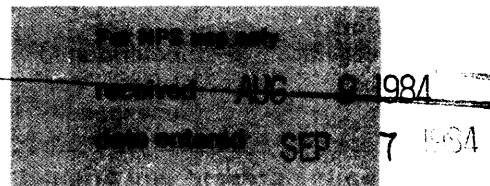


Checked by \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Mackay Community Church

2. Location

street & number Custer Street (U.S. Highway 93) and Park Avenue n/a not for publication

city, town Mackay n/a vicinity of congressional district

state Idaho code 016 county Custer code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Community Church and South Custer County Historical Society

street & number c/o Lloyd Smith Ilene Murray, President P.O. Box 123

city, town Mackay n/a vicinity of state Idaho

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Custer County Courthouse

street & number Main Avenue

city, town Challis state Idaho

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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"/> N/A moved	date <u>    N/A    </u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-one-half-story church building built of wood frame and clapboard. The building is rectangular with a compatible one-story rear ell added after 1945 and an outset entry bell tower on the northeast (lateral) wall. This front wall has four vertical bays, marked by the bell tower and three two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows. The southeast end wall has three bays, consisting of two-over-two-light double-hung sash windows. The other end wall has a one-story offset windowed bay. The roof of the building is a medium-pitched gable, covered with a composition material. The bell tower has a truncated pyramidal roof topped by a thin spire. Below the open belfry is a pent roof.

Many of the church's details are drawn from the classical language of Greek and Roman revival style. The corner framing has entablature-like molding where cornerboards meet eave boards. Window- and door-frame heads are thin, shallow pediments. The main-entry double doors into the bell tower are paneled, and the sides of the belfry have similar inset panels. Above these, the belfry roof is supported on turned posts. Above the front door is a round window. There is a single brick chimney at the roof peak. There are no related outbuildings on the property.

On the exterior, the Mackay church is apparently unaltered, with the exception of a small, compatible post-1945 addition to the southwest exposure and of reroofing, a project undertaken during the ministry of J. J. Fleming, between 1959 and 1966. Interior alterations during that period included a new chancel, carpets, altar, pulpit, lecturn, altar rail, pulpit drapes, and several movable fixtures including a new altar set. Some repainting was also accomplished during Fleming's ministry.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates**      1901                      **Builder/Architect**      unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church is architecturally significant as one of the earliest buildings erected in the town of Mackay during its boom year of 1901. It is a good representative of modest frame church design, typical of religious architecture in Idaho's small mining towns. On the exterior the building is nearly unaltered. The small post-1945 addition is compatible and unobtrusive. The building was a community center for the mining and agricultural region of the upper Lost River Valley until 1980 .

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Challis Messenger, 8 October 1981.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, September 1915, December 1921, December 1945.

Olsen, Georgia Perdue. Mackay's Yesterdays. Arco: Arco Advertiser, 1978

Records of the Methodist Episcopal Church, MS456, boxes 10 and 11, Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, Idaho.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Mackay

Quadrangle scale 15 minute

### UMT References

A 

1	2	2	9	0	4	5	0	4	8	6	5	3	5	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church and the property on which it stands, lot 6, block 19, Mackay Original Townsite.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Eastman Attebery, State Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society date June 4, 1984

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive telephone (208) 334-3861

city or town Boise state Idaho 83702-7695

# 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 Merle Wells

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 28 July 1984

*[Signature]*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 9-7-84

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church  
Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The church building was erected in 1901, the same year that the town of Mackay was platted. As a railroad terminus for shipping ore out of the upper Lost River Valley mines and the site of a large copper smelting plant built in 1901, Mackay was a boom town. Initially many buildings were moved there from the mining town of Houston, four miles from Mackay. Among the first new buildings built was the Methodist church. The Reverend J. L. Kendall had the building erected in the new town for \$1,600, moving his pastorate from Houston, where he had been assigned in 1900. Within about a year, all but \$196 of that debt had been paid. The debt was resolved and the interior of the church was furnished by 1904 with funds generated by projects of the Ladies' Aid Society. That year the list of members numbered 46. Official membership varied over the years, rising to 128 in 1915. In about 1965, with a membership of 120, a committee of the congregation discussed increasing membership to a potential 200 members and subsequent addition to the old building or construction of a new building. In 1980 a new building was dedicated.

Although paying a minister's salary was sometimes a burden for this small congregation, the Mackay Methodist Episcopal Church managed to maintain a local pastor for much of the time, serving an area that extended about 20 miles north to Dickey and about 25 miles south to Arco. Probably because other early Mackay churches--the Catholic, built in 1912, and the Episcopal, built in 1902--were served by outside pastors, the Methodist Episcopal Church became locally known as the "community church," a designation important to the congregation but considered improper nomenclature by at least one minister appointed to Mackay.

The church building remains today as a good example of the unpretentious frame churches built in Idaho mining supply towns. Usually drawing on Gothic or classical forms, these churches are vernacular interpretations of the full-blown renditions of those styles found in larger Idaho towns.

Mackay's three early frame churches represent a good range of frame church building, the Episcopal Church (already listed in the National Register, Tourtellotte and Hummel architecture in Idaho, November 17, 1982) being a more ornamented and St. Barbara's Catholic Church a very plain rendition of the Gothic Revival style, and the Methodist Episcopal Church a representative of the use of classical forms. These are seen in the building's window heads, medium-pitched roof, paneled doors, and cornerboard moldings.