

1731

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 14 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church

other name/site number: Carbon County United Methodist Parish

2. Location

street & number: N. Montana Avenue

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: n/a

city/town: Fromberg

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Carbon

code: 009

zip code: 59029

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Marcell Duff SHPO 12-11-92
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

other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

1/28/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
Category of Property: Buildings		
	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Properties in Fromberg	<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:	Current Functions:
Religion: religious structure	Religion: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification:	Materials:
Other: Gable-front church	foundation: stone
	walls: wood/weatherboard
	roof: asphalt

Narrative Description

The Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church is located in Fromberg, Montana, a small rural community in the southcentral portion of the state. The church is located in a residential neighborhood west of the downtown. It stands on a large corner lot and faces east onto N. Montana Avenue. The church grounds are well maintained and landscaped with mature deciduous and conifer trees.

The building is comprised of the original rectangular-shaped church, constructed in 1908, and a large rear addition. The church rests on a coursed stone foundation, has clapboard siding, and is topped by a front-facing gabled roof, steeply pitched. The asphalt-shingled roof has wide open eaves with exposed rafters. A steeple with a square tower and an open belfry projects from the center of the front of the church. The clapboard-sided tower holds a pair of non-historic doors with a five-light transom under a wood-shingled gable hood. The tower extends up to a point near the peak of the gable. The belfry is formed by four clapboard-sided columns, resting on a battered base and topped by a six-sided spire with a flared apron. The base of the belfry has three tiers of flared panels covered with asphalt shingles; the spire also has asphalt shingling. Windows in the church are double-hung lancet windows with molding. One is located on either side of the steeple tower, and four are symmetrically set along the north and south walls; two of the windows towards the west end of the south wall have been covered by a vestibule to the addition. A two-over-two, double-hung window is located in both side walls of the steeple tower.

The major addition on the rear of the church was built in 1921. It covers the west wall of the church and extends several feet beyond to the south, providing the overall building with an ell plan. The clapboard-sided addition reflects Craftsman styling of the period. The gabled roof has wide eave overhangs with exposed rafter tails, and simple knee braces under the gables. Windows are rectangular, six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash in pairs. A paneled door is located on the north wall towards the west. A shed-roof vestibule is on the east wall of the addition, at the ell inset with the church.

The church retains integrity of all aspects. The rear addition was completed during the building's period of significance and adds to its important associations. The building thus displays its historic form, massing, and scale, materials, and key stylistic elements.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Social History
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: 1908-1925

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1908; 1921

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Darnall, Charles

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Fromberg" multiple property listing. The significance of the building is established locally under the historic context of "Religious, Educational, Civic, and Social Activities in Fromberg, 1906-1925," and meets registration requirements developed for the associated property type "Religious, Educational, Social, and Civic Buildings." The church meets Criteria Consideration A for religious properties because its significance is established solely on secular terms. The church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its important association with the growth and development of Fromberg, and under Criterion C as a typical example of a small-town vernacular church of the era. The church has sustained few alterations since its period of significance and retains integrity in all aspects.

The Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church derives significance under Criterion A as an important reflection of the town's social and cultural development during its historic boom period (1906-1918). The Methodist-Episcopal was the first congregation to form in the area and the first to construct a church within the limits of Fromberg. The congregation first convened at the mining camp of Gebo in 1897, prior to the founding of Fromberg. By 1905, its membership had grown sufficiently to warrant construction of a church and a building committee was formed. The committee decided to locate the new church in Fromberg because of increased population there. In 1907, they retained local contractor Charles Darnall for project construction. However, Darnall abruptly left town in January 1908, with the church only partially completed. The building committee was forced to borrow money to pay Darnall's workers and the church was finally finished within the year. The building remained as the only church in Fromberg until 1915, when St. Joseph Catholic Parish built a brick church in town -- replacing their earlier church located between Fromberg and Gebo [no longer extant].

The Methodist-Episcopal congregation's social role in the community was enhanced in 1921, when a large new addition was added to the church. The addition, which housed an office, study room, and social room, also opened as a library, making the church's book collection available to the general public. The collection included books donated by Mrs. Benson, the wife of a local physician, who had been loaning her library to Fromberg citizens for many years.

The Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church derives significance under Criterion C as a well-preserved typical example of vernacular religious architecture common to the Northern Plains. The rectangular plan, front tower and steeple, and Gothic windows are all features common to vernacular designs that dominated small church architecture in the region throughout the late 19th century and early decades of the 20th century.

