

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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FEB 28 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAR 28 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

First Baptist Church

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

241 Hargadine Street

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Oregon

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CODE

41

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

029

## CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION         |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: vacant |

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Karsten Heinrich-Jurgen Arriens

STREET &amp; NUMBER

PO Box 1240

CITY, TOWN

Ashland

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Oregon

STATE

97520

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jackson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Medford

Oregon

STATE

97501

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE

1978

\_\_\_ FEDERAL     STATE    \_\_\_ COUNTY    \_\_\_ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Salem

Oregon

STATE

97310

## 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   |   | CHECK ONE |       |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------|-------|
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |           |       |

---

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

The First Baptist Church, on the corner of First and Hargadine Streets in Ashland, was built during the spring and summer of 1911, on Lot 16 of the "Enders Addition," across the street from what is now the Mark Antony Hotel parking lot. Tax records and early newspaper articles show the lot was purchased in 1910, with money raised from contributions from the Baptist congregation, donations from citizens of different religious affiliations, and from a series of lectures given by the Baptist pastor at the time, Rev. Elbert A. Hicks. These lectures, given in the old Opera House (now destroyed), were reportedly well attended: Rev. Hicks, who led the Baptist congregation through its move from the old Baptist church on the corner of High and Church Streets, was apparently a "brilliant speaker" and a leader of considerable energy and charisma. Unfortunately, none of the newspapers or records of the time mention the new church's architect by name, and the church records of the time were lost or destroyed during the split that occurred in the church in the 1920s. There is, however, a certain amount of circumstantial evidence that the architect may have been Frank Clark, who was active in both Medford and Ashland at the time. Clark designed the Swedenberg House and the original Churchill Hall on the campus of Southern Oregon State College, in Ashland, as well as several commercial buildings and private homes. He also designed the Leverette Building, the First Presbyterian Church, and the First Methodist Church, all in Medford. Clark had become fascinated by the Mission Style of architecture when he moved from New York to Los Angeles in 1895, and many of his buildings in the Northwest contain elements of this style to varying degrees. In Ashland, the high school, the natatorium, and the Elks Building, of which only the last remains, all have certain elements of the Mission Style. The First Baptist Church is essentially a very spare Mission Style with, perhaps, some accommodations to the Northwest climate and the limited budget of the Baptist congregation.

The exterior of the church remains in good condition, although many of the original stained-glass windows have been destroyed or stolen in the five years the church has been unoccupied. The interior has suffered extensive damage from leakage and vandalism; plaster walls and ceilings are crumbling and much woodwork and flooring is destroyed. The structure itself is sound and basically undamaged.

The First Baptist Church stands on the slope of the hill south of East Main Street, on the corner of First and Hargadine Streets. Hargadine, named for one of Ashland's first settlers, is one of Ashland's oldest streets. Several of the homes and buildings in the neighborhood are of historical interest and date from before and just after the turn of the century. For example, diagonally opposite the church, across Hargadine Street, stands one of Ashland's finest old homes: the old "Mitten Mansion", now the home of Dean Shostrom. In the same block on which the church stands is the Enders Building, which was one of the first commercial buildings to be built on the south side of E. Main Street south of the plaza; the Columbia Hotel, built shortly after the Enders Building, also remains. Facing Second Street, in the same block, are the Winchester House (originally Ashland's hospital) and the Enders House, both of which were towed uphill by teams of oxen to their present location, as the commercial district expanded down E. Main Street. Adjacent to the church, down First Street, is the building which is now the Oregon College of Art; this was built in the 1920s as a parking garage for the Mark Antony Hotel (nee Lithia Springs). This entire block, referred to as the "Enders Addition", is thus one of the best-preserved blocks in the commercial district south of the plaza; nearly all the buildings on the block remain relatively unchanged from their appearance fifty years ago or more.

(continued)

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The First Baptist Church is basically rectangular in shape, and measures 55' wide by 85' long. At the southeast end of the building, facing the back of the Winchester House, the rectangularity is broken by a rounded apse or rotunda, similar to the apse of the First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, which is now destroyed (see attached photocopy). On the third floor level, the apse is 31' wide by 21' deep, and has seven windows of plain frosted glass. Below these windows, the semi-circular roof of the second floor apse slopes down, bringing its dimensions to 55' wide by 30' deep. This section also has seven windows, once all stained glass. These windows have been severely damaged by vandalism in the years the church has been unoccupied. The first floor, at the level of the foundation, supports the upper two floors of the apse with a seven-sided foundation wall of poured concrete, set back by approximately four feet from the curved wall of the second floor.

