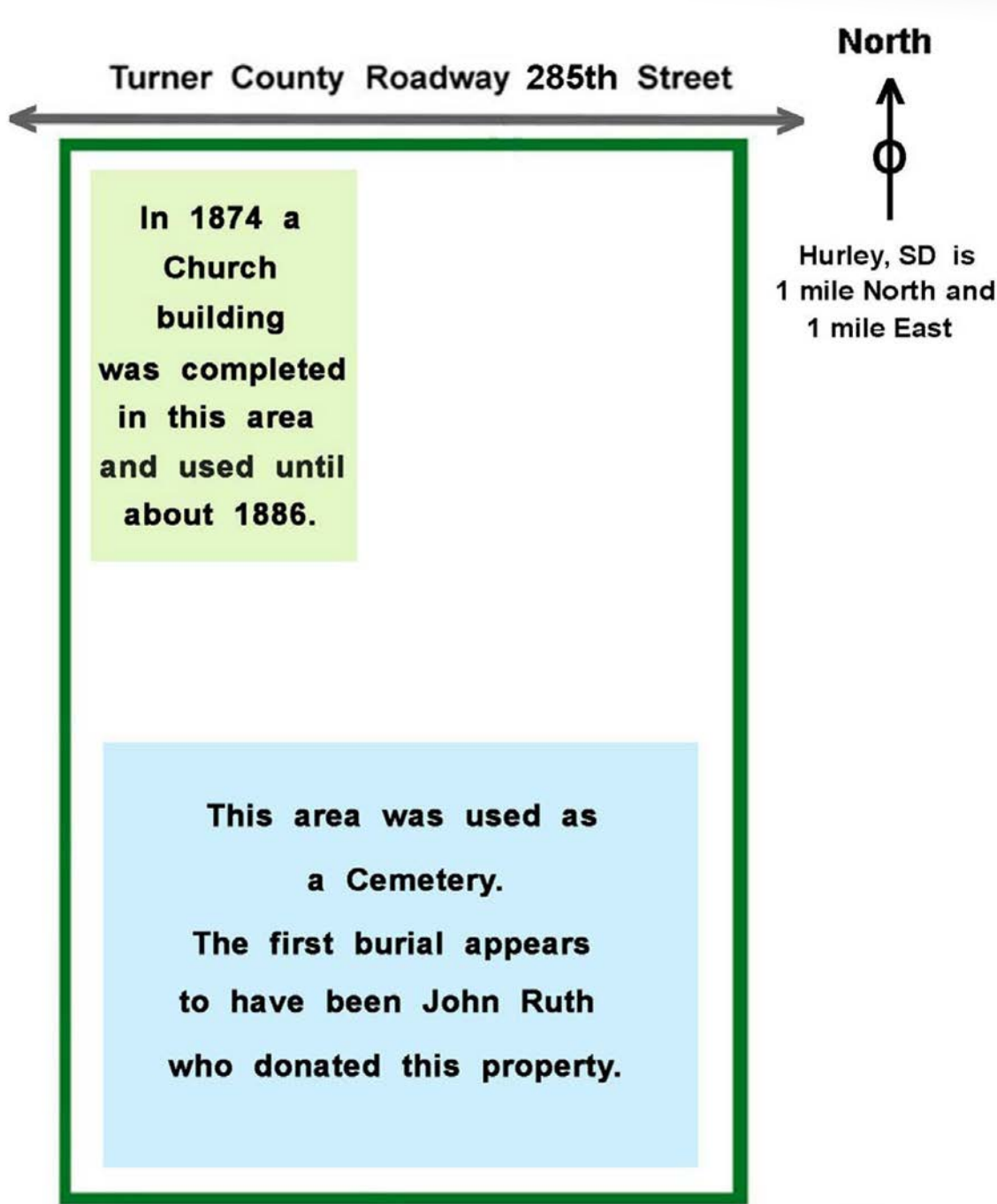
A meeting was called March 7, 1894, for the purpose of electing a committee to act as building committee for the building of a Catholic church in Wellington township. Nick Reacy, Sr., chairman; J. T. Fritz, Frank Kuster, Wm. Beck, Sr., Theo. Homan and J. B. Even were elected. Up to this time Masses had been said at the Reacy home and the Even school house, for those who were unable to travel the long distance by horse and buggy to Hartford or Parker, and for those that were unable to fast that long.
 The plans were to build the church 60 x 36 x 18, with the spire five feet high on a twelve foot base. The Alter space was 18 x 24, with the sacristy on each side 8 x 7 x 8. Mr. Lampkie of Canistota drew up the plans. He also offered the lowest bid and was awarded the contract for the sum of \$8,000.00. He was to have it completed by October 1, 1894. Mr. Charles Beaumont donated five acres of land for the church, with the understanding that if the church was moved or torn down, this land would be reverted to its original owner. Bishop Marty consented to the building of the church, so everyone looked forward to its completion.
 1894, turned out to be a dry year, and although farmers planted their crops, no spring rains were in evidence. The fore part of the summer continued dry. By June 11, 1894, their crops were a complete failure, and another meeting was called for the purpose of stopping the erection of the church. However, the decision was lost by a unanimous vote, and work continued with members contributing their labor to bring down the cost of the structure.
 According to the contract, the name of the church was the "German St. Joseph Catholic Church." Mr. Nick Reacy, Sr., and Wm. Beck, Sr., were named the first trustees. The first Mass was said by Father Links, but Father Grabig was the first parish priest. He drove a livery team from Bridgewater every Sunday to say Mass.
 In the early days, the church used benches as alters and this continued until March 5, 1906, when the congregation purchased light oak with gold trimmed alters. Materials were also purchased this same year for a new confessional. Father O' Hara acted as chairman. He and Father Birk were the priests serving Wellington that year.
 In 1908, Fathers Monaghan, Sack and Schneider served as priests. All had other parishes to attend to, so Wellington had a new priest nearly every Sunday. During that year the fence and walk were put in with Lizzy Beck donating the new front gate.
 In 1909, Mr. Kenie of Humboldt built the new rectory. During the first part of the year, the congregation was served by Father Brady. On September 1, 1909, Father Victor was assigned to the parish, and he moved into the new parish house on October 29, 1909.
 In the early years both confirmation and first communion services were held in the church, with the priest driving many miles on Saturdays to teach catechism to the young people of the parish.
 Following Father Victor, Father Hassy served the parish for a short time, and in 1913 Father Luwig was assigned to Wellington and stayed until 1930. Following this the church was made a mission of Humboldt, with the same priest serving both congregations. Father Manning, who then served the two congregations lived in Humboldt, so St. Joseph's rectory was left vacant. For some time it was rented out, and in 1939 it was purchased and moved by the William Kuster family to their farm.
 In 1903 the choir society held a picnic in the Reacy grove. With the money received from the picnic they purchased the church's first organ and other little things needed to make the little church the well equipped and fine church it is yet today. As the first picnic was such a big success they were continued annually. The ladies always served a big supper in the evening, and this was followed by a program. As they continued to grow, the Alter society was formed, to assist in the promotion of the big day.
 People have very fond memories of the parish's sixty five years. Couples have been married and babies have been baptised, and yes, the church has seen sorrow too, with the little cemetery filled with the graves of the people who struggled in the early years to build it and those who have helped to keep it operating so efficiently ever since.

