



Yakima Register of Historic Places Nomination Form

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received _____

Type all entries

1. Name of Property

Historic First Baptist Church

And/or common First Baptist Church

2. Location

Street and number 515 East Yakima Avenue

City Yakima

State WA

Zip 98901

3. Classification

Category

____ District

☒ Building(s)

____ Structure

____ Site

____ Object

Ownership

____ Public

☒ Private

____ Both

Public Acquisition

____ In process

____ Being considered

Status

____ Occupied

____ Unoccupied

☒ Work in progress

Accessible

☒ Yes: restricted

____ Yes: unrestricted

____ No

Present Use

____ Agriculture

____ Commercial

____ Educational

____ Entertainment

____ Government

____ Industrial

____ Military

____ Museum

____ Park

____ Residential

____ Religious

____ Scientific

____ Transportation

☒ Other -Vacant

4. Owner of Property

Name Wilson Commercial Properties LLC

Street and number 222 South 1st Street

City Yakima

State WA

Zip 98901

Telephone 509.853.1060

Email Roger@wilsonrm.com

5. Physical Description

Condition

____ Excellent

☒ Good

____ Fair

____ Deteriorated

____ Ruins

____ Unexposed

Check one

____ Unaltered

☒ Altered

Check one

☒ Original site

____ Moved Date _____

Narrative description of the present and original physical appearance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

6. Significance

Year Built 1909, 1948 (Annex)

Builder/Architects

Newton C. Gauntt (1909); Frederick Lockman (1948)

Narrative description of the history and significance of the property to Yakima's heritage is found on one or more continuation sheets.

7. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Additional Documentation

Maps and photographs are attached.

9. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary description is the legal description of the property, encompassing tax parcel 191319-21483, courtesy of the Yakima County Assessor. It includes the building and immediate grounds.

Legal Description: Section 19 Township 13 Range 19 Quarter NW: Plat YAKIMA & HUDSON'S ADDITION (A-11): Block 110 Lot 1 & 2 ALSO THE SOUTH 1 FOOT OF LOT 3.

Tax Parcel Number: 191319-21483

Plat Name:

Yakima & Hudson's Addition

Block: 110

Lot(s) 1, 2, part of 3

10. Form Prepared By

Name/Title Susan Johnson, Partner/Architectural Historian

Organization Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

Date August 23, 2019

Street and number PO Box 1515


Telephone 253.572.4599

City or town Tacoma

State WA Zip 98401

Email susan@artifacts-inc.com

11. Signature of Property Owner

 Roger Wilson

Physical Description

The First Baptist Church building stands at a prominent corner in the historic downtown core of Yakima, Washington. Designed by Newton C. Gauntt and completed in 1909, the Richardsonian Romanesque style building has a historic, contributing 1948 addition. The building is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity in design, location, feeling, setting, workmanship, association, and materials. Alterations have largely impacted the interior floor plan and finishes, to allow for modernization and expansion of the church's congregation.

Setting

First Baptist Church is located in downtown Yakima, the most populous city in the central region of Washington State. Located at an altitude of 1075 feet above sea level, the City is the hub for numerous smaller communities scattered throughout the fertile Yakima Valley. Surrounded by rolling hills with Mount Adams and Mount Rainier in the distance, downtown Yakima is relatively flat and laid out on a regular grid pattern.

The nominated building is on a level, rectangular lot at the northwest corner of East Yakima Avenue and North Sixth Street, within the historic downtown business district core. Yakima Avenue has been the main east-west traffic corridor since the early 20th century. City and county offices, professional offices, and churches are mixed in among the primarily commercial buildings downtown. The front of the building faces south to East Yakima Avenue. The east side overlooks North Sixth Street. The rear (north) of the building is directly adjacent to the church-owned Sun Tower Senior Housing complex. The west side of the building has a 1948 addition, which extends to a paved north-south alley. Sidewalks immediately border the building along the south and east sides. The south (front), east and west sides were historically the most visible.

Exterior

The exterior of the building presents a solid, heavy masonry character balanced with vertical elements. Oriented to the south, the 1.5 story, L-plan structure is anchored by a large, square tower at the southeast corner. The south, east and west facades are all dominated by broad gables, each with a large circular, stained glass window. Stout decorative stepped buttresses accentuate the corners and add to the sense of weight.

