

1439

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 First Day Advent Christian Church
other names/site number Maryhill Community Church

2. Location

street & number Corner of Maryhill Hwy. & Stonehenge Ave. not for publication
city, town Maryhill vicinity
state Washington code WA county Klickitat code 039 zip code 98620

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>	<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	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u>1</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.

David E. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

8/13/91
Date

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

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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): _____

entered in the
National Register

Arlene [Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

7/26/91

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation

wood

walls

wood: weatherboard

roof

wood: shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Built in 1888, the First Day Advent Christian Church in Maryhill is a simple wood frame structure characterized by a vernacular Gothic Revival design and distinguished by arched openings and a front bell tower that culminates in a steeple. Located on a corner lot in the former riverfront town of Columbus, the church overlooks the Columbia River and is sited against a backdrop of rolling hills. The church is the most dominant landmark in a small community otherwise comprised of a dozen buildings stretching out along a bench above the river.

The church is a one story frame structure built on a rectangular plan. The building rests on a wood post and pier foundation, hidden by wood skirting, with walls faced in horizontal drop siding. The walls are trimmed by cornerboards which are treated as pilasters, resting on plinths and crowned by capital moldings. A plain architrave underscores the juncture of the roof and the walls.

The church is sheltered by a steeply pitched gable roof covered with wood shingles. The eaves of the roof are enclosed with boxed cornices which overhang the walls. A brick chimney with corbelled cap, no longer in use, rises from the gable ridge at the rear of the church.

Fenestration across the main body of the church is composed of regularly spaced lancet arch windows. Each window contains four-over-four wood sash, with arched lights in the tympanum. The windows are framed by arched surrounds with hood moldings. Three windows light each side wall and one window is placed on either side of the central entry on the front facade. The back wall of the church has no fenestration.

The entry tower projects from the center of the facade approximately six feet and rises in three stages, culminating in a spire. The first stage of the tower encloses the vestibule, which is entered through panelled double doors set within a Gothic arch opening. Above the doors is a arched transom light with multiple arched panes, surmounted by an arched hood molding. The corners of the entry bay are framed by pilaster-like cornerboards which rest on plinths and rise to capitals beneath a plain frieze. The first stage of the tower is sheltered by a flared pent roof, surfaced in fishscale shingles and trimmed with boxed cornice moldings.

The second stage of the tower rises from the flared pent roof through the peak of the main gable. This stage, too, is framed with pilaster-like cornerboards, crowned with capitals, and trimmed with a plain frieze. Above the frieze is a pent roof surfaced in wood shingles and trimmed with a cornice molding. The third stage of the tower is the belfry which also is framed by pilasters and ornamented with a plain frieze. Each elevation of the belfry is dominated by an arched panel, with paired round arched openings

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set within the panel, surmounted by foliated carvings in the tympanum, and surrounded by a hood molding. The third stage of the tower is capped by steeply pitched gables on all four elevations, from which rises the central spire. The steeple is surfaced in wood shingles and culminates in a metal cap and cross.

The interior of the church is composed of the entry vestibule and, through panelled doors, the rectangular auditorium with raised sanctuary against the south wall. The original plaster walls and wood floors remain in place, although the plaster ceiling was replaced with sheetrock. The walls of the nave are lighted by the arched windows.

Immediately to the rear of the church is the community fire hall, which was built on part of the original double lot of the church. It is a free standing structure with gable roof and corrugated metal walls. Because it does not physically connect with the church it only detracts minimally from the integrity of the property.

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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1888

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bennett, Charles and John, builders

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

The First Day Advent Christian Church is significantly associated with the 19th and early 20th century history of Columbus, Washington, and is the best preserved reflection of the once-prosperous Columbia River town. Built in 1888 and distinguished by its vernacular Gothic Revival design, the church was one of two religious structures in the town and a focal point of community life for many decades. Today, the town's Methodist Church, school, and most of its historic commercial and residential structures are gone and the Advent Church remains as the only significant landmark from town's formative year, and therefore meets the criteria consideration for religious properties.

