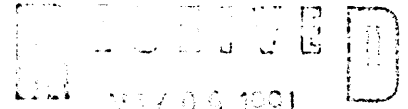


OWNER: STEVENSON 737



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: First Baptist Church

other name/site number: First Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number: 402 Church

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Stevensville

state: Montana code: MT county: Ravalli code: 081 zip code: 59870

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Stevensville, Montana: 1866-1941.

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Marcell Deffy MTSHPD 5-2-91
Signature of certifying official Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

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:

Autawietta Lee 9/3/91

entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

Autawietta Lee 6/19/91
Determined Eligible

___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain): _____

for _____
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Religion/religious structure

Current: Religion/religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Stick Style

Materials: foundation: stone
 walls: weatherboard
 roof: wood shingle

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The original core of the First Baptist Church is a rectangular, single-story, gable-roofed building with Stick style ornamentation. The main entrance faces west toward Church Street and is oriented perpendicular to the street. The church is sided with wood clapboard and the roof covered with wood shingles. Corners are accented by corner boards. The building rests on a coursed rubble stone foundation. Windows are regularly and symmetrically spaced. They are double-hung units with decorative stained glass borders framing both upper and lower sashes. A square bell tower is located at the west end of the gabled roof. The tower is topped by a hipped spire, which in turn is capped with a decorative finial and weather vane. The base of the tower is sided with diagonal wood siding. Rectangular, sawn wood ornamentation separates the diagonal siding from double arches on each side of the tower. A brick chimney is located at the center of the roof line.

The facade is enlivened by the application of decorative vertical, horizontal and diagonal wood accents and fish scale shingles on the upper portion of the gable ends. Centered within the stick work is a circular leaded glass window. Decorative brackets support the eaves at each corner and a small, gable-roofed overdoor, which covers the entryway. The double wooden doors are modern replacements and are lit with diamond shaped windows centered in each. Above the doors is a decorative stained glass transom window.

The double-hung windows with the stained glass surrounds fashioned with wood sash are set at regular intervals along each elevation and flank the west entrance. The window openings are finished with slip sills and decorative pedimented moldings above. On the side elevations, small gable dormers supported by decorative brackets are cut into the eave line above some of the windows. Additional decorative stick work separates the dormers from the window heads.

The major alteration to the First Baptist Church is the gabled roof addition built during the 1970s at the rear of the church, forming an ell. The roof of the addition is shingled in asphalt and walls are sided in aluminum. Windows are horizontal 1-by-1 sliding sash. The addition sets on a poured concrete foundation. Unfortunately the addition was not built with materials that are complementary to the historic period of the original building. Because this addition so clearly reads as a separate structure, it does not detract significantly from the original portion of the church.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C	Areas of Significance: Architecture
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A	Period(s) of Significance: 1886
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1886
Cultural Affiliation: n/a	Architect/Builder: Longstaff, Thomas W.

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

The First Baptist Church is of primary significance as an important example of the Stick style architecture, which is relatively rare in Montana. The amount of ornamentation and attention to detail is particularly noteworthy. The decorative vertical, horizontal and diagonal framing creates geometric accents in the west-facing gable. There is a bell tower over the entry, and dormers on the north and south elevations. The facade is accented by the geometric stained glass windows and transom panel. Organized in the small community of Etna in 1882, the growing Baptist community purchased land in Stevensville and hired Missoula architect Thomas W. Longstaff to design the church in 1884. The Stick style building was completed in 1886. The building has been associated with the local Baptist congregation throughout its history as both a religious and social center for its membership.

Background History

The First Baptist Church first organized as the Etna Baptist Church of Christ at the Etna School house in 1882. Reverend J.T. Mason, general missionary of Montana, presided over the meeting. In November of the same year, the members voted to change the church's name to the Stevensville and Corvallis Baptist Church. Brother D. McGregor was chosen as pastor.¹

In 1884, the membership decided to purchase land in Stevensville, charging Mr. Million with the task. On September 13, 1884, George W. Dobbins sold the Church lots 19 and 20 of his recently platted (August 23, 1884) Dobbins Addition. Construction on the new church began and by August, 1886, the building was completed at a cost of \$2,904.39.² The congregation ordered an organ in 1885. Recognizing a need for Sunday School, members organized one in February, 1886. By August 1887, all expenses pertaining to construction had been paid. During 1894, the church was wired for electricity. The congregation purchased a 40 inch bell for the belfry in 1901 from Sears Roebuck for \$8.00. This same year, the congregation began raising funds to construct a new parsonage. They accomplished this task and completed construction in 1902.³

Between 1970 and 1977, the Baptist Church reached its largest membership ever. During that time, Reverend E.J. Ruff organized the construction of a new addition to handle the growing church community. The addition added 3,000 square feet to the original building,

X See Continuation Sheet

¹The Sunday Missoulian, Chittim, Myrtle L., "First Protestant Missionary," June 12, 1949.

²Stevensville Register, December 23, 1909.

³Ibid., September 3, 1902.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

First Baptist Church

Page 1

over twice the area of the original building. The basement serves as the youth center, the main floor housed a new kitchen and dining room, and the second story is partitioned for seven Sunday School classrooms, a nursery and a storage area.⁴

⁴Excerpts from newspaper articles compiled by Mrs. Ray Howard for the fifty-eighth anniversary of the First Baptist Church, 1940.

9. References

Missoula Herald, Missoula, Montana, Special Edition, January 1, 1909.
Missoulian, Missoula, Montana, December 15, 1912; June 12, 1949; August 14, 1949.
Stevensville Historical Society, Montana Genesis (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1971).
Stevensville Register, Stevensville, Montana, Special Edition, December 23, 1909.
Western News, Hamilton, Montana, December 19, 1911.

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 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	723140	5154390

Verbal Boundary Description:

Stevensville Townsite, Dobbins Addition, block 2, lots 18-20.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the lots upon which the historic building is situated.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kathleen M. Olson

Date: revised October 1990

Street & Number: 237 South 2nd West

Telephone: 406/728-7523

City or Town: Missoula State: Montana

Zip: 59801



State Historic Preservation Office Montana Historical Society

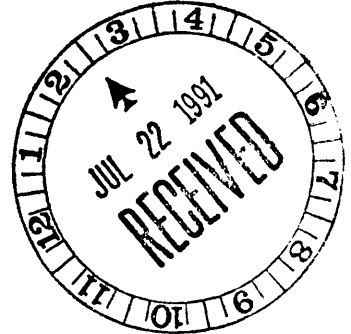
Mailing Address: 225 North Roberts • Helena, MT 59620-9990

Office Address: 102 Broadway • Helena, MT • (406) 444-7715

July 17, 1991

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the Register
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C.

JUL 22 1991
NATIONAL
REGISTER



re: Stevensville Multiple Properties nomination
Ravalli County, Montana

Dear Ms. Shull,

We discovered two errors in the above cited nomination when preparing letters to notify owners of the recent listing of their properties in the National Register of Historic Places.

First, we incorrectly informed you that the owners of the First Baptist church at 402 Church St. in Stevensville had objected to the listing of their property. These owners support the nomination and a copy of a signed owners' concurrence form is enclosed. We ask that you please enter this property in the Register at your earliest convenience.

A second property, known as the Charles and Eva Buck House located at 405 Buck Ave., was erroneously listed in the Register. The owner of this property, the pastor of the Community Baptist Church of Stevensville, objected to the listing of this house and a xerox copy of the notarized owner's objection form is enclosed. We ask that you please delist this property, and add it to the "determined eligible" list.

Thank you for your attention to these details and I apologize for the confusion.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bik, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

enc.