

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000764 Date Listed: 6/19/91

Stevensville Grade School--United Methodist Church  
Property Name

Ravalli MT  
County State

Stevensville MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Antoniella G. Lee*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6/20/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**Statement of Significance:** The Period(s) of Significance is amended to read 1885-1928.

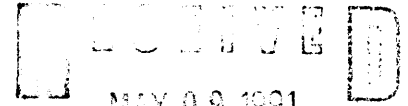
This information was confirmed with Patricia Bik of the Montana SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

2701

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Stevensville Grade School/United Methodist Church

other name/site number: Stevensville United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number: 216 College

not for publication: n/a  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

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Stevensville, Montana: 1866-1941.

**4. 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.

M T S H P O : Maxwell Shafiq 4-9-91  
Signature of certifying official Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and 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

\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Antoinette Lee 6/19/91  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_ See Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

m \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic: Education/school

Current: Religion/religious structure

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification: Classical Revival

Materials:        foundation: concrete  
                  walls: wood shingle  
                  roof: wood shingle

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Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Stevensville Grade School was originally a two-story, three-room, cross-shaped building as constructed in 1885. In 1906, a two-room addition was added to the north. And finally, in 1928, the Methodist Church remodelled the school building, adding a monumental portico and Classical detailing.

The windows of the original school building were 6-over-6 and 9-over-9, double-hung, wooden sash units, originally on the west (front) and east (rear). These windows were tall and narrow, hung singly and in pairs, with projecting cornices across each window head. The roof was low-pitched, and decorated with paired, carved brackets and a lantern-style ventilator centered atop the building. A circular window was centered in the west gable end. Two main entrances were located in the corners on the west side. These were sheltered by single story, open porches in the ells having low hipped roofs supported by chamfered and bracketed posts. The doorways housed double, wooden paneled doors with a full transom, with rounded upper corners. The building was clad with clapboard; the roof was covered with wooden shingles.

In 1906, the north gable was extended over a full, two-story wing, constructed to match the original design. Window shutters were added sometime thereafter.

In 1928, the school was remodelled in the Classical Style for use as a church, and it currently retains a high level of integrity relative to that 1928 remodelling.

In remodelling the building, the west elevation was altered. A two-story, fully-pedimented portico was projected from the original gable. Supported on tall Tuscan columns--freestanding and engaged--with a full entablature, the gabled pediment was ornamented with a central circular window. Towering above the roof lines, an octagonal cupola/bell tower was placed at the ridgeline on a square base, replacing the original lantern. The cupola is surrounded by a square-posted balustrade; a weathervane is located atop a simple finial. Under the portico, a central entrance replaced a pair of windows. This doorway has a large, rectangular stained glass transom above paired, panelled wooden doors, and is accessed by concrete stairs which support the columns. At the front corners, the original ells were enclosed to two full stories.

Fenestration was modified during this 1928 remodelling process. Original windows were retained only on the north wing. Elsewhere, the window cornices were retained, although

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units were replaced with stained glass, double-hung, 1-over-1. Many of the placements were similar to the original design but units were shorted, altering the former tall, narrow window emphasis. Window openings were also cut into the formerly unlit south wall.

On the west, double-hung windows are paired above the entrance. Single, double-hung units flank these windows above, the doors below. The first floor windows retain the original tall configuration. Double-hung windows are located in the ells. Double-hung windows, 4-over-4, fill the original tall window openings on the north wing.

On the south elevation double-hung windows are paired and centered on each floor, flanked by single, double-hung windows. All are arranged 1-over-1. On the east elevation, double-hung 1-over-1 windows are placed beside the gable end, and in the rear additions. Across the north wing, 4-over-4, double-hung units fill the original tall window openings.

The north elevation has paired, double-hung windows centered in the gable, and in the hip-roofed addition. Two, 4-over-4, double-hung windows are spaced equally on the gable's second story. A fire door is adjacent to the east side of the window nearest the west end of the wall. Wooden stairs lead to the ground. A paneled door is located in the north wall of the northwest hip-roofed addition.

The Stevensville Grade School/United Methodist Church retains a high degree of historic architectural integrity, reflecting the 1928 era building design. Recent additions of the north fire door and stairwell, contemporary shingle siding, have resulted in minor alteration to the Classical Revival facade. Overall, the historic, 1928 design and fabric are well represented, including all major elements and detailing. The building is well-maintained, and when viewed in context, including 1920s-era landscaping, provides an accurate depiction of the historic evolution of the building, and its historic associations. The new one-story addition to the rear does not significantly detract from the overall integrity of the building.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Education

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: 1885-1940

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1885, 1906, 1926, 1928

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Stevensville Grade School/United Methodist Church is of primary significance to the local community. It is significant for its long association with the Stevensville public school system during the early statehood era, documenting the changing needs of the Stevensville population as the community grew. It stands, also, as an excellent example of Classical Revival style institutional architecture, embodying many characteristics of this style, and reflecting the evolution of the building through 1928.

