



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Mark's Episcopal Church

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: West Fourth Avenue

not for publication: n/a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

city/town: Big Timber

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Sweetgrass

code: 097

zip code: 59011

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark F. Fawcett, Acting SHPO 6/19/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet

Edson B. Beall 7/21/95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered National

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building(s)

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

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing

<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions:

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and 2th Century Revivals: Gothic

Materials:

foundation: stone
walls: stone
roof: wood shingle
other: n/a

Narrative Description

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, standing at 209 West Fourth Avenue in Big Timber, is a small, yet impressive, Gothic Revival style stone church set on an open grass lawn planted with specimen trees and shrubs. The church, the oldest known religious building in Big Timber, retains a high degree of integrity. It is one of a small group of substantial stone buildings erected in Big Timber in the closing years of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century. Situated one block southwest of McLeod Street--the town's principal thoroughfare--the church is one of three principal buildings which dominate the intersection of West Fourth Avenue and Hooper Street. St. Mark's Church stands on the south corner of the intersection and is older, by a dozen years, than the somewhat larger Big Timber Lutheran Church in the east corner. It, too, is a Gothic Revival style stone building. The Big Timber School, erected in 1905 in the north corner of the intersection, is a three-story brick building. The fourth, west corner is occupied by a bungalow which is typical of the housing in the residential neighborhood which flanks these buildings on the southwest.

The cornerstone for St. Mark's church was laid in 1895. The church is built of cut-block native limestone, mauve-gray in color, with window dressings of a like stone of yellowish cast. The edges of the rusticated stones, set in gray mortar, have weathered and become smooth. At some point the stonework at the base of the building appears to have deteriorated (or weakened) and a concrete water table was poured around the perimeter of the church; it has a sloping top. The main block of the church, containing the nave, is rectangular in plan and is covered with a front gable roof of wood shingles with flush eaves on the gable ends. Inset on the southeast gable end there is a rectangular apse, one-bay deep, which is also covered with a wood shingle gable roof with flush eaves. The opposite, northwest gable end, facing West Fourth Avenue, is a single bay wide and has a large circular window set high in the gable end of the elevation. It is enframed by a projecting stone surround.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Page 1

Although the northwest elevation faces West Fourth Avenue and the church bears an address on that avenue, the northeast elevation functions as the front of the church. Here there is a pair of shallow gable roof ells, set at the corners of the northeast wall, which flank the three-bay deep main body of the church. The ell nearest West Fourth Avenue contains the vestibule. The entrance to the church, comprising a pair of two-panel wood doors, is set in a Gothic arch opening in its northeast gable end, facing Hooper Street. The doors retain their handsome Victorian hardware. Above the doors is an inset triangular panel bearing the date "1895" and "St. Mark's Episcopal Church". The two-leaf doors are painted a bright red; the shallow molded wood surround is painted white. The threshold is also wood. The ell at the opposite end of this elevation projects from the northeast side of the apse and contains the sacristy. The ell is covered with a gable roof; a brick flue-stack rises at the point where this roof intersects with the main church roof. There is a single four-panel wood door, also painted red with a white surround, in its northwest side; the door has chamfered stiles and panels of diagonally-set sheathing. It appears to be original. The sacristy has a small stained glass window in the northeast gable end. The Gothic arched tops of these door and window openings and those of the nave are marked by shallow projecting enframements of a yellowish stone; the window sills are formed of the same stone. The window surrounds are painted brown. The stained glass windows are protected by transparent panes of plexiglass or a similar material. The southwest side elevation of the church is four bays deep; each bay contains a stained glass window which illuminates the nave. The apse also contains a window on its southwest side. The church's principal window, above the altar, is located in the center of the apse's southeast gable end.

The interior of St. Mark's Church is simply furnished and, like the exterior, it retains much of its turn-of-the-century appearance. A pair of two-panel doors, on swing hinges, open from the vestibule into the nave. The door surround is symmetrically molded and set on tall bases and finished with bull's eye cornerblocks. The walls and flat-arched ceiling of the church are plastered and painted white. The wood plank floor is also painted white. The baseboard carrying around the elevations has a molded, shallowly projecting top and is painted brown. The symmetrically molded door and window surrounds have a glossy dark stained finish.

