

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000905

Date Listed: 8/17/94


Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church
and Parsonage
Property Name

Flathead
County

MT
State

Kalispell MPS
Multiple Name

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.


Signature of the Keeper

8/17/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Criteria Considerations:

The nomination is amended to check **Criteria Consideration A.**
[The resource meets the criteria consideration as a religious property that derives primary significance from its architectural distinction as a fine local example of late nineteenth-century ecclesiastical design.]

This information was confirmed with Chere Jiusto of the MT SHPO.

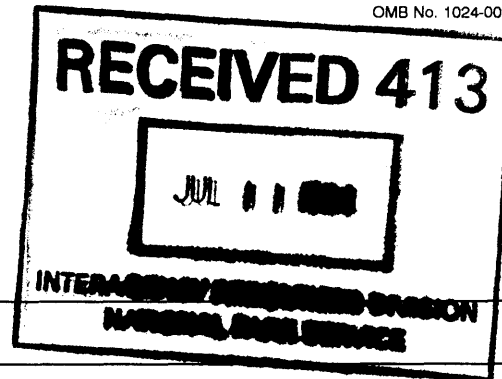
DISTRIBUTION:

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

705

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church and Parsonage

other names/site number: Swedish Lutheran Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
Latter-Day Saints Church, First Bible Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number: 344 5th Avenue West, 332 5th 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not for publication: n/a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 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maudie Shep 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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	<u>Signature of the Keeper</u> <u>[Signature]</u>	Date of Action <u>8/17/94</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> see continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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> 3 </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> 3 </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
RELIGION/church-related residence
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility
RELIGION/church-related residence
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Gothic
Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation: CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
walls: WOOD: Weatherboard, Shingle
other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Gothic Revival-style wood frame Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church originally had a 65' steeple. This was gone by 1941. The entrance is through the central tower. The church has narrow windows with Gothic-style pointed arches. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the exterior walls are sheathed in clapboard. The six-pointed star in a recessed circle over the entrance is original. At one time, judging from a pre-1936 photograph, the front entry had side-facing stairs instead of the ones descending to the east from the entrance before and after that period. A new foundation was put under the church in 1925 and it was remodeled at that time. A low flat-roofed concrete addition at the rear of the church that was added in 1970 replaced an earlier addition. A gallery was added to the church's auditorium in 1911. The gallery was enclosed and divided into classroom space after 1960.

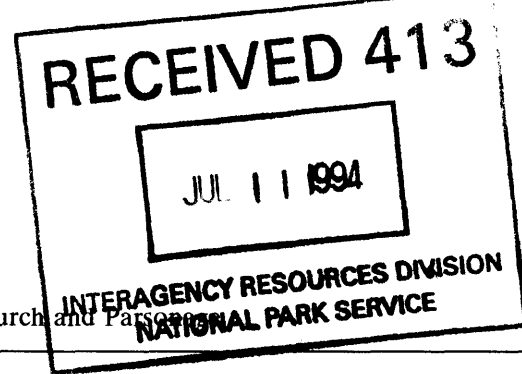
The two-story Colonial Revival-style parsonage was built in 1905. It has a roof covered with composition shingles, and the exterior walls are sheathed in clapboard, with decorative wood shingle work in the front gabled wall dormer. The roof is a truncated pyramidal roof. The covered entry replaces a full-width front porch. The front entry is a French glass door with a modern screen door. Bay windows project on the south and north sides. The lower rear wing had a porch on the west which was enclosed by 1963. The remaining windows are single and paired wooden one-over-one-light double-hung units. There is a central brick chimney.

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In 1980 work done on the parsonage included rewiring the house, installing a new bathroom vanity, faucet, drains, and toilet and paneling the bathroom walls with marlite. The building was re-roofed at that time with composition shingles. Aluminum storm windows were installed. The existing front porch was removed and a new deck was built and painted. The attic was insulated. The downstairs bedroom was sheet-rocked and painted. An existing historic ceiling light fixture was reattached.

At the rear of the lot is a 1½-story side-gabled carriage house (1896) with a composition shingle-covered roof and shiplap siding. The original doors have been replaced with plywood doors. In 1980, the siding on the west side of the garage was replaced.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1896, 1905

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1896, 1905

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder(s): Burrum, E.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, built in 1896, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, Architecture. The wood frame, Gothic Revival-style church is one of only a few churches from the pre-World War II era that still exist in Kalispell. The parsonage to the north and the associated carriage house are contributing buildings. Significant architectural features include the central tower with front entrance, the six-pointed star (symbolizing the six days of creation) in a recessed circle over the entrance, and the lancet windows. The church has served the congregations of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints during the historic period. Since 1960 it has been owned by the First Bible Presbyterian Church.

The Lutheran faith had an early start in the Flathead Valley because some of the early settlers, arriving from Butte and eastern cities in 1887, were devout Norwegian-American Lutherans. The first congregation was organized in 1895 by 12 men. A missionary and then a pastor were sent to serve the Flathead congregation in that year. Kalispell residents soon joined the congregation. During the winter of 1895-96 members of the congregation began construction of their church on the "outskirts of town." The men first built a barn to house the horses while they built the new church. In the spring of 1896 the construction of the Swedish Lutheran Church, as it was first called, began in earnest. E. Burrum was the architect, Mens Nordtome was in charge of construction, and Louis Larson was in charge of the masonry. Mr. Foss built the pews, N. A. Johnson the first hymnboard, and A. O. Wolstad painted the church. Much of the labor was donated, and the property was insured for \$1,500. The parsonage was built on the lot to the north of the church in 1905.

