

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received MAR 9 1984  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Canyonville Methodist Church

and/or common Canyonville United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number ~~Corner of Second & Pine Streets~~ <sup>and</sup> N/A not for publication

city, town Canyonville N/A vicinity of Fourth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Douglas code 019

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name United Methodist Church

street & number Second and Pine

city, town Canyonville N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97417

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Douglas County Courthouse

street & number Douglas Avenue

city, town Roseburg state Oregon 97470

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office  
525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the Northwest corner of the intersection of Pine and Second Streets in Canyonville, the United Methodist Church was built as a community Methodist church in 1868, following the Classic Revival style, and is further described as a 25 x 50-foot one-story frame construction with gable roof and clapboard siding. The church is situated on a hill in the center of town facing east on what is left of two level lots given to the church by Marks & Wollenberg, who purchased the townsite in 1863.

Lots 80132 and 81033 are on the rolls as belonging to the church, however, new highway construction took most of 81033 as well as the parsonage on that lot.

Canyonville is about 30 miles south of Roseburg; 100 miles north of the California-Oregon state line on Highway Interstate 5, which roughly follows the old California-Oregon military road. In early years, it was primarily a freight station and gold mining supply center as well as a farming community. The last 50 years has seen the population grow to some 1200 as lumbering and logging became the principal industries. In 1868, there probably were no more than 100 people in town.

The church was begun in 1868 following closely the design of the Taylor Street Methodist Church of Portland (no longer standing) designed and built by "Father" James Wilbur, who in 1854 was a missionary to the Umpqua area. Whether the Canyonville church was designed by Father Wilbur is not known, but it is a possibility. Architecturally, the building is a simple, gable roofed church with louvered belfry based on the Classic Revival style. Clapboard siding and square nails are an evident legacy of the original church, which is today the sanctuary of the church.

Sometime after the turn of the century, a front porch was added to conform to the style of the church. All roof surfaces were covered with cedar shingles and re-roofed at regular intervals. The style of the original church has remained unchanged even though the interior was modernized and a two-story wing added in 1950s. This is of frame construction with clapboard siding and cedar shingles and designed to conform to the style of the original church. At the same time, the church purchased a surplus building in the area, and added it onto the back of the new addition for a kitchen. In the basement of the new addition was housed an oil furnace piped to all parts of the church. Later in the 1950s, the school district rented the annex for additional classrooms and the walls were sealed, painted and toilets completed.

But throughout all of this, the exterior of the original 26 x 50-foot building remained unchanged with the exception of new windows to replace broken ones -- in most of the original frames and in the original style, however.

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Continuation sheet CANYONVILLE METHODIST CHURCH Item number 7

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The interior is a single space with an elevated stage including altar, podium and choir. The 1950 remodeling restyled the stage area with new altar, podium and communion rails. At the time of the remodeling, there were two holes for chimneys in the ceiling, and around one was real evidence of a small fire, but neither were needed when the oil furnace was installed. The ceiling was lowered, tiled, attractive lights added and the whole painted an off-white. The original pews, arranged with center aisle, were replaced in the 1960s with old pews from the Myrtle Creek United Methodist Church.

The underside of the church is intact. Hand hewn foundation timbers form the perimeter: 12" x 12" x 50-feet on either side and 12" x 12" x 26-feet at each end. Two more 12" x 12" foundation timbers were set equidistant in the center and all are set on fieldstone piers.

The floor joists are 6" or 7" round trees hewn flat on top in sets of three spanning 26 feet. Flooring was 1 x 6 tongue & groove nailed to these joists. IN 1950, the underside of the church was enclosed with a cement block foundation.

The bell tower, which is also the original, has four hewn posts approximately 7" x 7" x 30-feet resting on said foundation timbers with cross members and support for bell morticed into uprights secured with wooden dowels.

This type of construction is no longer in use, but is the reason this building, located high and dry, has lasted so long. The men say it is as good underneath as the day it was built.

Where the bell tower posts are seen in the sanctuary, they have been faced with finish boards. Of course, new flooring was laid on top of the original during the 1950 remodeling and carpeting laid down the center aisle.

## 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 checked="" 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 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)
<b>Specific dates</b>	1868	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Noah Cornutt and church members	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1868 and dedicated in 1876 as a community Methodist church of one-story frame construction in the Classic Revival style, the principal reason for requesting that the United Methodist Church in Canyonville be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places is that it is the last surviving public building remaining in Canyonville of the Marks & Wollenberg era and is still in active use. Noah Cornutt, assisted by other members of the church, is the most probable builder and designer. We feel it is eligible under criteria "c".

