

ASHLAND CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

SURVEY FORM

COUNTY: JACKSON

IDENTIFICATION:

Hist. Name First Baptist Church Date of Construction: 1911
 Common Name: Oregon Caberet Theatre Original Use: Church
 Address: 241 Hargadine Present Use: Theatre
Ashland, Oregon Architect: _____
 Owner: Ashland Historic Property Builder: Sheldon, Miles M.
424 Courtney Street Style: Mission/Gothic Stylistic elements
Ashland, Oregon x Bldg. _____ Struc. _____ Dist. _____ Obj. _____
 T/R/S: 39S 1E 9 Ranking: Primary
 Map No: 9BD Tax Lot: 5300
 Addition: Enders Addition
 Block: _____ Lot: 16 Quad: Ashland

THEME:

Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties Theme: 8a.
 Archaeology Industry Mining
 Agriculture Military Social/Education
 Commerce Politics/Government Transportation
 Exploration and Settlement Religion Other

DESCRIPTION:

Plan Type/Shape: Rectangular No. of Stories: Two
 Foundation Material: Concrete Basement (Y/N): Yes
 Roof Form and Material: Flat; hipped; wood shingled; towers with hipped roof, shingled; composition shingle
 Wall Construction: Wood frame with stucco Structural Frame: Wood frame
 Primary Window Type: Stained glass windows, casement
 Exterior Surfacing Materials: Stucco

Decorative Features: Parapet walls, with battlement details on towers; brackets; round topped entry doors;

Other: Poured-in-place buttresses on foundation walls; arched recess for primary stained glass window on First Street.

Condition: Excellent Good Fair Poor Moved (Date) _____

Exterior Alterations/Additions (Dated) Church completely restored ca. 1984; many stained glass windows destroyed through vandalism.

Noteworthy Landscape Features: _____

Associated Structures: _____

Known Archaeological Features: _____

Negative No: DT I-36

Slide No: _____

Recorded By: Atwood, Kay

Date: 24 April 1989

SHPO Inventory No: 1835

SETTING:

The former First Baptist Church is located on a sloping hill on South First Street at the intersection of Hargadine Street. A compatible structure -- the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Shop Building -- lies north of the resource. The former Lithia Springs Hotel, now the Marc Antony Hotel, lies directly across First Street.

SIGNIFICANCE:

In May 1910 the Ashland Tidings announced that plans for a new Baptist Church had been prepared by local building contractor Miles M. Sheldon. Money was raised for the project from contributions from the congregation, donations from citizens of different religious affiliation, and from a series of lectures given by the Baptist minister, the Reverend Elbert A. Hicks. Construction was delayed until the following year when, by May, the local newspaper reported that work "was progressing rapidly on the First Baptist Church." The fine new Mission Style structure replaced the 19th century building erected by the denomination at the corner of High and Church Streets. By August 31, 1911 the new building was complete with a dedication service set for Sunday, September 3, 1911.

The church remained in use until 1970 when the property was sold and a new edifice constructed in south Ashland. During the next decade the building suffered serious damage from vandals and lack of care. Particularly vulnerable were fine memorial stained glass windows existing in the south and west elevations. The interior walls, of lath and plaster, were damaged from seeping moisture. After 1980 a new owner completely restored the building to its original fine condition and it now functions primarily as a theatre. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Ashland Tidings, May 30, 1910; May 11, 1911 1:5-6; August 31, 1911.
"First Baptist Church Centennial Bulletin, : 1977, First Baptist Church Records.
Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, First Baptist Church.

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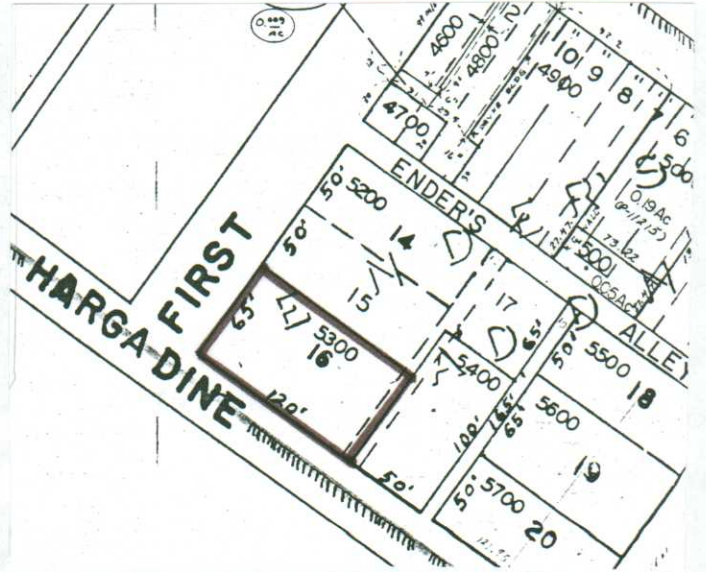
Name: First Baptist Church
Address: 241 Hargadine
Ashland, Oregon

T/R/S: 39 1E 9
Map No: 9BD Tax Lot: 5300
Quadrangle: Ashland (1953)



Negative No.: DT I-36

Slide No.: _____



Graphic and Photo Sources: City of Ashland Topographic Map;
Jackson County Assessor Map

SHPO Inventory No.: 1835

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



County Jackson
Theme Religious/architectural
Name
(Common) First Baptist Church
(Historic) same
Address 241 Hargadine St
Ashland Ore. 97520
Present Owner Karsten H-J Arriens
Address P.O. Box 1240, Ashland, Ore.
Original Use Church
Date of Construction 1911

Physical description of property and statement of historical significance: The church is a three story wood-frame structure with a foundation of poured concrete and a stucco exterior, designed in a simple Mission Revival style. A square-topped tower with round-arched windows forms each of the three corners visible from the street; the main corner tower has a peaked roof and 2' high parapet walls, the eaves of the roof extruding between these sections of parapet. The wall facing First St., which is the front of the church, has a high panel of memorial stained-glass, dedicated to members of the church from the early part of this century. The Hargadine St. side also has rows of stained-glass windows, one dedicated to the Pastor E.A. Hicks who led the construction of the church, others with plain Christian symbols and etched Biblical scenes.

The church is one of the few surviving churches of the era of the 1910's and 20's in Ashland, and is a rare example of the Mission style applied to religious architecture in this area and time. Some of the priceless stained-glass remains intact or nearly so, some of the damaged panels are able to be repaired. The Baptist church has long been an active influence in the community of Ashland, and has had its representation of broader historical trends

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by William W. Rose, II Date 11/24/78

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary): American Architecture Since 1780: Marcus Whiffen; MIT Press, 1969.
Microfilm of Ashland Daily Tidings: 1910, 1911, 1921-23, 1973.

Please enclose map. Township N S Section E W Case File Available

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and events of a national scale: for example, the split that occurred in the 1920's, some church members choosing to follow the Evangelist Pentacostal movement of Amy Semple McPherson, who was active on the west coast at the time. It is likely that many churches experienced similar turbulence at that time.

There is also some evidence to support the theory the church may have been designed by Frank Clark, an architect who studied and worked with Greene & Greene in Los Angeles after moving from New York, then settled in the Rogue Valley and designed many well-known buildings, including the Swedenberg House in Ashland, the Leverette Building and First Presbyterian Church, both in Medford. He incorporated Mission Revival style into many of his designs, as well as Bungalow and Bungaloid styles, which also reflect his interest in the architecture of Southern California.

Sources consulted:

Jacksonville Museum records & files,
courtesy of Richard Ingeman.

Interviews: Nora Segsworth
George Francis Smith } members of the church.
Rev. Roy Kooshian