

# DAYTON HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY

ASSESSOR MAP NUMBER: 4-3-17 DA TAX LOT NUMBER: 1400  
PLAT NAME: Original Town of Dayton LOT: 216 BLOCK: NA  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 301 Main Street  
CURRENT OWNER: First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 176, Dayton, OR  
ORIGINAL OWNER: Baptist Church  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Jacob Seitters, Mason, & Watson, Carpenter  
STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE: Italianate YEAR BUILT: 1886  
HISTORIC NAME: Baptist Church HISTORIC USE: Church  
CURRENT NAME: First Baptist Church CURRENT USE: Church  
CONDITION: Good ALTERATIONS: Minor  
PHOTOGRAPH ROLL-FRAME: 1-1 INTERVIEWEE: \_\_\_\_\_  
RESOURCE NUMBER: 16 RECORDER: Rees DATE: 9-27-84

## SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Baptist Church, located at the west corner of Third and Main, faces southeast on Main Street. It is situated on a residential street directly across the street from the Blockhouse in Courthouse Square Park. Third Street, to its northwest, is a major thoroughfare through Dayton and officially designated as State Highway 221. The church is slightly set back from the public right-of ways.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Baptist Church is a one story, 20 foot wide by 40 foot long building of solid brick masonry construction in a variation of the common bond. The front and side facades are three bays wide; each bay is defined with pilasters. The two doorways at the corner of Third and Main are round arched and detailed with corbeling. The front doorway has a fanlight and the side door a round arched transom. Each four panel wooden door has round arched upper panels and molded surrounds; the front door is double leaf. The window openings are segmentally arched and also detailed with corbeling. The double hung wood sash windows are one over one on the front facade and four over one on the sides. In the gable end of the front facade, there is a four light diamond shaped window with a granite dedication plaque below that reads, "The Baptist Church/Dayton, Oregon/A.D. 1886." A two tier, wood frame tower with a louvered belfry and octagonal spire straddles the gable roof at the front end the church. The church remains essentially unchanged since its construction in 1886 except for a one story, wood frame Sunday school which was added to the rear of the church in 1939.

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## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Baptist Church, dedicated in November, 1886, is one of the oldest brick buildings, in Yamhill County and the first brick church to be built in Dayton; three wooden churches preceeded it, all of which remain today (Resources #21, #25, and #32). Rueben and Philena Snyder were the prime movers along with Martha and James Baxter, Albert Alderman, Jonathan Arms, Mrs. G.M. Burning, Bird and Vishti Parish, Mrs. I.H. Morse, and W.D. McDaniels in organizing Dayton's Baptist Church in June 1885. In January 1886, the property at Third and Main was purchased from Isadore Nichols, a local merchant; and in early spring construction began. Jacob Seitters, a mason and son-in-law of the Snyders, was given the contract to build the church along with a carpenter named Watson, (A George Watson is listed as a carpenter in the 1880 census). According to Seitters' daughter, Jacob had some sort of plans to follow but the window and door treatment were of his own design.

Seitters had come to Dayton in 1875 and established a brick yard across Palmer Creek just south of town. In 1888, he moved to McMinnville where he established the McMinnville Brick and Tile Company. Bricks manufactured by Seitters were used to construct the former Yamhill County Courthouse, now demolished, and McMinnville College (1883), now Pioneer Hall, the first permanent building of the Baptist institution which became Linfield College. Both the Baptist Church and the former McMinnville College are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## SOURCES:

- . Dayton Centennial, 1880-1980, "The Dayton Baptist Church", Edit. June Bienz, 1980.
- . "Historic Background of Some Dayton Structures", Ruth Stoller,
- . "National Register of Historic Places Nomination: First Baptist Church of Dayton", David Walsh, 1978.
- . "Some Dayton Chapters in Oregon History", Dayton Reading Club, 1955, p.25.
- . "State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings: First Baptist Church, Yamhill County", Stephen Beckham, 1976.
- . United States Census, Yamhill County, Dayton, 1880.



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



County Yamhill  
Theme 9-A, 10-A  
Name (Common) First Baptist Church  
(Historic) (same)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Dayton, Ore.  
Present Owner First Baptist Church  
(Address) Dayton, Ore.  
Original Use Church  
Date of Construction 1882

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The First Baptist Church of Dayton is one of the earliest brick buildings standing in Yamhill County. It was constructed during the same year that work began on the four story brick building in McMinnville to house McMinnville College. Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Snyder were prime movers behind the building of this church. Their son-in-law, Jacob Seitter, designed and constructed the building.

Jacob Seitter was born in Ohio on Jan. 31, 1844, and was the son of Jacob and Christina K. (Albright) Seitter. Seitter served in the Union Army during the Civil War and in 1866 married Edith E. Snyder. Seitter and his wife moved to Washington in 1874 but located in 1875 in Dayton where he opened a brockyard which he operated until 1888 when he moved to McMinnville to own and operate the McMinnville Brick & Tile Factory.

This attractive, compact building has stretcher bonding with every seventh row containing two stretchers and two headers. The walls are pilastered and the window and door surrounds are Romanesque arches with triple rows of radiating voussoirs. There is a fan transom above the main door and a half-round above the side entrance. A diamond-shaped window decorates the gable end. The tower has a louvered belfry and an octagonal spire. The building has a general feeling of Romanesque styling.

Continue back if necessary

Recorded by Stephen Dow Beckham Date 9 Mar. 1976 Sources Consulted:

For Oregon State Historic Preservation Office "Jacob Seitter." Gaston, Joseph. Centennial History of Oregon (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1912), vol. 2, 659-660.

Please enclose map Township 4(S) Range 3(W) Section 17

(over)