Historical Background: Best known since 1907 as the site of Sam Hill's palatial home, the town of Columbus (now called Maryhill) had been founded on a flat bench above the Columbia River nearly a half-century before Hill arrived. The first permanent Euro-American settler to the site reputedly was Amos Stark, who arrived from Portland in 1852 and filed a riverfront land claim based on his service in the Mexican War. After filing his claim, Stark left for the gold fields of California, returning seven years later in 1859 with stock and other supplies.

Although settlement was largely halted during the Indian Wars of the late 1850s, Eastern Washington was reopened to Euro-American settlement in 1859, precipitating considerable river traffic. Although many of the settlers herded cattle along the vast grass-covered prairies of Klickitat County, others found profit in supplying cordwood for the steamers that navigated the Columbia.

Wood dealers cut cordwood north of Goldendale and hauled it by wagon and ox-team to the steamers at the Columbus landing. A six-ox team could haul five cords, taking two days for the round trip and spending the night at Columbus. In short time, the town became the major fueling point along the river for the steamers of the Oregon Steam Navigation Company, and the firm entered into large contracts with wood suppliers. Among the early cordwood dealers was John Golden, who settled in Columbus in 1859 and 1860 to deliver cords of wood, and later founded Goldendale 10 miles northwest of the site.

Trade between the cordwood dealers and the steamboat companies transformed the settlement into a busy town. In the winter of 1859-60, fifteen families lived in Columbus and in 1860 a wood yard was established. In 1862, Columbus was described as "the only place with any business pretensions in the county" and the town boasted a lodging house, a livery stable, a store, and a butcher shop.

In 1864, Stark sold the west half of his riverfront claim to Major William Hicinbotham, an Oregon

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pioneer, and together they surveyed and platted the townsite of Columbus, named the streets, and began to sell spacious lots (although the plat was not officially filed until the late 1870s).

For the next few decades the town grew at a moderate rate. As agricultural settlement replaced stock raising, the surrounding wheat ranches depended on river shipments, and Columbus became a shipping point for grain from central and eastern Klickitat County. By the 1880s, a variety of stores and services were established, several schools were built, and the Methodists and the Adventists had both started churches on lots donated by Stark. Business at Columbus suffered some setbacks in the early 1880s when the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company built tracks along the south side of the river, after which it became cheaper for farmers to move grain by ferry across the river and ship by rail from Grants, Oregon. But the town rebounded early in the next century when the Spokane, Portland, and Seattle Railroad (a joint venture of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern) laid tracks on the north side with a depot in Columbus. By 1910, the town had three schools, a hospital, and over 200 residents.

In 1907, Sam Hill discovered Columbus, and the following year he had purchased nearly 7,000 acres of barren hills and fertile benches along the river. He even platted a townsite, named Maryhill, near Columbus. Although Hill's community never took off, the name "Maryhill" was eventually adopted by the Columbus depot and later the post office. Columbus itself declined when dams on the river were constructed later in the century, requiring the removal of buildings, and when periodic fires consumed other structures over the years. By the late 20th century, only a few structures remained.

Throughout its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Columbus had two churches, both of which were important features of community life. Although church records are gone, the First Advent church was established at least by 1886 when it was referenced in a state directory, although the congregation was without a resident minister. In 1888, Charles Eddy Bennett and John Bennett built the present church on a double lot, and by the early 1890s a permanent minister, Reverend Chapman, was serving the congregation. The church remained in active service until the 1930s when it closed, probably because of a declining membership. For many years, the building sat abandoned until the Women's Club purchased the building and opened it again in 1977. Now the church is a community chapel with services in the spring, summer, and fall. Today, it is the only historic community structure associated with the town of Columbus.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Washington Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1886, 1887, 1892 (R. L. Polk, 1886, 1887, 1892), pp. 485-486.
Lois Plotts, Maryhill, Sam Hill and Me (Camas, Washington, 1978).
Robert Ballou, Early Klickitat Valley Days (Goldendale, Washington, 1938).
An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima, and Kittitas Counties (Interstate Publishing Co., 1904).
"Maryhill Memories," The Dalles Chronicle, October 30, 1990, p. 24.

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
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>670290</u>	<u>5061410</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 5 & 6, Block 36, First Addition of Amos Stark.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the First Day Advent Christian Church of Columbus.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Glaysd Robinson, edited by L. Garfield
 organization Maryhill Women's Club
 street & number 9 Stonehenge Drive
 city or town Goldendale

date January 22, 1991
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