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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 "NA" 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 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MANSE
other names/site number: FEDERATED CHURCH

2. Location

street & number: 1160-1180 Cedar Street not for publication
city, town: Forsyth vicinity
state: Montana code: MT county: Rosebud code: 087 zip code: 59327

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	2	1 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
		2	1 Total
Name of related multiple property listing: HISTORIC RESOURCES OF FORSYTH, MONTANA		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.

Signature of certifying official Marcell Sheff Date 12-21-89

State or federal agency and bureau MT SHPG

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.
 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:)

Patrick Andrus

2/12/90

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure
RELIGION: church-related residence

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious structure
RELIGION: church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Prairie School

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: concrete
walls: brick
weatherboard
roof: shingle
other: stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Forsyth's First Presbyterian Church and its accompanying manse occupy a contiguous group of six town lots at the corner of Cedar Street and Twelfth Avenue. The lots are in a city block largely occupied by mixed commercial development, although residential neighborhoods exist to the north and east. The block immediately to the east is occupied by the Rosebud County Courthouse. Both the church and manse face Cedar Street, which runs along the north property line. The following three buildings exist on the property:

1. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING (Constructed 1920--Contributing): This is a large, single-level traditional church structure displaying a form indicative of Prairie School design, although traditional Gothic detailing is present as well. The building is largely constructed of yellow brick, with a concrete foundation and asphalt-shingled gable roof. The primary axis of the building runs north-south. The tall, gabled clerestory of the nave is flanked by lower aisle areas displaying buttressed walls and multiple, small cross-gables (three on each

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side). The primary entrance area (north) features a buttressed pavilion wall with a prominent, deeply-inset Gothic arch housing the double entry doors and a large, stained-glass window. This area features prominent stone medallions and detail areas. A two-run series of concrete steps leads to the entry.

Other fenestration areas display a variety of configurations; remaining windows are rectangular in gently-arched brickwork openings. Brick or wood infill directly beneath the arches suggest that many rectangular windows were considered temporary fixtures until arched, stained-glass windows could be afforded. The currently windowless south facade features a very large bricked-in Gothic arch window area, as well as smaller bricked-in window areas. Windows are wood-framed; window sets high in the clerestory feature stained glass. Most windows are one-over-one double-hung, placed in horizontal groups of three. Occasional metal-framed windows serve as replacements in the basement area. Windows have concrete sills. There is an end brick chimney on the south elevation.

The interior retains much of its historic configuration, although many details were changed in a 1960 remodeling. Original plastered walls survive in most areas. The main doors open to a small entry area with a coat room and closets. Two-run stairwells lead from this area to the basement (containing classrooms) and to the choir loft. The worship area (beneath the clerestory) retains its open configuration and historic wooden pews; the aisle areas, however, are now used as classrooms and are divided from the main area by folding vinyl accordion walls. The altar area dates from the 1960 remodeling; the wall behind the altar is finished to imitate half-timbering and stucco.

2. MANSE (Constructed 1910--Contributing): This is a two-story residence, wood-framed with a low-pitched pyramidal hip roof. Its design reveals numerous attributes of Prairie School architecture. Exterior wall surfaces are clapboard; the roof is surfaced with green-painted wood shingles. Roof eaves are wide, and rafter ends are exposed. The foundation is concrete. There is a central brick chimney, as well as an end brick chimney on the east elevation. The largely symmetrical street facade (north) is marked by a screened, hip-roofed front porch with a solid balustrade (historic) running the width of the building. This facade also features a centered, hip-roofed dormer with two eight-light windows placed horizontally. The sides of the dormer are shingled.

The home's remaining fenestration takes varying forms; larger windows on the street facade consist of a large single lower pane topped by a small, fixed ten-pane area. Most other windows are one-over-one double-hung; they are arranged symmetrically on each building elevation. All fenestration is wood-framed and likely original, although aluminum-framed storm windows have been added. A

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single-story gable-roofed addition running the width of the building's rear is not original, although present on Forsyth's 1920 Sanborn map. The building is painted yellow, with white trim.

3. GARAGE (Constructed ca. 1940--Non-contributing): A detached gable-roofed single-car garage (ca. 1940), wood-framed with aluminum siding and wood shingles, is at the southeast corner of the lot. The garage faces west and has a modern overhead door.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions) Period of Significance Significant Dates

Architecture	1910 1920	1910 1920
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Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

Howard Van Doren Shaw, Chicago
McIver & Cohagen, Billings
J.W. Brinson (manse contractor)

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

Forsyth's First Presbyterian Church building, and its accompanying manse, meet criterion "c" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Although the buildings are religious properties, they qualify for listing under criteria exception "a" due to their locally significant level of architectural distinction. Both the church and its manse are exemplary, locally unique examples of Prairie School architectural influence. The church gains added distinction for its design association with Howard Van Doren Shaw, a regionally-significant architect of the early twentieth century, and for a far more indirect association with Ralph A. Cram, perhaps America's most significant ecclesiastical architect of the era.

