

# DAYTON HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY

ASSESSOR MAP NUMBER: 4-3-17 DB TAX LOT NUMBER: 600  
PLAT NAME: Original Town of Dayton LOT: Part of 290 BLOCK: NA  
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 411 Oak Street  
CURRENT OWNER: Assembly of God Church  
P.O. Box 37, Dayton, OR  
ORIGINAL OWNER: Free Methodist Church Contributing: 1  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John Watson  
STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE: Romanesque YEAR BUILT: 1885  
HISTORIC NAME: Free Methodist Church HISTORIC USE: Church  
CURRENT NAME: Dayton Assembly of God Church CURRENT USE: Church  
CONDITION: Good ALTERATIONS: Moderate  
PHOTOGRAPH ROLL-FRAME: 4-16 INTERVIEWEE: Don Cornett, Viola Bunn, Florence Ellis, Rose Reichstein, Maurice  
RESOURCE NUMBER: 21 RECORDER: Rees & Chuck Harrel DATE: 10-9-84 Goodrich  
SITE DESCRIPTION: THEME: Religion

The former Free Methodist Church, located on the north corner of Fifth and Oak, faces southeast on Oak Street. The Church is situated in an older residential area near the western edge of the plat of the Original Town of Dayton. The side yard setback along Fifth Street has been graveled and is used for parking.

Less than one acre.

10/493810/5007410

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Free Methodist Church, built in 1885, is rectangular in plan, one story high, and three bays deep along its side facade. The original building has a brick foundation and is supported by cedar beams. The later additions to the building have poured concrete foundations. The church has tongue and groove, horizontal beveled siding and a gable roof with boxed eaves, originally sheathed with cedar shingles. The one over one double hung, round arched windows with pronounced cap moldings decorate the side facades of the church. The windows are similar in style to those of the Baptist Church (Resource #16) constructed in 1886, except that they are constructed of wood rather than brick.

The front facade of the church was altered in about 1940 with the addition of a new front entry way. In 1945, an addition of a parsonage was made to the rear of the church. It appears that enough evidence of the original appearance of the front facade remains, including the double door entry way and hinges to the original doors, that it could be restored to its 1885 appearance.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

Known locally as Dayton's third church, this building was constructed in 1885 for the Free Methodist congregation. The property which was originally part of the Andrew Smith Donation Land Claim, passed through several owners before Lee F. Morse sold it to the Free Methodists in 1866 for the sum of \$150. The church was built by John Watson who built other structures in the Dayton area, including the 1895 Dayton School. Recognized as one of Dayton's ablest carpenters, Watson was better known to the Free Methodists as their first pastor. The Free Methodist archives show in 1885 that Pastor J. Watson reported a congregation of eight members with a yearly salary of \$30.40 and that the building was valued at \$900. The church became the regional headquarters for Oregon and Washington, and from 1885 to 1912, the home base of the circuit riding preachers. The pastors from Dayton would travel and minister to other cities in the circuit, including Newberg, Bethany, Forest Grove, Beaverton, White Station, Sherwood, Harmony, Amity and Mission Landing. In 1890, the circuit had two points and in 1893 as many as five points.

The church property was sold to the Christian Science Society in 1912. They met there until 1929 when they disbanded to join their neighbor church in McMinnville. The correct name of the church at this time was "The First Church of Christ, Scientist." In 1929, the church property was sold for \$500 to the Full Gospel Assembly who were affiliated with the fellowship of the Assemblies of God. In 1947, the congregation changed the name to Dayton Assembly of God, as it is known today. The archives of the Assemblies of God in Brooks, Oregon, confirm that the Dayton Assembly of God is one of the oldest Assembly congregations in Oregon, and may well be the first one established in Oregon.

## SOURCES:

- . Dayton Centennial, 1880-1980, Edit. June Bienz, 1980, p. 30.
- . "Historic Background of Some Dayton Structures", Ruth Stoller.
- . "State of Oregon Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings: Assembly of God Church", Yamhill County, Stephen Beckham, 1976.
- . "Yamhill County Cultural Resources Inventory: Assembly of God Church", Yamhill County Planning Department, 1984.
- . Legal Records and Building Records, Dayton Assembly of God Church Archives, Dayton.
- . Archival Records, Assemblies of God District Office, Brooks, Oregon.
- . Archival Records, Free Methodist Research Center, Portland, Oregon.
- . Archival Records, Resource and Science Center, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, Massachusetts.

## SIGNIFICANCE:

This church is significant in Dayton because it was constructed to serve as the regional headquarters of the Free Methodist Church for Oregon and Washington. Criterion a.