The principal decoration of the church interior is its program of stained glass windows. The predominant colors used in the windows are gold, ivory, green, and blue with focal accents of red, purple, and deeper hues. The large circular window, set high in the northwest gable end of the nave, has a series of concentric devices enframing a center, circular field holding the cross and crown. The windows in the side elevations of the nave and apse have a two-part arrangement. The lower part, squarish in shape, features foliate designs enframing a rectangular panel of stained glass. It seems likely that these panels were intended to bear the names of donors; however, that did not occur. The larger upper part of each window has a Gothic arched top and features a series of ornamental enframements for a single, centered emblem of the church which varies window to window. The large window set above the altar has a three-part arrangement, reflecting the Trinity, and a round-arch transom whose shape mirrors the circular window on the opposite, rear wall of the interior. This window, golden in color, is decorated with the emblems of the church. It was given in memory of Ellen D.W. Hatch, a founder of St. Mark's, who died on 17 April 1893. The nave of the church follows a center-aisle plan with two tiers of replacement oak pews flanking the aisle. There is a blind paneled railing across the front of each tier of pews. The floor of the church, from this railing to the altar, is covered with carpet. At the front, left (northeast) side of the aisle, there are two short pews, positioned perpendicular to the railing, which are occupied by the choir. An electric organ, finished with a dark stain, occupies the pendant position of the opposite side of the aisle. A large arched opening is centered on the southeast wall of the nave and it opens into the chancel. The Gothic Revival style hymnboard, a memorial to Kathleen Prather Bryant, is placed on the left side of the opening, facing the congregation. On the left, immediately inside the arched opening, is a door which opens into the sacristy. The door has a four-panel division and is enframed in a molded surround with bull's-eye cornerblocks. The finish of the sacristy includes a carpeted floor and white plaster walls. There are built-in cabinets and storage units for vestments, robes, furnishings, and cleaning supplies.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Page 2

The chancel is elevated one step above the nave and is fronted by a ca. 1960 oak communion rail and cushions for kneeling communicants. Inside the chancel the altar and the Bishop's chair are elevated on a third level. The (mostly) oak furnishings in the chancel are Gothic Revival in style and most appear to date to the turn-of-the-century. The flower stands are later and pine. The altar is the most elaborately decorated and is carved with emblems of the church. Its front, facing the congregation, has a three-part division. An elevated shelf at its back, on which stands the brass cross flanked by trios of brass candlesticks, is carved with the phrase HOLY HOLY HOLY. The cross, candlesticks, and other chancel furnishings are memorial gifts and some are inscribed or otherwise marked with the name of the person in whose memory the objects were donated to St. Mark's. The Bishop's chair, the altar, and the baptismal font, situated below the circular window at the rear of the church, were given in memory of Cornelius Van Schaak. The cross is a memorial to Gearoge A. and Eva M. Loasby; the total of eight altar candlesticks are memorials to Charles Benjamin Lamb and Claude T. Williams (1890-1948). There are other recent chancel furnishings, including an eternal flame lantern, which are also memorials.

Dallman Hall

In 1932, a one-room schoolhouse was moved onto the southeast perimeter of St. Mark's churchyard, to serve as a church hall. The school is a classic, gable-roofed, wood-frame schoolhouse. Typical of the form, its design is symmetrical, with evenly spaced double-hung windows across the sides. The following year, the use of the building was expanded with the addition of a small kitchen on the southwest. Design of the resulting building is unified by continuous lap siding which finishes the entire exterior. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and the building rests on a concrete foundation.

