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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NATIONAL
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See Instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the Instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1527 West Mallon not for publication
city, town Spokane vicinity
state Washington code WA county Spokane code 063 zip code 99201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	—	— objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Mary Thompson 8/10/92
Signature of certifying official Date

Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register 10/2/92**
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof composition

other tile

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Constructed between 1905 and 1911, Grace Baptist Church is an imposing masonry structure built of buff brick and reflecting the English Gothic Revival style. The building is characterized by arched openings, brick buttresses, roofline crenelation, a large Tudor arched window in the front facing gable, and an interior auditorium enriched with stained glass and panelled stained wood.

Located in a residential neighborhood on Spokane's northside, the church rests on a double lot (approximately 240 by 100 feet) at the corner of Mallon and Maple streets. The building is fronted on the north and west elevations by a small grass lawn ornamented with shrubbery, with a surface parking area on the east. Despite a rear concrete classroom annex added in 1949, the church retains good integrity of condition and design.

Exterior: Grace Baptist Church is built on a rectangular plan measuring 75 feet across the north facade and south rear elevation and 90 feet on the sides, dimensions that reflect the large central sanctuary that dominates the interior. The church is faced in buff colored brick, rests on a stone foundation and rises to a gabled roof. The roofline parapets are faced in tile coping.

The main sanctuary is expressed on the exterior with a projecting gable that is lighted by a massive stained glass window set within a Tudor arch. The window, which features Perpendicular-style tracery, measures 20 feet wide by 40 feet high. The central gable is framed on the east side by a polygonal buttress capped with battlements. A one story apsidal bay projects on the northeast corner of the facade. The bay is supported by buttresses and lighted by arched windows with stained glass. The bay is crowned with battlements and a finial.

On the west side of the facade, an engaged square tower rises above the gable roofline. Entry portals project from the north and west sides of the tower. Within the portals, panelled double doors are set within compound arched openings. The portals are crowned with battlements. The upper levels of the tower are lighted by paired flat arched windows; the tower walls are reinforced by corner buttresses which rise full height; and the tower roofline is accentuated with coping.

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The east and west elevations of the church are divided into bays by brick buttresses, and lighted by flat arched windows on the first story and pointed arched windows on the second story. Corbelled brick forms a cornice beneath the eaves of the gabled roof. A clerestory rises above the roof, lighting the upper levels of the sanctuary with paired windows. All the windows are enriched with stained and leaded glass set in interlacing tracery. The southwest and southeast corners of the church feature projecting wings, with rear entry portals at the first story level. Panelled double doors are set within compound pointed arched openings, with stained glass lights above heavy stone lintels.

Interior: The front entry in the base of the tower leads to a narthex, lined with wood panelling. From the narthex, parishioners pass through two sets of double doors to the large square auditorium. The sanctuary rises the full height of the building beneath a beamed ceiling. The altar is set on a platform against the south wall of the auditorium beneath the choir loft; behind the altar is the baptistery. The 51 gilded pipes of the organ rise 36 feet against the south wall of the room behind the organ loft.

Pews on the main floor are stained oak, providing seating for 320. A tiered balcony surrounds the rear and side walls of the auditorium and projects 20 feet into the auditorium; opera chairs provide seating in the balconies. The main floor, balconies, and choir loft have a total seating capacity of 550 people.

The auditorium is lighted by the arched stained window against the south wall, and by three levels of arched windows with stain glass on the east and west sides. The interior walls are finished in plaster and lined with panelled oak. The side aisles of the sanctuary feature pointed arch arcades carried on iron columns, and similar columns support the balconies that surround the space. The ceiling features trusswork supported by hammer beams with pendants.

The lower level of the church features a large hall with raised stage and several smaller rooms. The concrete rear addition was built against the original south wall in 1949. The two story building provides a large classroom facility for the congregation, but is not visible from the primary facade.

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1905-1911 Cultural Affiliation N/A	N/A
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	J. K. Dow, architect; J. W. White, builder	

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

Built in the first decade of the 20th century, Grace Baptist Church is an architecturally significant example of the Gothic Revival Style of the period, and closely associated with the development of Spokane's northside neighborhood. Founded in the wake of the great fire of 1889, the North Side Baptist Church grew rapidly during the city's boom period; by 1903, the congregation had hundreds of members, established several missions, and laid ambitious plans for an expansive new house of worship designed by prominent architect J. K. Dow. When completed in 1911, the building was one of the most substantial structures on the growing north side, and one of the finest churches in the city. Today, it retains excellent integrity, and is distinguished by its arched openings, buttresses, battlemented parapets, stained glass, and dramatic interior auditorium.

