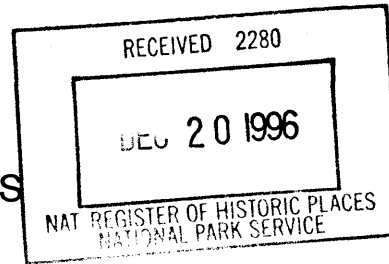


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Methodist Church of Alberton

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 802 Railroad

not for publication: n/a  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

city/town: Alberton

state: Montana code: MT county: Mineral code: 061 zip code: 59820

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.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12-16-96  
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

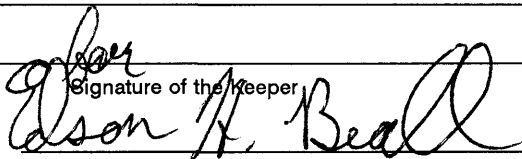
Date

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

Date of Action

1-23-97

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### 5. Classification

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<b>Ownership of Property:</b> private	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
	Contributing	Noncontributing
<b>Category of Property:</b> building		
<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> 0	<u>  1  </u>	_____ building(s)
	_____	_____ sites
	_____	_____ structures
	_____	_____ objects
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b> Historic Resources of Alberton, Montana	<u>  1  </u>	_____ TOTAL

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions:**

Religion: Religious facility

**Current Functions:**

Religion: Religious Facility

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification:**

Other: Gable-front church

**Materials:**

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

### Narrative Description

The Methodist Church of Alberton is a one-story gable-fronted building. The plan is simple, rectangular and symmetrical, with a central entrance in the gable front and a square tower above the front, northeast corner. The entrance is sheltered by a gable overdoor, with posts and solid railing on a concrete stoop. There is also a side entry vestibule to the west, accessing the basement. The church is clad with beveled clapboard and illuminated with regularly-spaced double-hung windows with orange translucent glass. The foundation is of cinderblock and houses 6-light casement windows at that level.

The roof is a moderate gable, covered with corrugated metal roofing. It is accentuated by projecting eaves which reveal knee bracing to the front, and exposed rafter ends. The square belfry is sided with wood shingles and louvered vents. It is capped with a pyramidal roof. At the rear, a one-story shed with vertical wood walls was attached.

### Integrity

The historic integrity of this property has been retained due to the survival of original design and materials, and continuity of use, setting and location. The only alteration to the structure may be replacement of the gable cover over the entrance stoop which likely closely resembles the original treatment, and the awning that has been built over the steps to the basement of the building on the west facade.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1912

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: ca. 1912

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Methodist Church is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, for its architectural values according to Criterion C. This simple wood frame church building exhibits the design and construction characteristics typical of historic churches of the Methodist denomination in Montana. The basic rectilinear form of the building, with single double-hung windows set in a regular pattern along the two side walls, typifies early meeting halls. The construction of the square bell tower on the side of the roof was commonly used by Methodist church congregations to both indicate the religious function of the building and signal the denominational affiliation. Catholics, Lutherans, Baptists and Congregationalists most often centered the bell tower over the central entrance. The Methodist Church accurately recalls the early period of settlement and community development in Alberton and has been in active use since its construction.

This church, built by the Methodist congregation in approximately 1912, is one of two churches established in Alberton during the historic period. Although it is principally a religious property as defined by Criteria Consideration A, its eligibility rests with its architectural attributes, and thus it meets requirements for listing.

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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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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: ~

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property:** less than one

**UTM References:**    **Zone**    **Easting**    **Northing**  
                          11        692040        5208340

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):** Located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, T14N, R23W.

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Methodist Church is located on Lots 4 and 5, Block 8, West Alberton, Montana.

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**Boundary Justification**

There are the lots associated with the church since its construction.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: James R. McDonald Architects, P.C.  
street & number: P.O. Box 8163    telephone:    date: 1986  
city or town: Missoula        state: MT        zip code: 59801

revised by: Mike Koop, SHPO staff, 1986  
updated, 1996

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**Property Owner**

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name/title: Methodist Church of Alberton  
street & number: 802 Railroad        telephone:  
city or town: Alberton        state: MT        zip code: 59820