At each of the three corners facing either First Street or Hargadine Street, a wall projection of 1½' creates the effect of a tower, each tower measuring approximately 15' x 15'. The main tower, directly at the corner of the two streets, originally had arched doorways on both sides, and served as the main entrance to the church. This corner entrance in the church tower was a common feature in some of Ashland's old churches: the original wood-frame Baptist church (no longer extant), the First Presbyterian, and First Congregational churches all had this corner entrance. Unlike these earlier churches, the First Baptist church on Hargadine has no steeple in the usual parapet wall typical of the Mission Style. The building is mostly wooden construction with a stucco exterior, again a common feature of Mission Style. The foundation, which rises to the height of the second floor, is poured concrete, with poured-in-place Norman buttresses giving the foundation additional strength. The wooded shingle roof was recovered with asphalt shingle in the mid-1960s; only the curved roof of the apse apparently retains the original wooden shingles.

While in its details the First Baptist Church is quite simple, as is typical of the Mission Revival Style and helps differentiate it from its more elaborate successor, the Spanish Colonial Revival, the overall effect is one of richness and grandeur. This effect is achieved in part by the generous number and arrangement of stained glass windows, the battlement of stained glass facing First Street and the central windows of the wall facing Hargadine, and the three-tiered apse at the southeast end of the building. The present-day building appears somewhat more plain than it did originally; this is due to the removal at an undetermined time in the past of the narrow balconies beneath each of the third floor tower windows, and to the parapet wall atop each of the secondary tower walls having been filled in at the point the roof eaves originally extruded. The main tower roof and parapet remains unchanged.

On the Hargadine Street side of the church, two rows of three stained-glass panels are flanked by the extruding walls of each corner tower. Each central panel on the two floors contains three panes and is framed by an arched recess which is symmetrical to the square-topped gabled parapet which appears on both street sides of the building.

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The two window panels which are then on both sides of this arched recess contain two panes each. The middle pane of the lower central panel on this side is a dedicational window, to the Rev. Hicks. The large panel of windows on the First Street side of the church is dedicational as well. These windows apparently were originally more separate than they are now, judging from old photographs and interviews with older members of the church. The lower panel is dedicated to Rev. and Mrs. Josiah Merley, who died in 1908 and 1910, respectively. It is likely that these memorials were installed when the church was first built, while the upper panel, which is dedicated to Mrs. C.A. Satterfield, may have been altered sometime after 1920, when Mrs. Satterfield died at the age of 85. Other memorial windows were installed in the windows of the second floor apse, apparently dedicated to deceased members of the church; it is unfortunate that these windows have been largely destroyed by vandals.

The tower closest to Second Street, ie, at the southeast end of the Hargadine Stree side, contains one of the two stairwells leading from the second floor sanctuary to the third floor balcony. The windows in each of these three towers are round-arched and contain frosted or amber glass. Mrs. Nora Segsworth, the oldest surviving member of the Baptist congregation in Ashland, described the amber window in this stairwell tower as shining with "a multitude of colors" when the sun hit it. Only shattered pieces of this window now remain. All of the tower windows are of plain frosted glass or are destroyed. The opposite stairway, on the side of the church now overlooking the Oregon College of Art, is built into a wider extruding tower with a row of four stained-glass windows on the second and third floor. These windows, like most of the stained-glass windows on this side of the building, are simple brown and amber glass with a cross in the center. It should be noted that all of the stained-glass in the church is etched as well as colored through a process that is rarely seen in these days.

The interior arrangement of the church has seen little change since 1911. According to George Francis Smith, another old member of the church, there was originally a choir loft above the baptistry or pulpit area at the front of the church, which was accessible from both sides of the third floor balcony. This choir loft would have divided the great front window in half, and appears to have been removed rather early on, perhaps at the time Mrs. Satterfield's window was installed. Presently the third floor balcony runs around three sides of the lower sanctuary, with three tiers of floor levels ascending back from the low railing surrounding the balcony. The apse at the rear of this area appears to have been an office or meeting room of some kind. On the second floor level, the sanctuary itself extends back under the third floor apse, and apparently held pews originally. Surrounding this are four small curved rooms with stained-glass windows and plate glass windows facing into the sanctuary. According to Mrs. Segsworth, these were Sunday School rooms and a nursery where mothers could care for their children and watch the service at the same time.

The interior walls and ceilings were of plaster over wooden lathing. Much of this interior finish is crumbling from moisture and age. The main ceiling of the sanctuary

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is in very bad shape from a leak or several leaks in the roof. There is, in the center of this ceiling, a large stained-glass rectangular "skylight"; although the skylight is covered by the roof, it is wired for electrical illumination. According to George Francis Smith, before the new roof was put on, there was a cord at the back of the sanctuary which could be pulled to open louvres over the skylight, letting natural light shine through it. As the old roof appears to have been rebuilt, rather than simply recovered, it is now impossible to determine how this might have taken place.

# 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/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 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank C. Clark (attributed)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church, built on a sloping site at the corner of First and Hargadine in 1911, is an unusual example in Oregon of the Mission Revival Style applied to church architecture. It is believed to have been designed by leading local architect Frank C. Clark, who arrived in the Bear Creek Valley from New York after having first spent some years practising in Los Angeles. Clark's considerable residential work in the area reflected his first-hand experience with period styles fashionable in Southern California at the turn of the century. While not firmly substantiated, the attribution of this building to Clark is entirely plausible. Church records are incomplete. In any event, the church is significant to Ashland as an important feature of a period ensemble in the immediate neighborhood, and as the home of the First Baptist Church congregation for more than sixty years.