The South Umpqua Historical Society has secured land and is raising funds to build a museum and Indian cultural center in Canyonville, and we feel our church is a monument to the pioneer way of life and should be so marked.

The history of the church chronicles the activities of a faithful band of Methodists from 1858 to the present.

Quoted from Bess Clough's "One Hundred Years in Canyonville -- 1858-1958": In 1863, Samuel Marks and Hyman Wollenberg purchased the town site of Canyonville at an Administrator's sale and carried on as merchants and operators of the grist mill for many years. After purchasing the townsite in 1863, Marks and Wollenberg donated the land where the Methodist Church now stands. The main part of this building was built some time during the late 1860s, but it wasn't until the summer of 1876 that the church was finally dedicated.

"The first permanent pastor, according to Methodist Church records, was Rev. George H. Brown. Services were evidently held in another building since Rev. Brown served here in 1858. He was succeeded by T. B. Sanderson. Following Rev. Sanderson's residence in 1959, there appears to have been no permanent pastor, but the town's needs were supplied by ministers from other localities. After 1868, the church has been regularly served."

There are some early records that state that the church was built in 1864 or 1865, and the bell placed in the belfry two or three years later. At that time Canyonville was a placer mining camp and several thousands of dollars in gold were taken out of the diggings. It was also a station for the Overland Stage Co., this being the old Oregon and California military road.

Jotted on the top of one pages in the church record book is the information that the church was completed during the ministry of Rev. Skidmore (1867-68) built on land donated by Marks and Wollenberg, Canyonville merchants. Dedicated in 1876, the preacher giving the dedicatory address greatly embarrassed the parishioners by castigating the Jews -- when, after all, the benefactors of the church were Jewish and greatly loved in the community. According to the note, Brother Noah Cornutt put \$500 into the building fund to match the \$500 donated by the church extension society.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Clough, Bess. "One Hundred Years in Canyonville: 1858-1958."

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Canyonville, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UTM References

A 

1	0	4	7	7	2	5	0	4	7	5	2	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

A parcel 100 x 100 feet, comprising Lots 1 and 2, Block 19, City of Canyonville, County of Douglas, Oregon

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

state	code	county	code
None			

state	code	county	code
None			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia H. Proctor, church historian

organization Canyonville United Methodist Church date July 14, 1983

street & number Route 1, Box 144 telephone 839-4379 Area code: 503

city or town Riddle state Oregon 97469

## 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

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date March 6, 1984

For NPS use only

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

date 4/5/84

*Melores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet CANYONVILLE METHODIST CHURCH item number 8

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Up until 1900, there was no other church in Canyonville, which was from earliest days part of a circuit at first including Roseburg, but later including Camas Valley, Tenmile, Days Creek and Riddle. At one time, there was also one "class" at Myrtle Creek.

Noah Cornutt was a charter member of the church, a Riddle rancer with several children and himself the son of a Methodist minister. One would say, looking at the church records in 1983, that he and his family held the church together. Out of the Canyonville church grew the Days Creek and Wolf Creek Methodist Churches, all being part of the same circuit around 1920.

During the ministry of the Rev. H. E. Taylor (1947-1950), the sanctuary was modernized with a donation of \$3000 from Mrs. Charles Barnhart, as a memorial to her parents who had been instrumental in building the church in the 1860s. At the same time, an annex was built with local donations and conference money.

All of the original siding, framing, hand hewn foundation timbers, supporting the floor, field stone supporting the timbers supporting the belfry, much of the door and window trim (and possible even the double doors) are still in place. The original design of the church has not been altered. "Old Timers" queried about pictures of the church say, "Well, it hasn't changed any -- just the addition."

Besides housing Methodist worshippers for over 100 years, this church has added to its immortality by allowing First Southern Baptists, Seventh-Day Adventists and Mormons to use the sanctuary while their own churches were being built.

