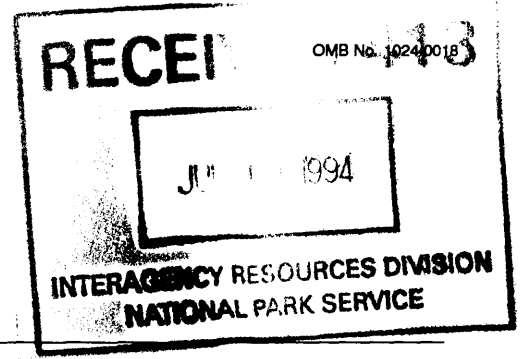


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Scandinavian Methodist Church

other name/site number: 24FH

2. Location

street & number: 203 Fifth Avenue West

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Kalispell

state: Montana code: MT county: Flathead code: 029 zip code: 59901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maull Shoy MT SHPO 6-28-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

Entered in the National Register

Boer
Signature of the Keeper
Edson H. Boer

Date of Action
8-24-94

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property: building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> building(s)
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties of Kalispell, Montana

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions:
COMMERCE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Late Gothic Revival

Materials:
foundation: concrete
roof: wood/shingle; asphalt
walls: wood/clapboard
other: n/a

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Scandinavian Methodist Church is a good example of an early church in Kalispell with relatively simple details; almost all of the original wood frame churches have been demolished and replaced. The steeple was originally located in the northwest corner of the church; it was removed some time after 1955 (probably in 1957 when the Salvation Army bought the building). The one-story wood frame structure has one-over-one-light double-hung wooden windows with pointed transoms. The siding of the T-shaped building is clapboard, with diamond and fishscale wood shingles in the gable ends. The wide eaves are supported by exposed rafters, and the building rests on a concrete foundation. The main part of the building has a gabled roof covered with wood shingles; the north wing is covered with composition shingles. There is a shed-roofed addition on the northeast corner. The main entrance is now located where the steeple originally was. There is an enclosed rear entrance with a hipped roof. On the interior, a false ceiling was added in the 1960s. The wood floors are original. The building has recently been levelled. The dirt basement is partial, large enough to give access to the plumbing.

According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the church was lighted by oil lamps until some time between 1903 and 1910, and the heat was originally furnished by a wood stove or stoves. The 1910 and 1927 maps show a wrap-around porch on the north end of the rear wing of the building; this was enclosed by 1955. A small rear wing was added to the southeast corner of the building between 1903 and 1910.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: Social History

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: 1895-1943

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1896

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Nordtome, Robert

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Scandinavian Methodist Church is eligible for listing under Criterion A of the National Register for its role in the development of the community. Built in 1895 and 1896, the building was used by the Scandinavian Methodist congregation from then until 1957. It was one of only four churches built in Montana by the Norwegian-Danish Conference of the church, and its congregation remained a "language church" longer than any of the others (until 1939). The church building is a physical reminder of the importance of Scandinavian settlers to the early history of Kalispell and the surrounding area. The property derives its primary significance from its historical importance, so it is not disqualified from listing on the National Register under Criteria Consideration A even though it was originally constructed as a religious building.

The corner stone for the Scandinavian Methodist Church was laid in December of 1895, after the congregation of Norwegian-Danish Methodists was formed in the spring of that year (this was the second Methodist congregation in Kalispell). The Kalispell Townsite Company gave the lot to the congregation, and \$350 was raised for the construction of the church. Some of the early members were carpenters, and they constructed the church in their spare time. The lead carpenter and architect of the group was Robert Nordtome, who lived on a farm outside of town. Another of the carpenters was Lars Johnson, who had been the contractor for Central School the previous year.

According to a profile of Methodist churches in the state, the Scandinavian Methodist Episcopal Church was "distinguished for its evangelistic spirit." The Norwegian-Danish Methodists were the most numerous "language Methodists" in Montana. Besides the Kalispell church, they also had their own congregations and buildings in Butte, Great Falls, and Helena, and the Kalispell church survived the longest. The first pastor in Kalispell was Rev. N. L. Hanson, and before the church was completely finished the congregation was holding regular services and Sunday School classes in the building. The church was also used for community purposes; for over a year the school district used the church for classrooms while the West Side School was being built. The building was formally dedicated in 1905. In 1939 the Western Norwegian-Danish Conference was merged with the Montana Conference, and its name was changed at that time to the Westside Methodist Church. From then on, services in the church were held in English.

The Salvation Army purchased the building in 1957 and operated a thrift shop in the former church. Since 1989 the Community Thrift business has been located in the building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

The Call: March 26, 1896.

Inter Lake: December 20, 1895, supplement.

Elwood, Henry, *Kalispell, Montana and the Upper Flathead Valley* (Kalispell, MT: Thomas Printing, 1980), p. 98.

Flathead Herald-Journal: December 25, 1895.

Mills, Edward Laird, *Plains, Peaks and Pioneers: 80 Years of Methodism in Montana* (Portland, OR: Binfords and Mort, 1947), pp. 135-36, 209.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1899, 1903, 1910, 1927, 1956.

Valentine, Connie (current owner), interview with Kathy McKay, May 12, 1993.

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 (City of Kalispell)

University

Other -- Specify Repository: Flathead County Library, Kalispell

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	11	699220	5341270

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 51, lot 12, Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Montana Principal Meridian.

Boundary Justification

The legally recorded boundary of this property encompasses the significant resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kathy McKay, Historian

street & number: 491 Eckelberry Dr.

city or town: Columbia Falls

date: May 1993

telephone: (406) 892-1538

state: Montana zip code: 59912

Property Owner

name: Connie Valentine

street & number: 205 Riverside Drive

city or town: Kalispell

state: MT

zip code: 59901