Soon, members began talking about the possibility of buying lots and building in a more centralized location. In 1911, the Lutheran community north of Kalispell formed a new congregation and built the Stillwater Lutheran Church. This church shared one-third of the pastor's services, paid one-third of the pastor's salary, and retained one-third interest in the parsonage and barn in Kalispell. The original church in Kalispell was enlarged in 1914, but the congregation continued to require more space due to increasing membership. During World War I, Somers families formed their own congregation. In 1918, the name of the congregation was changed from Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran to Bethlehem Lutheran, and some services were conducted in English beginning in 1919. As the church membership grew, the church was added on to and a basement was added.

In January of 1923 the congregation established a building fund, and lots on Main Street were purchased in 1924 for \$1,100. In 1932, the Bethlehem Lutheran congregation decided "by a strong rising vote" to build a new church.

In 1932, the basement of the new Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 603 Main Street was finished and the walls of the main structure were erected. The congregation met in the basement of the new church until it was completed. The next year, despite the national depression, the congregation purchased the lots south of the new church for the proposed parsonage. The new Bethlehem Lutheran Church was dedicated in 1937.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints purchased the original Lutheran church in 1936, and it was dedicated by Joseph Quinney, Jr., president of the Northwestern states mission of the church. The Kalispell branch of the church had been organized as a Sunday School in a private residence in 1935, and by December of that year the local branch was formally organized, with approximately 80 members.

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The parsonage for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in 1905 when Rev. A. M. Skindlov was pastor (he later became president of the Rocky Mountain district of the church). Described in 1941 as "well built and ample," it served as the parsonage until 1941, when a new parsonage was built next to the new church on Main Street. The O'Neil Lumber Company offered \$1800 in building materials in trade for the parsonage at 332 5th Avenue West, and the company owned the parsonage until 1946.

Lutheran pastors who lived in the parsonage included Reverends Skindlov (1905-09), Onerheim (1909-14), Wee (1915-16), Danielson (1917-20), Hjelmervik (1920-30), and Field (1931-41). Reverend A. M. Skindlov grew up in Norway, immigrating to the United States in 1893, where he attended four seminaries and universities. He was ordained in 1905 and served congregations in Kalispell, Sandpoint, Idaho, and from 1917-42 was the District President of the Rocky Mountain District. He later moved to Spokane.

Reverend Lars O. Onerheim was born in Calamus, Iowa, and received his theological degree from the United Church Seminary in 1906. He served the parishes in Wilbur, Washington; Kalispell and Big Timber, Montana; Madison, Minnesota; and Nunda, South Dakota. When the 1910 federal population census was taken, Onerheim and his Norwegian wife Martha were living in the parsonage with their two young daughters and with Martha's sister. Rev. M. O. Wee was born in Norway in 1871 and immigrated to the United States in 1891. He served pastorates in Dell Rapids, South Dakota; Jackson, Minnesota; Kalispell; and Peterson, Minnesota, and then was a professor at the Luther Theological Seminary from 1917 until his death.

From 1917-1920, Reverend Peter C. Danielson lived here. He grew up in Wisconsin and was ordained in 1908. He served congregations at Fort Dodge and Duncombe, Iowa; Kalispell; Madelia and Red Wing, Minnesota; Racine, Mondovi, and South Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Dunseith, North Dakota; and San Haven, North Dakota. His wife's name was Alma, and when the 1920 federal census was taken they were living in the parsonage with their three children. Rev. John Christofer Hjelmervik was born in 1871 in Skaanevik, Norway and came to the United States in 1899. He married Olga Marie Sandbo in 1907 (she was president of the Rocky Mountain District Women's Missionary Federation for several terms). Hjelmervik served pastorates in Osseo, Wisconsin; Buxton, North Dakota; Kalispell; and Pontiac, Illinois. He died in 1945.

Reverend Laurence N. Field was confirmed in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. He received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Luther College of Decorah, Iowa. He served ten years as pastor for the parish at Williston, North Dakota. He left Kalispell in 1941 to be the Chair of Religion at Luther College.

The First Bible Presbyterian Church has owned the building since 1960. The parsonage was sold to Hilda and Oscar Jacobson in 1946 (active members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church), and they owned it until 1964.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

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	5341090

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5 and 6, block 168, Kalispell Original Townsite. 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	date: May 1993
street & number: 491 Eckelberry Dr.	telephone: (406) 892-1538
city or town: Columbia Falls	state: Montana zip code: 59912

Property Owners

(344 5th Avenue West)

name/title: First Bible Presbyterian Church	
street & number: 344 5th Avenue West	telephone: (406) 755-1181
city or town: Kalispell	state: MT zip code: 59901

(332 5th Avenue West)

name/title: Patrick and Barbara Allison	
street & number: 332 5th Avenue West	telephone: (406) 257-5736
city or town: Kalispell	state: MT zip code: 59901

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"Bethlehem Lutheran Church Golden Anniversary Jubilee, 1895-1945," available in Flathead County Library, Kalispell, Montana, pp. 5-16.

Elwood, Henry, *The Train Didn't Stay Long* (Kalispell, MT: Thomas Printing, 1982), p. 30.

Flathead Monitor, "Kalispell Building Assumes Steady Forward Movement," May 14, 1925, p. 1; "Bethlehem Church Plans To Build \$25,000 Structure," January 28, 1932, p. 1.

Kalispell City Directories (1901-43).

Kalispell News: "A Short History of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kalispell," 50th Anniversary Edition (1941); "History of the L.D.S. Church," 50th Anniversary Edition (1941).

Kalispell Times, "New Church on Main Street Rising Rapidly," April 28, 1932, p. 1.

Koch, Augustus, "Bird's Eye View of the City of Kalispell, Flathead County, Montana, 1897."

Moyer, Susan (director of City Housing Rehabilitation program), interview with Kathy McKay, January 9, 1992.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Kalispell, 1927 and 1963.

United States Population Census, Kalispell City, 1900, 1910, 1920.