# Canyonville Methodist Church

ca. 1868

R.E.P. 7-83

All Lumber Rough Sawn

☐ - Hard Timbers

Scale - 1/4" = 1'-0"

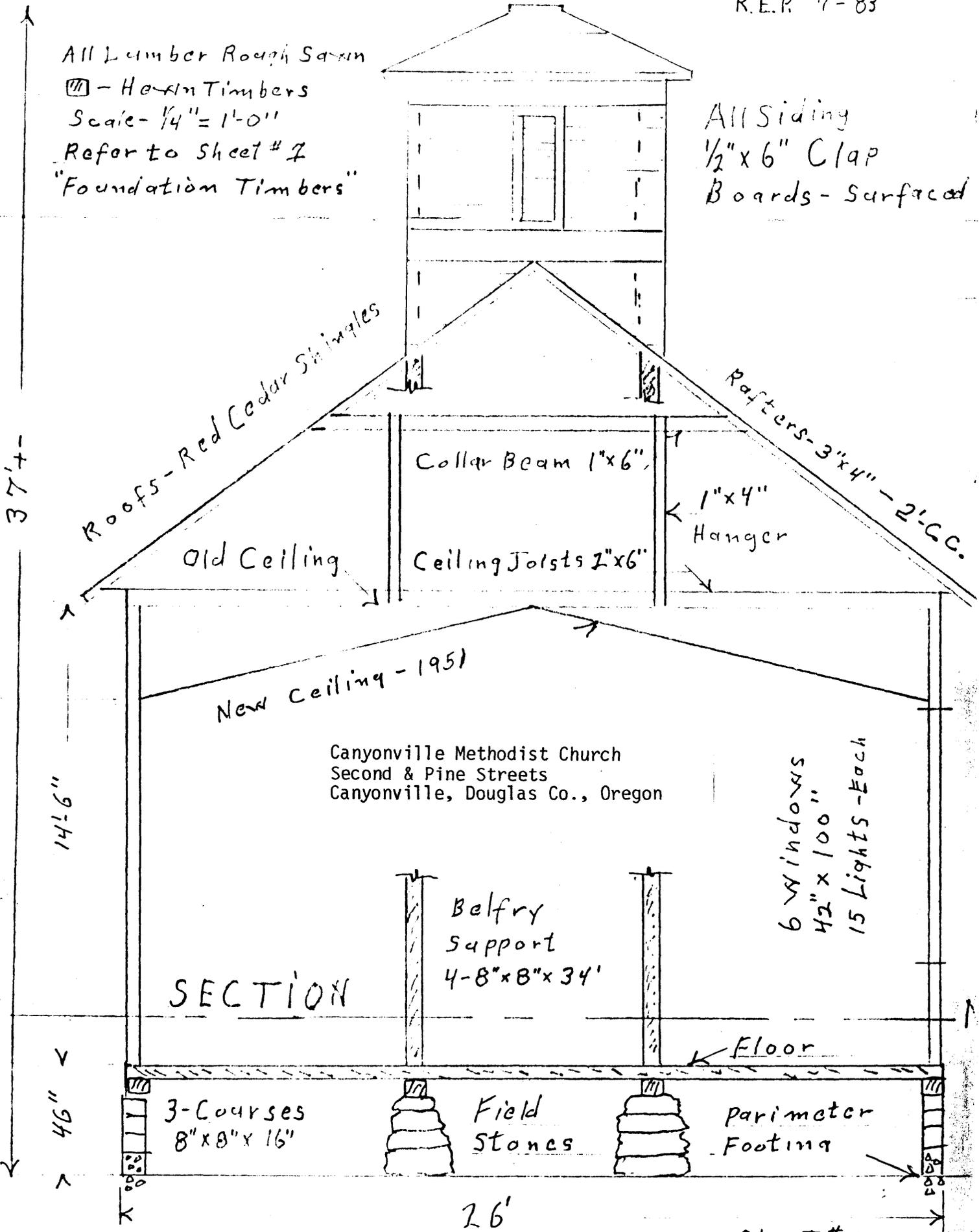
Refer to Sheet # 7

"Foundation Timbers"

All Siding

1/2" x 6" Clap

Boards - Surfaced



37'4"

Roofs - Red Cedar Shingles

Rafters - 3"x4" - 2' C.C.

Collar Beam 1"x6"

1"x4" Hanger

Old Ceiling

Ceiling Joists 2"x6"

New Ceiling - 1951

Canyonville Methodist Church  
Second & Pine Streets  
Canyonville, Douglas Co., Oregon

6 Windows  
42" x 100"  
15 Lights - Each

Belfry Support  
4-8"x8"x34"

SECTION

Floor

3-Courses  
8"x8"x16"

Field Stones

Perimeter Footing

26'

14'6"