Integrity

In the 100 years since St. Mark's Episcopal Church was constructed, it has been lovingly cared for and preserved. The church retains excellent integrity with all aspects of the original design and setting intact. It remains a spirited example of Gothic Revival ecclesiastical design. Dallman Hall, moved onto the property has been altered to some degree, however, it is a secondary building and its modifications detract little from the ability of the church property to convey its historicity and important associations with early periods of Big Timber development.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C Areas of Significance: Architecture, Religion
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A, B Period(s) of Significance: 1894 - 1945
Significant Person(s): n/a Significant Dates: 1894
Cultural Affiliation: n/a Architect/Builder: F.S. Hornbeck, architect
 O.M. Lamphear, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a fine Gothic Revival church, the oldest known religious building in Big Timber. Built in 1895, one of several substantial late 19th century stone buildings constructed in Big Timber. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, for its exceptional craftsmanship and as a masterful example of Gothic Revival style ecclesiastical architecture. It is also significant under Criterion A, for its associations with the settlement of Big Timber and the founding history of Episcopal church locally.

Community History

The town of Big Timber draws its name from the Big Timber Creek, so-named for a grove of unusually large cottonwood trees which grew along its banks by Captain William Clark of the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1806. As white settlement came to the plains of eastern Montana, the site of Big Timber remained Crow Indian territory until the reservation was opened to settlement in 1882. That same year, the Northern Pacific Railroad laid its track through the Yellowstone valley, spurring settlement along the line.

The first settlement in the Big Timber vicinity was a stage stop and post office below the mouth of Big Timber Creek. This was followed by a small sawmill community founded at the confluence of the Boulder and Yellowstone Rivers during the 1870s. Named Dornix (from the Greek for large, smooth stones), the town was dismantled a short time later, moving to higher ground along the railroad route. Buildings of Dornix were moved to the emerging townsite, and Big Timber was born.

Big Timber based its economy around agriculture, stock raising in particular. During the late 19th century, the town became the largest wool market in the United States, shipping out 5 million pounds of wool in one year alone. The following decade, nearby gold mines up the Boulder River bolstered the town's economy.

During the waning years of the 1800s, Big Timber grew steadily. With the depot anchoring the town, an array of early buildings sprang up, to house all the activities of the young community. These included houses, businesses, a large hotel, a roller mill, a wool house, banks, a school, a post office and the first woolen mill in the state. In time, the residents also founded several churches, among them St. Mark's Episcopal.

Church History

In 1884, two years after the town's founding, Big Timber's first Protestant church services were held in the schoolhouse, led by the Rev. Alfred Brown, an Episcopal minister from Livingston. During the months that ensued, Rev. Brown would occasionally travel by train to Big Timber to conduct services.

Rev. J.F. Pritchard, an Episcopal priest from Livingston, began regular services in Big Timber, rotating between the school house, Shankis Hall and the Congregational church. An Episcopal women's guild was started and often held joint meetings with the Congregationalists.

The Guild members, with encouragement from Mr. Pritchard, began to talk of building their own church in 1892. Initially planned as St. Paul's church, the name was changed to St. Mark's by 1895, when a subscription paper was circulated, raising \$900. With financing in hand, the Rev. Pritchard was installed and a mission in Big Timber was formally established. Four lots were secured and plans for a stone building measuring 52' x 36' were formulated. The cornerstone was laid in 1895, and at a cost of \$2215, the church was to be "enclosed" by November of that year. Stained and leaded glass windows were paid for by memorials, including the large round window in the altar, in memory of Mrs. E.D.W. Hatch who died in 1893, founder of the church Sunday School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Page 1

Other furnishings were donated to the church: pews, prayer desk, and choir stall from St. John's in Butte. A lady in Chicago gave the altar, litany desk, Bishop's chair, credence table, hymn board and baptismal font in memory of her brother, a former classmate of Bishop Brewer. From a Mrs. Knickerbocker in Waterton, New York, came a small, handsome pump organ.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church was dedicated at a morning service in February 1896 presided over by the Rev. John F. Pritchard, priest of the mission, and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Leigh Richmond Brewer, Missionary Bishop of the Episcopal District comprising the states of Montana, Idaho, and Utah. For the next three years, the women's guild worked to retire a \$400 debt on the Church Building Fund. By hosting lunches, dinners, chicken pie suppers and church bazaars, the guild raised the necessary funds and on July 29, 1899, when the final indebtedness on the church had been paid, St. Mark's Episcopal Church was consecrated by Bishop Brew with Rev. Pritchard assisting.

