



STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

Significance Primary No. 215
County Jackson

Theme _____

Name
(Common) St. Andrew's Methodist Church

(Historic) Methodist Episcopal Church

Address 305 North Fifth Street

Jacksonville, Oregon 97530

Present Owner City of Jacksonville

City Hall

Address Jacksonville, Oregon 97530

Original Use Religious

Date of Construction 1854

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Methodist Episcopal Church is a one story wood frame simple rectangular block. The church was erected in 1854 built in the Classical Revival style. The major part of construction was completed by James McDonough and Thomas Pyle. The architect is unknown. The church is at present painted white.

The entire building is sheathed with clapboards. At the southeast corner of the main facade a bronze tablet has been placed on the wall by the Daughters of the American Revolution (1932) commemorating the dedication of the church on the first Sunday of January 1855. It states that the structure was the first church built in the Rogue River Valley. A square bell tower with a pyramidal spire rises from the ridge of the roof and is flush with the main (east) facade. A weather vane is at the apex of the spire. The spire itself is sheathed with alternating groups of pointed and scallop-edged shingles, painted alternately faded red and yellow. Each face of the tower contains louvered segmentally arched openings.

The front east-facing facade is one bay consisting of wooden double doors with two recessed panels in each leaf. Both north and south side elevations are three bays wide: each bay is a two-over-two light, double hung sash window. The rear facade is void of openings. All openings have plain unornamented surrounds.

The roof is a gable sloping to the north and south and sheathed with wood shingles. The roof has a boxed cornice and a wide frieze that rakes along the side of the gable and continues under the eaves. Both cornice and frieze are

Recorded by Gail E.H. Evans Date December 1979

Photographed by Gail E.H. Evans

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please refer to footnotes

Please enclose map. Township 37 ^N _S 2 ^E _W Section 32, Block 23, part of lot 3, 4.
Account No. 3200 (32BA) 219

returned into the face of the gable suggesting a pediment. The foundation is brick.

The Methodist Episcopal Church is located on a corner lot at the intersection of North Fifth and "D" Streets. The front elevation oriented toward North Fifth Street is set back from the road approximately fifteen feet. The church lot is essentially flat and surrounded by lawn. Three or four large trees are randomly situated on the east and south sides of the property, and foundation shrubbery grows along all four walls. A four foot chain link fence along the west property line is concealed by thick ivy. On the north side of the building the entire yard is planted in rose bushes and a single row continues along the rear (west) edge of the property. This garden is commonly known as the "Old Rose Garden."

Near the southeast corner of the main facade a boulder is implanted in the ground with a memorial plaque to "Reverend Joseph S. Smith and the noble pioneers who organized this church June 1, 1854" (1938). On the southeast corner of the lot stands a replica of an early gas lantern.

The Methodist Episcopal Church no longer holds regular worship services and is maintained in fair condition.

In 1854 two years after discovery of gold on Daisy Creek in Jacksonville, the Methodist Episcopal Church was completed by James McDonough and Thomas Pyle¹ who are said to have had a successful carpenter shop in town.² The church was the first religious edifice to be erected in Jacksonville and believed to be the first church in southern Oregon.³

According to A. G. Walling, author of a book on the history of southern Oregon, the most active Methodist workers were assigned to Jacksonville. Reverend R. F. Royal preached his first service in Jacksonville/or its environs/ a few days after his arrival in Oregon in 1853.⁴ Royal graphically describes the setting in his journal: "It was bright and pleasant as many emigrants just in from the dreary plains were excellent over the hope of making homes in the lovely land. It was a charming Sunday, the 30th day of October 1853. We had hastily circulated an appointment for religious services to be held at the home of Mr. John Beason on Wagner Creek."⁵

Prior to the erection of the church, Reverend Royal held religious services wherever possible. One such place was a large building in the process of erection for a gambling house on the opposite side of the street from the principal "gambling saloon."⁶ Royal himself writes about one meeting place called the "Round Tent," which he describes as a large, round building made of split lumber with a bare earth floor⁷ that was used as a "temple of worship" before the church structure was built.

An 1852 map of Jacksonville locates the Methodist Episcopal Church on the southwest corner of California and Third Streets.⁸ The church may have been partially constructed on that site in 1853. Walling, writing in 1884, commented that the "church was not finished in that year /1853/ but was removed to the spot where it now stands finished by T. F. Royal...".⁹ Some of the money needed to raise this pioneering structure is claimed to have come through the persevering efforts of Mrs. Royal and Mrs. Overbeck who went from camp to camp to raise money from the gold miners.¹⁰ Though the deed was not recorded until 1859, James Cluggage (donation land claim owner for most of the original Jacksonville townsite) donated (fee \$1.00) the south half of the block where the Methodist Episcopal Church now stands.¹¹

Lumber for the church building was hauled from Linley's Mill eight miles from Jacksonville.¹² Since Fourth Street was at that time the primary road leading out of Jacksonville into the broad Rogue River Valley, the church was built facing Fourth Street.¹³ In the fall of 1855 the building had been enclosed¹⁴ and perhaps nearly completed, for in either early fall¹⁵ or on New Year's Day of 1855¹⁶ the Methodist Episcopal Church was formally dedicated by Reverend J. H.