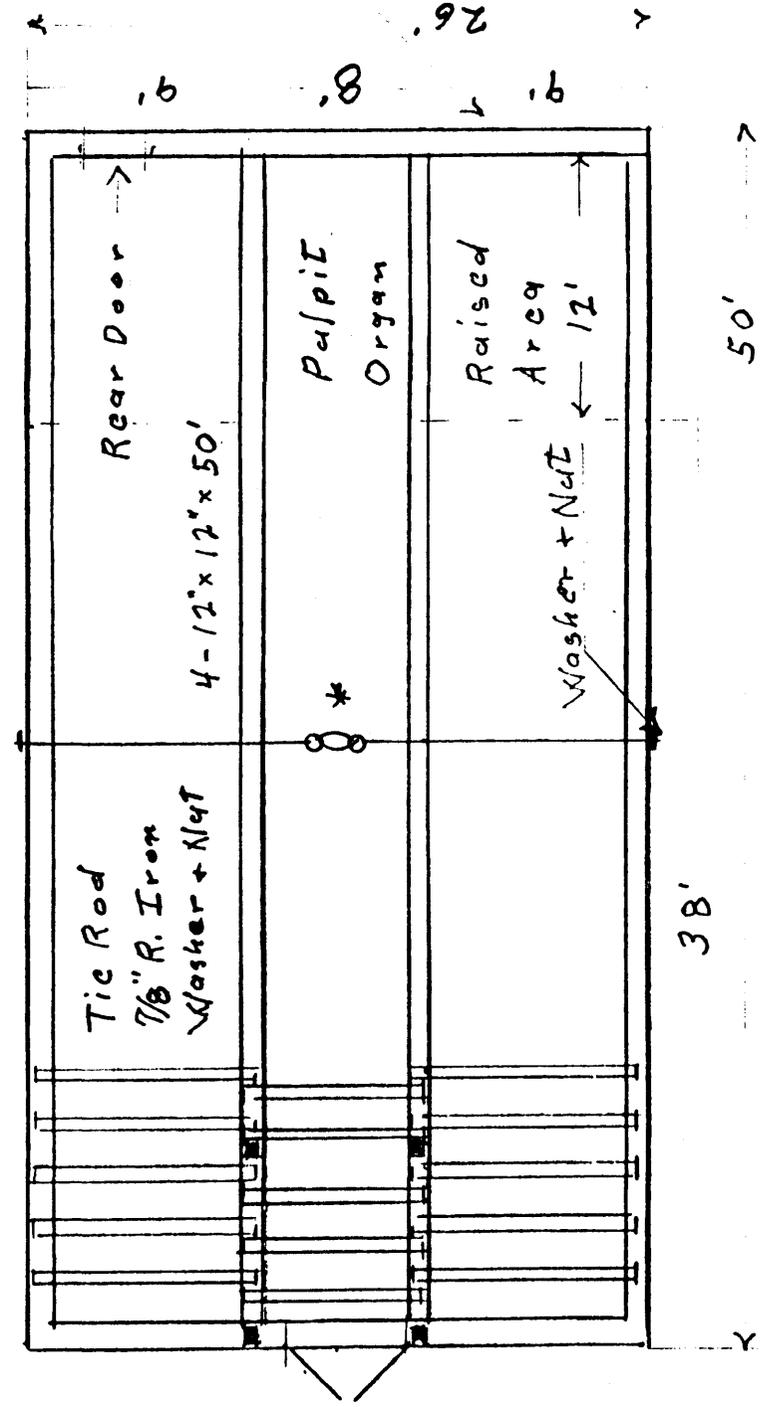
4'6"

S

2nd SI

# Canyonville Methodist Church - ca. 1868

## Foundation Timbers



4 - Rough Hewn Square D.F. Timbers 12" x 12" x 50'

2 - R.H. D.F. Timbers 8" x 12" x 26'

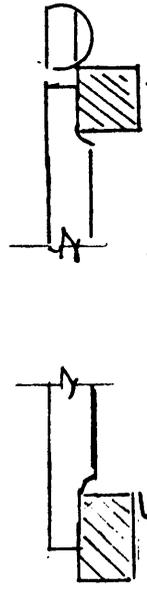
Set on Piers of Flat Fieldstone

New Foundation of 8" x 8" x 16" Concrete Blocks: Perimeter 1951

Floor Joists of D.F. Loose Joint Ctr. Of Tie Rod - Note.\*

6" - 7" Diam. Hewn Top Side Only.

3 Sets As Shown Above.



● = Bell Tower Posts Hewn 7" x 7" x 30'

Belfry Cross Timbers Fastened w/ Mortice, Tendon, Dowel Pin

No Evidence Of RoI Or Termites - 7-83 J.A. Fuller

Canyonville Methodist Church  
Second & Pine Streets  
Canyonville, Douglas Co., Oregon

E. Proctor 3-16-83