The architecture of the Stevensville Grade School/United Methodist Church, reflects both the early grade school design and Classical style renovations into a church during the historic period. The original school design is represented by the overall massing, roof lines, bracketing, corniced window treatments, and narrow window openings on the north wing. However, visually the building more accurately depicts its 1928-era transformation into a Classical Style church. Incorporating many elements typical of this popular revival style of architecture, the church is important architecturally in Stevensville.

The addition of the pedimented portico with its classical columns and unenriched entablature lends the building its stylistic associations and a characteristic monumentality. The imposing cupola and the symmetrical ordering on the original core of the building all enhance the Classical references.

### Background History

Classes in frontier Stevensville were first taught by individuals such as a Mr. Feddler and John B. Wright. The classes operated during the three winter months.<sup>1</sup> The first established school within the town proper was held at the Henry Buck home. Attendance records in 1872 show 26 pupils enrolled. Early instructors included Mrs. Sarah Lent, Rosa Knapp and Mrs. Nellie Buck.<sup>2</sup> Winter schools were also conducted at various locations until the erection of the three-room, cross-shaped school on the corner of College and Third Streets in 1885. Classes began in December of that year.<sup>3</sup>

X See Continuation Sheet

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<sup>1</sup> Stevensville Register, December 23, 1909.

<sup>2</sup> Montana Genesis, p. 207.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 208.

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The growth of the school system was rapid, keeping pace with the growing community. In 1890, 152 pupils were instructed by one teacher. In 1896, 156 students were taught by three teachers. In 1898, 172 students were enrolled.<sup>4</sup> By 1903, there were 224 students enrolled in the public school.<sup>5</sup>

In 1905, an increasing Stevensville population with 325 school-age children demanded additional classroom space.<sup>6</sup> In 1906, a two-room addition was added to the north elevation in time for classes to begin.<sup>7</sup> In 1907, ninth grade was added to the curriculum. One year later, an additional teacher joined the staff and tenth grade was added to the curriculum.<sup>8</sup> Residents circulated a petition in 1908 to establish and maintain the eleventh and twelfth grades.<sup>9</sup> They succeeded and the first high school class of five graduated in 1910. Ceremonies were held in Fauld's Hall.<sup>10</sup> By this time, the school was once again overcrowded and the school Trustees leased the Stevensville Training School from the Methodist-Episcopal Church South.<sup>11</sup> In August, 1913, the community approved the purchase of the Training School for \$10,000.00 by 60 votes (109 to 49).<sup>12</sup>

In 1922, the School Board won approval for construction of a new elementary school. Heutter Construction Company of Spokane submitted the lowest bid for \$34,679.00<sup>13</sup>, and a new grade school was completed for the 1923 school year.<sup>14</sup>

The School Board voted to sell the old grade school in 1926 with hopes that a new owner would "fix it up and make the neighborhood more attractive."<sup>15</sup> The Stevensville Women's Club purchased the old school in 1926; one year later, they sold it to the Methodist-

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<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Stevensville Register, September 30, 1903.

<sup>6</sup>Montana Genesis, p. 208.

<sup>7</sup>Stevensville Register, August 29, 1906.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., May 30, 1907.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., August 6, 1908.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., April 26, 1910.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., September 23, 1909.

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., August 15, 1913.

<sup>13</sup>Northwest Tribune, February 24, 1922.

<sup>14</sup>Montana Genesis, p. 213.

<sup>15</sup>Stevensville Register, June 24, 1926.

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Episcopal Church. (The Methodist-Episcopal Church North and the Methodist-Episcopal Church South had merged in 1918.) The school was remodeled and the first services were held on December 9, 1928.<sup>16</sup> The Methodist Church constructed the Classical Revival pedimented portico, two hip-roofed additions on the northwest and southwest inner corners of the cross plan, a hip-roofed addition off the northeast inner corner and two small, adjacent shed-roofed additions off the east face of the original core.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup>Montana Genesis, p. 192.

<sup>17</sup>Sanborn Map, 1927.



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## 9. References

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Abstract of Title, Stevensville Townsite, Block 13, Lots 9-14.  
Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.  
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.  
Northwest Tribune, February 24, 1922.  
Sanborn Map Company, Ltd., "Map of Stevensville, Montana", 1909, 1927 (New York).  
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).  
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, September 30, 1903; August 29, 1906; May 30, 1907; August 6, 1908; September 23, 1909; Special Edition, December 23, 1909; April 26, 1910; August 15, 1913; June 24, 1926.  
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.  
Negative file: W. Elevation, Sleeve 3, Row 1, Neg. #5

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  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository:

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723300	5154610

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Block 13, Lots 9-14.

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Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kathleen M. Olson  
Street & Number: 237 South 2nd West  
City or Town: Missoula State: Montana Zip: 59801

Date: revised October 1990  
Telephone: 406/728-7523