Five Catholic Churches of Clinton, Iowa

REVIEWED BY JOYCE BARRETT, IOWA HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

This 24-page booklet devotes a chapter to each of five historic Catholic churches in Clinton: St. Irenaus, St. Boniface, St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, and St. Patrick's. Because much of the research was conducted with nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in mind, the chapters have a parallel format, covering each building's architecture and historic significance. Several historic black-and-white photographs of the churches and the priests who were instrumental in their construction complement the text. Each chapter could stand alone as a guide to the individual churches' character and history. The chapters also complement each other, with the recurrence of characters in the growth of the Catholic church in Clinton, such as Father Frederic Cyrille Jean, or the history of the American Protection Association under the leadership of Henry Bowers. The story behind the buildings offers several mysteries about the relationships between competing congregations and aspiring clergy. Changes in church priorities from Vatican II to contemporary big-box churches have threatened the future of these five churches.

Eckelberg, who has also written an unpublished biography of Father Jean and a published article about the American Protective Association in the Social Justice Review, has produced a publication that will contribute to the resources available on Clinton's history. The book may also add to the growing interest in historic church architecture.


REVIEWED BY JOHN PRICE, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA

Freya Manfred has written an intimate and moving portrait of her relationship to her father, the late Frederick Manfred (a.k.a. Feike Feikema), one of the most significant Plains writers and author of such classics as Lord Grizzly and The Golden Bowl. The narrative opens at Manfred's funeral in 1994, moves back to the author's early memories of her father, and works its way forward to the final, difficult weeks of his life. Along the way, we get a portrait of a strong-willed but dedicated father whose commitment to his craft and homeland often came