Background: The fire that swept Spokane Falls in August, 1889, consumed hundreds of structures; but the devastation led to rapid rebuilding and the emergence of new organizations as well as new structures. One of these began in December 1889, when a small group of Baptists met at the northside home of Mr. and Mrs. O C. Ross with the intention of organizing the city's second Baptist Church.

Establishing a new Baptist church on the northside, where there was not even a mission, was a bold idea in 1890. In the late 1880s, the district had evolved from a grassy prairie to a place with about 50 houses. But the population of the city at large was approaching 20,000 and growth on the northside was beginning to contribute to that growth.

The group's second meeting was held a week later at the Spokane County Courthouse in January, 1890. Ross was elected chairman and the nascent congregation boasted 18 members. Within the next few weeks, the group retained a permanent preacher from the East; established a mission circle and a ladies aid organization; began a Sunday School; and held regular services in the County Courthouse. Members went door-to-door to recruit new members, and in March the North Side Baptist Church of Spokane Falls was formally incorporated.

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But in short time, the County Courthouse proved inadequate for the needs of the congregation. The rooms were drafty, dirty, and leaky, and the congregation competed with other groups for space. As a result, the church purchased two lots of the northside in March and erected a simple frame structure that served as the Baptist church for the next 16 years. The new facility no doubt contributed to the church's success; at the end of the first year, membership had grown to 48 people, and by 1892 over 100 people belong to North Side Baptist.

For the rest of the decade, the North Side Baptist Church dramatically increased membership and its role in the community. The church set up two missions and in 1894, a Baptist Social Union was established that took as its special focus the Spokane Chinese Mission for which one North Side member conducted services and others taught. By 1898, in recognition of its broader scope and growth, the congregation changed its name to Grace Baptist Church; by at the turn of the century, the congregation exceeded 200 members.

The prominence of the church in the early 20th century was reflected in both increased membership and prominent preachers. By 1910, the organization had 300 members. One minister in the first decade of the 20th century, Reverend C. H. Braden, was a leading prohibitionist in the city and was prominently caricatured in a front page editorial cartoon in the *Spokesman-Review* for his leadership of the anti-saloon movement.

This rapid growth led to plans for a new facility. In 1903, a double lot was purchased at the corner of Maple and Mallon. Two years later, a cornerstone was laid, and a new church, designed by John K. Dow in the Gothic Revival Style, was begun under the supervision of contractor J. W. White. Dow was born in Gaylord, Minnesota, in 1862, and died 90 years later in Kirkland, Washington. But for a half-century he was a prominent architect in Spokane. Arriving in Spokane before the fire of 1889, Dow's most important early commission was the Empire State Building (1900); later commissions included the August Paulsen House (1912), and the eleven-story August Paulsen Building, considered the first Spokane skyscraper when it was completed in 1908. At the time of the Grace Baptist commission, Dow was in the first rank of professional architects in the Inland Empire.

By 1906, the brick walls of the new church were up, the roof was complete and a basement had been finished. For the next several years, services were conducted in the basement until the entire church was complete and dedicated in January, 1911. When finished, the church was distinguished by arched openings, buttresses, tile coping, and a large central auditorium with lighted by stained glass and lined with panelled oak.

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With its new facility, the church continued to grow; by 1920, Grace Baptist had 450 members; by 1939, 937 members. Missions started by the church in those years eventually became independent Baptist churches known as Union Park, Central Baptist, Hillyard Baptist, Minnehaha Baptist, and Immanuel Baptist. The church remained supportive of the Chinese Mission, and the Chinese congregation continued to worship at Grace Church until 1988, when they bought their own building and moved to the new location.

In 1949, Grace Baptist built a large educational wing to the rear of the building. Constructed of concrete, the annex is neither compatible with the historic building nor visible from the facade. This addition represents the only major alteration to the structure. Otherwise, the building's Gothic Revival exterior and decorative interior retain excellent integrity, and the church remains an architectural landmark on the northside.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Grace Baptist Church, 1890-1940, Golden Jubilee Anniversary
Publication (Grace Baptist Church, Spokane, 1940).

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 1 1 4 6 7 4 0 0 5 2 7 8 9 6 0
 Zone Easting Northing
 C Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing
 D Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1-3, Block 5, Ides Addition, City of Spokane.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes the lots historically associated with Grace Baptist Church.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Edited by L. Garfield(OAHP) from material submitted by Frank Duncan
 organization date May 1, 1992
 street & number Grace Baptist Church telephone (509) 482-8330
 city or town 1527 West Mallon Street state WA zip code 99201
 Spokane