Wilbur, presiding elder of the Umpqua district.¹⁷

The structure first appears as a simple, square edifice¹⁸ without a tower or spire but by 1855 or 1856 the building received this last crowning feature.¹⁹

Over a period of several years subsequent repairs and improvements were made to the church. In the summer and fall of 1867 certain repairs were "rapidly being completed."²⁰ In 1879 a new roof and floor were installed, the seats were remodeled and various other improvements made.²¹ Apparently some of these improvements had not been adequate, for one year later it was proclaimed that the "Jacksonville structure was in need of repairs."²²

By 1884 William Kahler, one of the town's earliest inhabitants, had been the prime mover in making changes and improvements to the Methodist Episcopal Church. Reverend Royal wrote that William Kahler improved the church inside and out, had fronted it on a more popular street (which by then was North Fifth), had elevated it, and "enclosed it with a parsonage."²³ Photographs from that time period indicate that the building was turned 180° and fronted on North Fifth Street at or slightly after the time that the new brick Jackson County Court House was completed in 1884.²⁴ In 1888 more work on the church was completed, including altering the windows, lowering the ceiling, and replastering the interior walls.²⁵

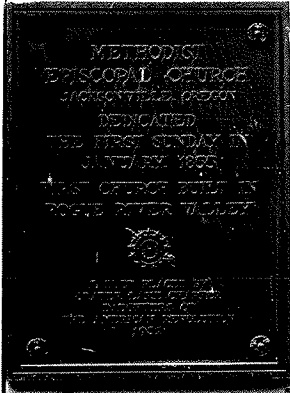
Up until 1928 services for the Methodist Episcopal membership were held in the church, after which time the congregation disbanded.²⁶ During its active lifetime the church had been the gathering place not only for the Methodist Episcopal congregation, but other denominations, including the Presbyterian²⁷ and the Baptists.²⁸ In the early years of county government the Methodist Episcopal Church was used to hold county court proceedings.²⁹

FOOTNOTES

1. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 366.
Jackson County Deeds, November 1, 1854. (Christopher Owens)
2. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 365.
3. Gaston, Joseph, Portland Oregon: Its History and Builders, S. J. Clark Publishing Company, Portland, Chicago, 1911, p. 363.
4. Ibid., p. 363.
5. "T. F. Royal Journal," Ms. 161, Southern Oregon Historical Society.
6. Orange Jacobs Memoirs, (Seattle, Washington: Lowman and Hanford Company, 1908), p. 71. (Ross/Owens, manuscript for Historic American Buildings Survey, c. 1975)
7. "Reverend Royal's History," Southern Oregon Historical Society.
8. Sherman, G., "Plat of the Town of Jacksonville, O[regon] T[erritory]," 1852.
9. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 363.
10. Ibid., p. 363.
11. Jackson County Deeds, July 16, 1859. (Christopher Owens)
12. "Reverend Royal's History," Southern Oregon Historical Society.
13. Southern Oregon Historical Society, photographic collection.
14. Jackson County Deeds, November 7, 1854. (Christopher Owens)
15. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, 1884, p. 363.

16. Gaston, Joseph, Portland Oregon: Its History and Builders, S. J. Clark Publishing Company, Portland, Chicago, 1911, p.
17. Walling, A. G., History of Southern Oregon Comprising Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Curry and Coos Counties, Publishing House of A. G. Walling, Portland, Oregon, 1884, p. 363.
18. Southern Oregon Historical Society, photographic collection.
19. Kuchel and Dressel, "Jacksonville, Jackson County, Oregon, Oregon T. Territory," 1856.
Southern Oregon Historical Society, photographic collection.
20. The Oregon Sentinel, August 24, 1867.
21. The Democratic Times, July 11, 1879.
22. The Oregon Sentinel, August 25, 1880.
23. "Reverend Royal's History," Southern Oregon Historical Society.
24. Southern Oregon Historical Society, photographic collection.
25. The Democratic Times, June 29, 1888.
26. Mrs. Frank TouVelle, "History of Old Jacksonville Church" (Ross/Owens, manuscript for Historic American Buildings Survey, c. 1975).
27. "Diary of Moses Allen Williams," October 27, 1881. (Southern Oregon Historical Society)
28. Mrs. Frank TouVelle, "History of Old Jacksonville Church," manuscript at Southern Oregon Historical Society.
29. Jackson County Commissioners' Journals, December 2, 1856. (Christopher Owens)

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
 HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310



County Jackson
 Theme 9-F, 9-A
 Name
 (Common) Methodist Episcopal Church Landmark
 (Historic) (same)
 Address n.w. corner e. D and n. 5th St.
Jacksonville, Oregon
 Present Owner _____
 Address _____
 Original Use Landmark
 Date of Construction Jan. 3, 1932

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The Methodist Episcopal Church Landmark is a bronze plaque mounted on the southeast side of the east (front) elevation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Oregon. The plaque reads:

"Methodist Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, Oregon. Dedicated the first Sunday in January, 1855. First Church built in the Rogue River Valley. Tablet placed by Crater Lake Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1932."

This marker was placed on January 3, 1932.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 27 Aug. 1976
 For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Sources Consulted:
 Please enclose map Township 37 ^N _S 2 ^E _W Section 32

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks, Salem, 97310



County Jackson

Theme 9-F, 9-A

Name
(Common) Smith (Joseph) Landmark

(Historic) _____

Address Methodist Episcopal Church
n.w. corner E. D & n. 5th St.
Jacksonville, Ore.

Present Owner _____

(Address) _____

Original Use Landmark

Date of Construction Aug. 21, 1938

Physical

historical significance:

Attached to a granite boulder near the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jacksonville is a bronze plaque dedicated to the memory of Rev. Joseph Smith and those who organized the Methodist Episcopal Church. The plaque reads:

*"Dedicated to the memory of Rev. Joseph S. Smith
and the Noble Pioneers who organized this church
June 1, 1854. 1938."*

This landmark was dedicated on August 21, 1938.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date _____

Sources Consulted:

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Oregonian, Aug. 25, 1938.

Please enclose map Township 37^N_S Range 2^E_W Section 32