Swan Lake



Views of the Cemetery Grounds from Turner County Roadway 285th Street

Swan Lake hosted the first settlers in Turner County in 1869, and while other areas grew up quickly the area close to Swan Lake were formed in the area. By 1874 there was an active group of Seventh Day Adventists in the area and in 1876 a Norwegian Lutheran church was being built. There was an active Baptist group by 1872, an Episcopal mission was attempted in 1878 and a caused the eventual demise of Swan Lake as a community.
 Catholic services were being held in area homes as early as 1873 and the Swan Lake Catholic Church was built in 1874, the church building was replaced by a new building in Hurley that was dedicated in 1886. The Swan Lake Catholic Cemetery quickly became unused in favor of the Hurley city cemetery. While it has been said that some graves were moved to Hurley there is no written record to support this. This cemetery was nursed back to its present well cared for state by Adeline and Rauben Moeck with some assistance from the Centerville Knights of Columbus. A niece of Rauben, Mary Fredrickson and her husband Darrell, are presently providing the excellent care. A special thanks to Darrell for taking the photos used on this web site.



Worthing St. Edward

Worthing (Lincoln County) St. Edward



.....Bishop Marty found three Catholic settlements in Lincoln County: Lennox, Worthing and Canton (ca.1880)...Catholics in Worthing had been attended since 1887 from Hurley, Parker or Lennox, which ever had a resident priest. In 1919 Father William L. Bulloney was assigned to Worthing with Canton as a mission. He directed the erection of St. Edward's Church. He was succeeded in 1920 by Father L. E. Gilligan, who remained for five years...St. Edward's, except for the years 1919-41, is a mission. Since 1964 priests of the Minor Seminary, Sioux Falls, attend to the 35 families (1973). (CD)

