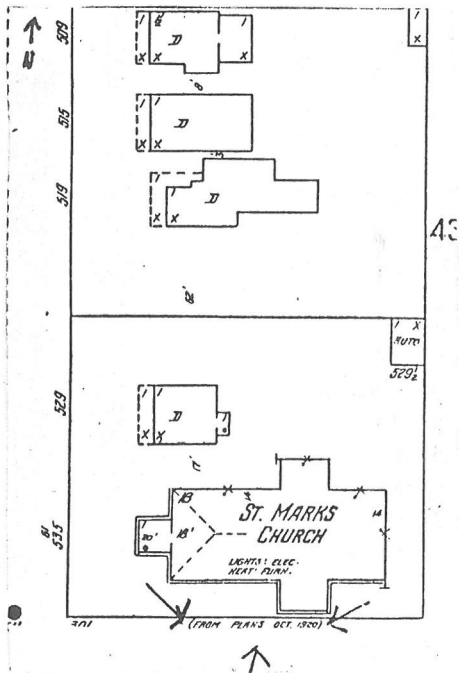


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 38 Frame# 16

Legal Description: Decelles Third Addition, Block 3, lots 9 & 10
Address: 539 Third Avenue
Ownership Name: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Address: 539 Third Avenue, Havre, MT.
private: x
public:

Historic Name: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Common Name: Episcopal Church
Date of Construction: 1911 (Assessors Record's)
Architect: Marion B. Rippo
Builder: Unknown
Original Owner: St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Original Use: Church
Present Use: Church

Physical Description:

Pseudo English gothic-style church. 3 x 3 bay. Rubble granite walls and steeply pitched gable roof. Architectural design includes transept, nave, chancel, sacristy, tower and narthex. Buttresses are also granite as are caps and parapets. Roof has slate shingles. Heavy granite piers with granite caps at west and south entrances. South entrance to undercroft has similar roof.

Entrance is central to facade and is reached by concrete steps with concrete balusters and flanking wrought iron railings. Original main entrance doors.

Gothic arch-style windows are stained glass with large rose stained glass window at chancel. Windows have translucent plexiglass shields. The undercroft and transept also has stained glass windows.

Recent one story addition at northeast corner of church. It has a flat roof and brick veneer walls. 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

Historical Information

The first Episcopalian service in Havre occurred in 1900. By 1907, Reverend Leonard J. Christler arrived in the city to begin the first regular Episcopalian church services in Swanton Hall. Christler spearheaded the drive to build a formal Episcopal church in Havre in 1908. Although ground for the church was broken in 1908, construction on the edifice did not begin until 1911 with the completion of plans drawn up by Kalispell architect Marion B. Rizzo (Havre architect/contractor Frank Bossuet was then associated with Rizzo's firm and was the architect's representative in Havre). Kahn Brothers of Helena donated the granite used for construction of the church and the Great Northern railway hauled it to Havre free of charge. The basement of the church was begun in June, 1911. Services were held in the basement of the church in 1915. The church was completed in 1918. Christler served as the Rector of the church until his tragic death in 1922 (see 815 Third Avenue).

Footnote Sources:

1. Havre Plaindealer, March 11, 1911.
2. Ibid, June 3, 1911.

Grits, Guts and Gusto: A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Commission. (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 330-331.

Polk Directory, Havre and Chouteau County, 1909.

Polk Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1915-16 and 1929-30

Sanborn Maps, 1910, 1920 and 1939.

Research Sources:

Assessor's Records, Hill County, Hill County Courthouse, Havre
Montana

Water Record no.368 (1909) and Sewer Record no.119 (1909),
Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana

Integrity:

This structure retains its original configuration, historic
fabric and many distinctive features indicative of its styling.

Significance:

This building maintains a high level of architectural integrity
and would strongly contribute to the proposed Historic District.
It would qualify for the National Register under criteria C as a
good local example of a Gothic-style church.

Form Prepared by:

Name: Jonathan Axline

Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501

Date: January 11, 1989

Geographical Information

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad:

UTM's: