

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

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

For NPS use only

received **DEC 6 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Methodist-Episcopal Church of Marysville

and/or common M. E. Church of Marysville

2. Location

street & number Third Street 3rd St, n/a not for publication

city, town Marysville n/avicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Lewis & Clark code 049

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name John W. and Margaret C. Hollow

street & number 428 Washington Drive

city, town Helena n/avicinity of state Montana, 59601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis and Clark County Clerk and Recorder's Office

street & number 316 North Park

city, town Helena state Montana, 59601

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Inventory of Marysville has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Bureau of Land Management

city, town Butte state Montana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Methodist-Episcopal Church of Marysville, built in 1886, conforms to a standard design that often has been repeated in the construction of wood frame church buildings, both in Montana mining camps and late 19th and early 20th Century agricultural settlements. Set on a dry wall, sandstone foundation, the M.E. Church of Marysville is a one story, rectangular structure with a steeply pitched gable roof. A square, central belfry tower rises above the projecting entry vestibule on the west facade. A chimney pierces the northwest corner of the roof. Milled lumber was used in the construction of the balloon frame church building. In form and materials, the church exemplifies the earliest stages of specialized construction in early Montana communities, making a simple and direct statement of its purpose with a very sparing use of architectural detail.

The entry vestibule projects approximately six feet from the main body of the structure. The entrance is composed of an interior and exterior set of paired, four panel doors with a transom light above. Two 4/4 double hung windows flank the entry. Three 6/6 double hung windows are placed at regular intervals along each the north and south facades. A very simple molding caps each wooden window surround. In recent years, wooden shutters have been placed over each window to forestall the efforts of vandals. The belfry tower sits atop the steeply gabled vestibule roof. It features a flared pyradimal hipped roof and wooden ball and spire finial. Two of the three openings in the tower are covered with louvered shutters. The original bell, cast in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1888, was removed from the tower a number of years ago. The roof of the building has recently been covered with asphalt shingles.

The building is sided in clapboard with covered corners. Much of the original clapboard siding either has fallen off or has been intentionally removed over the years. The present owners have resided the north facade of the building. The rear (east) wall of the structure collapsed a number of years ago and was rebuilt by a Methodist youth group in 1958. The new exterior wall is now covered with a vertical board and batten siding.

Any interior wall finishes of the Church have long since been removed. The balloon frame studs and vertical wall planking are left visible. Fir tongue and groove flooring was used throughout the building. A new stained glass window has been installed in the original transom opening. The original church benches are still in place.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Methodist-Episcopal Church is one of a number of standing structures within the townsite of Marysville, Montana, that remains from the liveliest period of the mining community's history (1885-1895). The building has stood unused for many years and, although it has experienced the depredation common to abandoned buildings in Montana's "ghost-towns," it is still one of the most often photographed and painted buildings in the State, representing for many people the arch-typical, abandoned remnant of Montana's mining boom days when Marysville boasted a population of over 3000 people and the ore that was taken from the fabulous Drumlummon mine and other active mines in the area assayed at some of the highest concentrations of silver and gold of any ore in the world.

The town of Marysville developed very rapidly into a major mining center once the larger quartz lode deposits were discovered and developed during the 1880's. The town had its beginning when Thomas Cruse, a miner who had been working placer claims in the area for some time, located the source of the ore in the hillside opposite the present location of Marysville in 1876. He named his claim the Drumlummon after his home county in Ireland. Cruse sold his interest in the Drumlummon to English capitalists in 1882 for the price of \$1,500,000. It has been estimated that the Drumlummon mine alone yielded over \$20,000,000 in mineral wealth between 1885-1895. Throughout the mountains to the east of Marysville there were also numerous highly successful mining operations during the later years of the 19th Century. Marysville served as a supply and entertainment center for the camps. The prosperity of Marysville, however, was shortlived. The Silver Panic of 1893 dramatically altered the community's prospects, as numerous mining operations closed down, never to resume production again on the scale at which they had been running previously.

By the time that the M.E. Church was constructed, the community was prospering; the church building represents the second stage of construction in Montana mining community, when structures were commonly built with more highly refined, machine produced materials and for specialized functions. The Northern Pacific Railroad had completed its line to the community in 1886, thus making easily available manufactured materials for construction. A local sawmill also had been established by that time. Originally set upon a rubble stone foundation, the church is of simple frame construction, sparsely adorned, with a centrally located bell tower. The original bell of the M.E. Church, which was cast during the early 1880's in Litmore, Maryland, was removed from the building, as were the original pews, light fixtures, and wood burning stoves. Many of these items have been kept in storage by local residents. The present owners of the building are undertaking restoration work and many of these original furnishings now have been refinished and returned to the building.

The Methodist-Episcopal Church is located within the Marysville Historic District (determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places on January 16, 1974).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Waite, Susan, An Historical Inventory of the Marysville Ghost Town, Bureau of Land Management, Missoula, MT, 1974
Montana Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Journals, Minutes, Proceedings, 1886-1887

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Canyon Creek

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>112</u>	<u>4010</u>	<u>71410</u>	<u>511</u>	<u>718</u>	<u>11310</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing					Zone	Easting	Northing			
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 13 of Block 8 of the Original Townsite of Marysville, MT (50' x 100' lot)
T12N R6W Section 36

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

state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret C. Hollow

organization

date June 14, 1983

street & number 428 Washington Drive

telephone 442-8119

city or town Helena

state Montana

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

Marcella Shroy

title Deputy SHPO

date 12-2-83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 1/5/84

Melrose Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration