

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 26 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 16 1978

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

502 WEST MONTANA STREET

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

LEWISTOWN

NW 1/4, Sec. 15, T.15N., R.18E.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

2

STATE

MONTANA

CODE

30

COUNTY

FERGUS

CODE

27

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

—BOTH

### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME ST. JAMES PARISH (RELIGIOUS CORPORATION)

STREET & NUMBER

502 WEST MONTANA STREET

CITY, TOWN

LEWISTOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

MONTANA

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

FERGUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

712 W. MAIN ST.

CITY, TOWN

LEWISTOWN

STATE

MONTANA

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fitting well amidst the one and two story homes in the northwest residential section of Lewistown, the Episcopal Church building complex is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Montana Street and 5th Avenue North. The one story stone church which was erected in 1899 occupies the actual corner site and the stone parish house completed in 1915 is situated immediately west. Both buildings are constructed of light gray sandstone quarried in the vicinity. The church itself is of irregular blocks of stone while the parish house is laid up in rough-faced cut stone.

The church plan today is that of a Latin cross with a square apsidal end similar to English medieval church plans. There is a projecting vestibule centrally located on the front or south end of the nave with a gable roof lower than the gable roof of the nave. The gable roofs of the transepts are also lower than that of the main body of the church. The east transept has a low bell tower, square in plan with a pyramidal roof. The roofs are of wood shakes. A single brick chimney is located just W. of the bell tower.

The west transept contains the pipe organ while the east transept houses the sacristy. There is a single exterior door on the south wall of the east transept, set in a squared opening. The main entry doors are in an arched opening on the south wall of the projecting vestibule. The main entry and transept doors are constructed of vertical boards and have large strap iron hinges. The doors are painted a rustic red color while the hinges are painted black. The east transept with its chimney, bell tower and secondary entry is actually wider and shallower in plan and is taller than the west transept. The latter has no exterior openings.

All of the church windows except two are set in Gothic (pointed) arched openings. There are two small rectangular stained glass windows, one on each side of the vestibule (east and west). The nave has two large stained glass windows on the east wall and three on the west wall. There are similar units in the east transept, one on the east and the other on the north. The windows of the nave and east transept have a cross and crown design. On each side of the sanctuary in the apsidal end is a set of three windows in a square-headed rectangular frame, one on the east wall and one set on the west wall. These windows have crown of thorns designs.

Oval shaped stained glass windows are located high in the gable ends of the main body of the church. The design of the north window behind the altar features the cup and wheat while the south window above the vestibule has a design of grapes and the cup. There are a total of seventeen stained glass windows in the church. Their frames are painted a rustic red like the doors.

The cornerstone with the construction date of 1899 is located on the southwest corner of the building. The walls of the low-profiled well-proportioned church are ivy covered, as are the walls of the parish house.

The interior of the church has undergone some changes. The sanctuary and choir area was paneled about 1967 and the altar, altar rails, organ, hymn board, font, lectern and pulpit have been replaced. The open-beamed ceiling remains as it was in 1899.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	NOV 22 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 16 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Adjacent to and west of the church is the parish house. The rectangular parish house is also a one-story structure, but its main floor is raised to permit windows to light the basement. The building has a steep gable roof with wood shingles. An open joist, beam and bracket portico shields the entry located on the east at the southeast corner of the building. The portico roof is supported by stone columns that flank the steps.

The parish house windows are tall narrow units set in Gothic arches. Those of the basement area are rectangular with square heads. The south wall has three Gothic-arched windows evenly spaced. The central unit is taller than those that flank it. Above, high in the gable, is a small circular window. None of the windows in the parish house are of stained glass. The main floor contains one large room having a hardwood floor. A small office is located on the south end of the building with a cloak room adjacent to the staircase. Above the office space there is a balcony. The basement has a large meeting or dining room with columns down the center. On this level are located the rest-rooms, kitchen and a boiler room.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

## SPECIFIC DATES

1899 & 1912-15

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

JOHN SUTCLIFFE  
CHURCH ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lewistown is located in the geographic center of Montana but has never been on the main trails, railroads, or other travel patterns of the state. The town started as a trading post to serve the Crow Indian Reservation about 1873. By 1883, it was a growing community and boasted a Shakespeare Club, an Astronomy Club and a theater. In that year, Bishop L. R. Brewer of Helena conducted the first Episcopal services in the area.

In October, 1897, at the instigation of Bishop Brewer, St. James Guild was formed in Lewistown. Though the population of the town was only about 400 people, the ladies rose to the challenge of raising funds to build a church. The women of the Guild served suppers, conducted bazaars and held rummage sales and gradually accumulated the necessary money.

The architect for the church was John Sutcliffe, 218 LaSalle St., Chicago, who specialized in church architecture. He designed the church furniture, as well. This little vine-covered English Gothic church is the oldest existing church building in Lewistown as earlier churches have been replaced by later structures.

When built, the little church had only the east transept and no bell tower. The bell tower was added in 1903 because the Rev. A. W. Bell secured the "loan" of the city fire bell. The second transept was added in 1929 to house the new Moller pipe organ which was first used on All Saint's Day of that year.

As the town grew, so did the church and more space was needed. This was provided in 1912-15 by the erection of a Parish Hall beside the little church. It served the community at large as a recreation hall and meeting place as well. It is used by the parish for Sunday School classrooms, parish and public dinners, meetings, motion picture screening room and other relative functions. Wedding receptions are held here, and the annual harvest dinners in the fall. Architects for the Parish Hall were Wamsdorff and Eastman. Lee Dysart was the contractor.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hostess Reference Book, St. James Guild, (History by the Rev. George Hirst), 1930.

"Lewistown's St. James has a Long History", Robert L. Dissly, Episcopal Evangel, publ. by Diocese of Montana, March, 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.19 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,2 6,1,9 1,5,0 5,2,1,3 4,0,0

B                 
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                         

D                         

E                         

F                         

G                         

H                         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tract 325, City of Lewistown (Northwest corner of 5th Avenue North & Montana Street)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

JOHN N. DeHAAS, JR., ARCHITECT & ROBERT L. DISSLY, FORMER MAYOR

ORGANIZATION

DATE  
JUNE 28, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S. TRACY

TELEPHONE  
406-586-2276

CITY OR TOWN

BOZEMAN

STATE  
MONTANA 59715

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL XX

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 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE 11-19-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11-16-78

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Abraham 11-15-78