9. Major Bibliographic References

An Illustrated History of Carbon County. Spokane, Washington: Western Publishing Company, 1907.
Carbon County Republic. 8 March 1907.
Carbon County Sentinel. 7 January 1898.
Fromberg Herald. 7 November 1912.
Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church records. On file at the church.
Fromberg Service Club. Fromberg: The Fruit Basket of Carbon County. Billings, Montana: Empire Printing, 1976.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Fromberg. 1907, 1912, 1927.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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 # _____

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
A	12	663680	5028490

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses Lots 1 & 2 of Block 3 of the Dudley First Addition to Fromberg (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 17, T05S, R23E).

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all property historically associated with the Fromberg Methodist-Episcopal Church.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary McCormick (Erika Kuhlman of the Fromberg Historical Society did the initial research and wrote the first draft in 1989)

organization: Renewable Technologies, Inc.

date: April 1992

street & number: 511 Metals Bank Building

telephone: 406/444-7715

city or town: Butte

state: MT

zip code: 59701

Property Owner

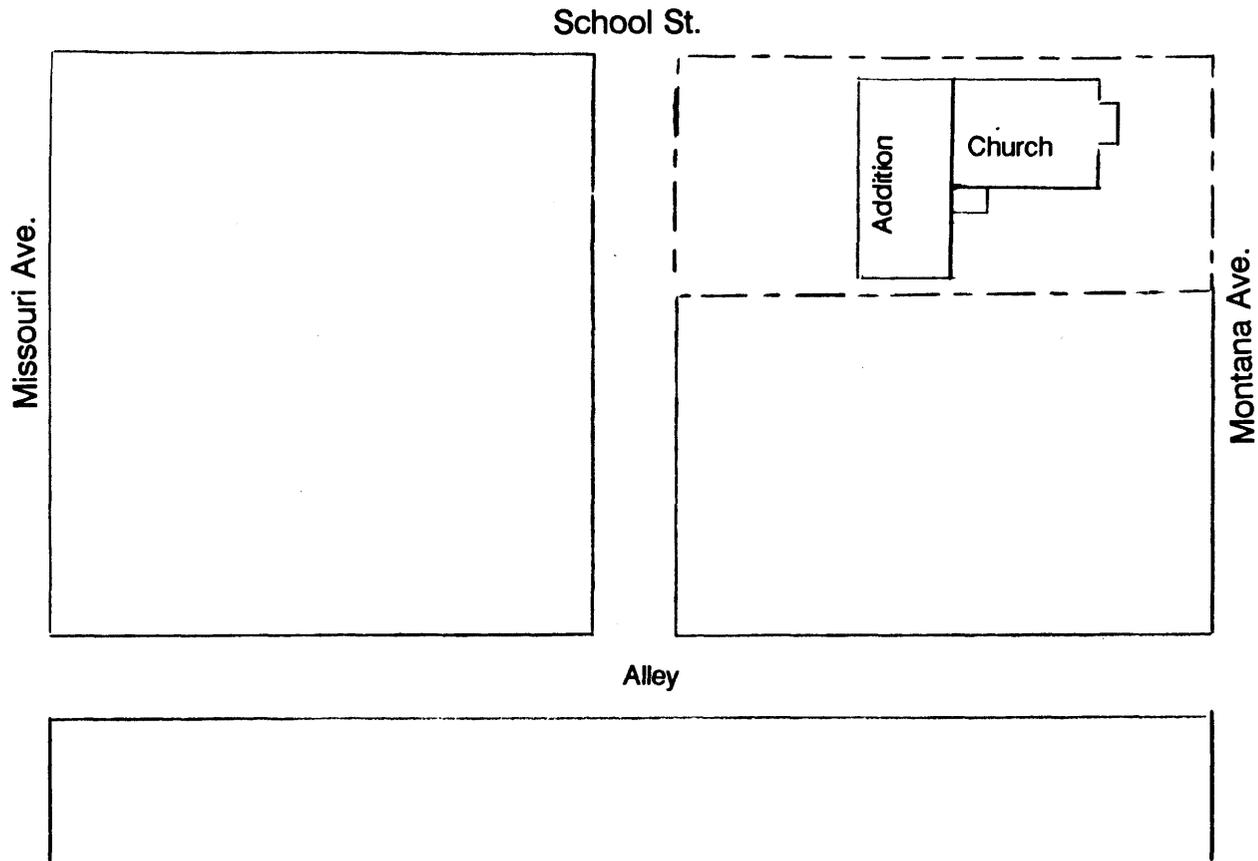
name/title: Carbon County United Methodist Parish c/o Melvin Weatherford

street & number:

city or town: Fromberg

state: MT

zip code: 59029



Fromberg Methodist- Episcopal Church

Fromberg, Montana

**Lots 1 & 2, Block 3
Dudley First Addition**

National Register Boundary:



Scale: 1 inch = 50 feet
August 1992