Architectural Significance

After Forsyth's original First Presbyterian Church burned to the ground in December, 1919, the event was reported nationally through Presbyterian church organizations, accompanied by a call for financial assistance to rebuild. One of the respondents to this plea was an unknown Chicago woman, who agreed to help finance the design of a replacement edifice. This woman was reportedly quite impressed with the appearance of the church she attended in Chicago, and enlisted the architect of that building to help design the new Forsyth church.

That architect was Chicagoan Howard Van Doren Shaw. Shaw (1869-1926) was a Chicago native who received his architectural training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, inaugurating his Chicago practice in 1897. Much of Shaw's practice consisted of designing "beautiful country homes" for the Chicago

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elite, although he also completed several substantial civic and commercial projects in the Chicago area. Shaw's designs in the latter category include the R.R. Donnely printing house, the Goodman Theatre, the Lakeside Press Building, and the Quadrangle Club at the University of Chicago.

The Chicago edifice which was so admired by the Presbyterian benefactress was the Fourth Presbyterian Church (1910). Shaw had designed that structure in conjunction with noted ecclesiastical architect Ralph A. Cram, a nationally-significant east coast designer of landmark Gothic churches. Most references list Cram as the primary designer of Fourth Presbyterian; it is likely that Shaw served principally as Cram's local representative. (Shaw did, however, independently design the church's accompanying manse.)

In planning the Forsyth church, Shaw could only adopt the general basic lines of Fourth Presbyterian, for the Chicago church was a far-larger facility embodying considerable high-style Gothic detailing. Around this basic form, Shaw prepared a cleaner, simpler shell of yellow brick, employing the relatively gentle lines of the Prairie School philosophy then enjoying its brief, Midwest-centered popularity.

Shaw's designs were forwarded to the Montana architectural firm of McIver & Cohagen. This partnership included Angus V. McIver and Chandler C. Cohagen, two 1915 graduates of the University of Michigan's architecture school who established a Montana practice. Local work on the Forsyth church was probably completed by Cohagen, who headed the firm's Billings office (McIver worked out of Great Falls). It is unknown how much of the building's final design was Shaw's responsibility, and how much was Cohagen's. Working drawings for the church were prepared in Montana, however, and list McIver and Cohagen as principal architects. There is no record of Shaw having visited Montana in conjunction with the project.

The original plan for the church indicated a possible future extension running west from the rear of the extant building to house classrooms. This project was never attempted due to financial constraints -- difficulties which actually precluded the installation of some planned stained-glass windows in the primary structure. It was not until 1950, when the church's congregation merged with Forsyth's Methodist group, that the heavy debt imposed by the church's construction was finally eased. (In 1930 McIver & Cohagen designed a new First Presbyterian Church for the community of Great Falls; the church, although larger, is strikingly similar to the Forsyth facility and includes the classroom extension.)

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Historical Information

A Presbyterian congregation had been established in Forsyth by the early 1890's, but initial meetings were held in member's homes and other locations. It was not until 1906 that the group possessed the numbers and resources to erect a permanent church facility. That year the congregation sponsored construction of a substantial clapboard church; the imposing building featured a Gothic form with substantial Stick-style detailing. It was Forsyth's second church building (the Methodists had erected a church in 1890). Four years later sufficient funds had accumulated to construct an adjoining manse; groundbreaking for that building took place in July, 1910.

Most work on the manse was performed by contractor J.W. Brinson. The building was completed and occupied by September, 1910. The Forsyth Times-Journal described the new home as "six rooms with bath; hot-air heat; full basement; complete in every way." Church members landscaped the site the following summer, planting trees and a lawn.

The original church building was destroyed by fire in December, 1919 (the manse was undamaged). During the ensuing months the congregation met in Forsyth's Masonic Temple while plans and financing for a replacement church were underway. The construction contract for a replacement building was awarded that April to Alfred E. Lyle of Billings. Work began soon after, and the new church was dedicated in December, 1920. The new building cost some \$37,500; although sufficient funds were available to make the building usable, funding difficulties prevented completion of a number of interior details. This circumstance resulted in a number of minor interior remodeling projects which continued throughout the 1970's.

Faced with financial difficulties and low memberships, Forsyth's Presbyterian and Methodist congregations voted to merge in 1950. The unified group continued to utilize the Presbyterian church and manse; the smaller Methodist facilities were sold to help retire indebtedness on the Presbyterian buildings. The combined body is now known as the Federated Church, although services continue to follow the Presbyterian program.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A	<u>113</u>	<u>370880</u>	<u>51124910</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots 1 through 6, Block 57, Original Townsite of Forsyth, Rosebud County, Montana.

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes only the city lots upon which the church and manse are located.

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark A. Hufstetler

organization _____

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city or town Bozeman

date November 1, 1989

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Major Bibliographical References:

Deitchler, Karen. "Forsyth: 100 Years." [Forsyth, Montana: Forsyth Independent, n.d.]

Eaton, Leonard K. Two Chicago Architects and their Clients: Frank Lloyd Wright and Howard Van Doren Shaw. Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press, 1969.

Forsyth *Times*, September 20, 1906.

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Interview with Cal MacConnel, Forsyth, Montana, January 17, 1989.

Records of the Rosebud County Clerk & Recorder, Forsyth, Montana.

Siegel, Arthur. Chicago's Famous Buildings. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1965.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.