In 1906, a rectory was built for the minister who succeeded Mr. Pritchard, Rev. Douglas Sutton. The rectory was a two-story wood-frame house, remembered for its beautiful stairway and stained glass window in the dining room. The house was removed in later years to a residential lot near the edge of town, and is still maintained as a private residence.

Several ministers served St. Mark's during the years that followed, frequently commuting by car to serve other congregations in Red Lodge, Martinsdale and Roundup at the same time. In 1932, a local schoolhouse was moved onto the back of the church property to serve as a church hall, for guild meetings, Sunday school, social events and community groups. The following year, Mrs. Melva Anderson subsidized the addition of a small building at the back to serve as a kitchen.

Architectural Significance

The first stone church built in Big Timber, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a fine example of Gothic Revival style architecture. Reflecting the English roots of the Episcopal Church, the Gothic design of St. Mark's is reminiscent of English country churches. Small and charming, it is none-the-less a masterful design, executed by F.S. Hornbeck, a Livingston architect, and constructed by skilled local craftsmen under local builder O.M. Lamphere.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church exemplifies Gothic Revival architecture in its characteristically vertical emphasis -- the steeply pitched roof, tall, narrow openings and high chimney. The windows and doors all employ the Gothic pointed arch, housing stained glass which glows on the interior. The masonry craftsmanship on the church is also noteworthy. The Yellowstone valley has a strong stone building tradition, and the skill of early masons is readily evident in the construction of St. Mark's church. Carefully cut and fitted rough-faced stonework lends the building a rich texture and solid presence.

The design for St. Mark's church was drawn up by Frank S. Hornbeck, a local architect. Born in upstate New York, Hornbeck moved with his wife in 1890 to Livingston, where he became a well known, longtime resident. During a forty year career in Livingston he designed many local commercial buildings and residences. St. Mark's Episcopal Church is one example of his work. Hornbeck retired in the early 1930s.

Criteria Considerations

Although primarily a religious property, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is most significant for its architectural values. Therefore it meets Criteria Consideration A as applied to religious properties. Dallman Hall, a moved building, is considered under Criteria Consideration B. Dallman Hall was moved in within the period of historic significance and contributes to property significance, reflecting the growing role of the church in serving the community.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church remains a mission church, actively serving the people of Big Timber and vicinity. The building remains an essential part of the Big Timber landscape, one of several beautifully crafted buildings that contribute to the beauty of the town and its atmosphere of stability. The oldest church in Big Timber, it's centennial this year honors those who contributed in many ways to the history of the church and of this small community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Aitken, Walter, editor *Big Timber Express: Holiday Edition*, January 1, 1898. W. Aitken publisher, Big Timber, Montana.
Big Timber Pioneer September 21, 1895; August 15, 1946.
 Cheney, Roberta Episcopal Church of Montana. Episcopal Diocese of Montana, Helena, 1990.
Livingston Enterprise Obituary of Frank S. Hornbeck, July 3, 1938.
 Pioneer Society of Big Timber Pioneer Memories. Published by the society, Big Timber, 1960.
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map of Big Timber, Montana, 1907. Chicago.
 St. Mark's Episcopal Church Seventy Fifth Anniversary Bulletin, February 16, 1971.

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: St. Mark's Episcopal Church

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	581300	5075640

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Located in the NW 1/4, SE 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 14, T1N, R14E.

Verbal Boundary Description

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is located on Lots 8, 9, 10 of Block L in the Boulder Addition Number One, Town of Big Timber, Montana.

Boundary Justification

These are the lots historically associated with St. Mark's Episcopal Church since its construction in 1894.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Davyd Foard Hood, architecture; Chere Jiusto, history	
organization: Montana SHPO	date: January 1995
street & number: 1410 8th Ave	telephone: 406-444-7715
city or town: Helena	state: MT zip code: 59620

Property Owner

name/title: St. Mark's Episcopal Church	
street & number: PO Box 626	telephone: (406) 932-5712
city or town: Big Timber	state: MT zip code: 59011