The First Baptist Church is one of a handful of churches dating from the early years of the century still standing in Ashland. The predecessor Baptist Church, the First Presbyterian Church, the First Congregational Church, which stood at the intersection of East Main Street and Siskiyou Boulevard, have all been lost. Trinity Episcopal Church on Second Street, the Church of the Nazarene on Fourth Street, the Methodist Church on Laurel, and the Church of Christ-Christian, on B Street, remain, although the latter has been significantly altered. Situated on an elevated site overlooking East Main Street, the Baptist Church is immediately visible as one enters Ashland from the north, and because of its central location and prominent site it is a well-known local landmark. In 1975 the Ashland Historic Commission inspected the building and recommended its being proposed for official landmark status. The owner at the time failed to follow through, however, and thus the building has yet to be officially declared a landmark by the city.

The church's most dramatic event was a schism which occurred in 1924 under the pastorate of the Rev. B. C. Miller. At the time, a Pentacostal Evangelist (Amy Semple McPherson) was gaining a considerable following on the West Coast, particularly in the Los Angeles area. Under the Rev. Miller's leadership, a group from the congregation journeyed to Los Angeles to take part in some of the Evangelist's meetings. They returned to Ashland having turned to "the Amy McPherson persuasion," and within a year they had gained control of the church. The other members of the congregation--some 37 persons--who remained firm in their belief of Baptist doctrine, were obliged to hold their meetings for a time at the home of Carabel Moorehouse and at the Odd Fellows Hall. Then, in 1925, a group of the Baptists entered the church covertly, changed the locks on the doors and refused to let the others enter the building. The case was finally taken to court and the original Baptist congregation was awarded possession of the church once again. It was during this time of commotion and ill feeling that many of the early church records were destroyed or lost.

While the interlude of discord, the various individuals who have been members of the congregation through the years, and the church's interactions with the community are all

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ashland Daily Tidings, 1910, 1911, 1921-1923, 1973, on microfilm, Southern Oregon State College Library

Files of the Southern Oregon Historical Society, Jacksonville Museum, Jacksonville.

Interviews: Mrs. Nora Segsworth, Mr. George Francis Smith, Mr. Bill Elhart, the Rev. Roy M. Kooshian, all members of the First Baptist Church congregation in Ashland.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|      |   |   |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3       | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4        | 6 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| ZONE |   |   |   | EASTING |   |   |   | NORTHING |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZONE |  |  |  | EASTING |  |  |  | NORTHING |  |  |  |  |  |  |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 16, Enders Addition to the Plat of Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon. Also: Westerly 5.0 feet of vacated alley lying Easterly of and adjoining Lot 16 in Enders Addition to the City of Ashland, vacated by Ordinance No. 1066 of the City of Ashland, Oregon, record notice of which appears in Volume 285, page 554, Jackson County, Oregon Deed Records.

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

William W. Rose

ORGANIZATION

DATE

November 23, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 1240

503-482-1721

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ashland

Oregon 97520

## 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

*David K. Tolbert*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3-28-79

ATTEST:

*W. Ray Lane*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/27/79

for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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a part of Ashland's history, the church's principal distinction today is its unusual architectural style. Together with the nearby Enders Building, the former Lithia Springs parking garage, and the Winchester House, the Baptist Church contributes to a mutually-supportive ensemble of turn of the century and early 20th century buildings in the immediate neighborhood.

The current owner of the church has under consideration a plan to rehabilitate the long-vacant building and adapt it for use as an adjunct to the Mark Antony Motor Hotel, a National Register property which is but a block to the east. The general approach to the rehabilitation will be to restore and maintain the exterior and to make whatever interior spatial, structural and finishing changes are necessary to meet code requirements and provide for a feasible continued use.

The exterior will be restored as nearly as possible to its original condition. Comparison of the present structure with early photographs shows that relatively few changes have occurred, but those changes that have occurred do diminish the overall effect nonetheless. First, the parapets on the northeast and southwest corners of the building have been modified. As original, overhanging eaves will be restored to these corner sections. The roof will be patched or resurfaced as necessary. Second, the ornamental Mission Style balconies under the corner windows of the second story will be restored. All but one of these balconies were removed, probably due to deterioration from water damage. The balconies will be reconstructed along original lines but designed for better water resistance. Overall, the exterior is sound. Minor cracks and chips in the stucco surface will be patched with identical material. Paint samples show the former church to have been painted a light tan originally, and subsequently a bright pink, which is the present treatment. The original color will be duplicated.

Interior walls, ceilings, floors and supporting framework will require extensive reconstruction and fireproofing. Undamaged or repairable stained glass windows will be retained. Other windows, and those beyond repair will be replaced with tempered glass in the original frames. The large memorial window in the front of the church will be preserved and accessible to view.