Three different types of stone are evident on the exterior: basalt, granite and sandstone. The building stands on a rough-faced, coursed basalt foundation. Rough-faced, coursed stone (presumed to be granite) clads the brick structural system. Sandstone, a softer and workable stone, is utilized in trim elements such as window lintels and sills, the water table, and the round-arch hoods at the main south doorways. The stone cladding is laid up with thin mortar joints with a pillow profile. Wider joints are used at the foundation.

A varied roof caps the building, with primarily hip and gable portions. Multiple gables face south, west, and east, at varying heights. Besides the hip and gable roof sections, the original building also has two flat roof portions, on the main southeast tower and a smaller square tower at the east entrance. Both towers feature a crenellated parapet. A small section of crenellated parapet also extends along the west facade, at the south end. The historic red clay roof tiles have been replaced with painted roofing sheets of unknown material which simulates the aesthetic and profile of clay tiles.

There are multiple entrances, three of them original. Two of these are main entrances, accessing the front (south) of the original building through double doors. The third original entry is a single door which accesses the east side of the building, at the smaller tower. In the 1948 addition, there is a double door in the south facade and another in the west. The south doors on the main building have been replaced with contemporary metal-framed glass types, although the stained-glass fanlights over those doorways are intact. The east door has been replaced with a contemporary metal door; the rectangular stained-glass transom is intact. The exterior doors in the addition appear to be from the period of construction – metal with geometric glazing in the upper halves. Contemporary poured concrete steps have replaced the original steps at the two main south entrances. The addition's south entry has been updated with poured concrete steps and ramp, for universal access.

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As is typical of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, windows are deep set and of various sizes, shapes, and placements. Most window openings have heavy stone lintels and sills. The most prominent windows are three large round stained-glass windows, on each in wall gables on the south, east and west facades. Single, one-over-one, wood framed sashes at the first and second floors on the south, east and west facades also typically contain stained glass; some of the east side windows contain textured opaque glass instead. On the north facade, these windows are all plain glass. Trios of round-arched louvered openings perforate the south and east facades at the attic. Tall, narrow rectangular openings emphasize the height of the southeast tower. Basement windows are typically rectangular wood framed sashes, covered on the exterior with screens for security. All of the stained-glass windows are original to the 1909 construction and provide additional ornamentation and color.

The 1948 addition is a rectangular, two-story plus full basement wing which extends east-west from the west wall of the original building. It continues the masonry character of the original building but with a lighter sensibility, achieved with larger window openings and simpler, less weighty massing. While the addition continues some of the materials used in the original building, it is more Modern in style. The addition blends into the back of the lot, subservient to the original building.

A poured, reinforced concrete foundation supports a similar structure capped with a flat roof. The addition uses the same rough-faced stone for some of its cladding on the south facade but there are also smooth wall sections. Concrete masonry units (CMU) resembling bricks clad the west end and rear north walls. Windows are all multi-lite, metal-framed types, typically either fixed or with a single operable lite. Along the south facade at the west end, the addition has a large bay window, at both stories.

Interior

The interior of the original (1909) building is taken up mostly by the sanctuary and its associated spaces. These occupy the entire eastern portion of the building on the first floor. The rest of the original building contains a library/conference room and classrooms, west of the sanctuary at the first floor. The basement, only partially excavated for a boiler room before 1958, now contains multi-purpose rooms and a bridal room, for wedding events. The 1948 addition contains offices, classrooms, and fellowship related spaces. Interior finishes vary by space. Most of the floor treatments are contemporary, such as replaced carpeting. Many historic doors, original to both the 1909 and 1948 portions, are intact.

The two original south entrances both access the narthex, or the vestibule at the back of the sanctuary. A central aisle stretches north-south the length of the sanctuary, terminating at the chancel, which contains the pulpit, organ, piano dais, and choir area. The sanctuary is an open volume, with a balcony providing extra seating and overlooking the space from the south end. All of the windows in the narthex and sanctuary are stained glass, and the interior framing features faux grain painted finishes. Glulam trusses were added to the sanctuary ceiling in 1958. Walls in the sanctuary are simple painted stucco, as seen in historic views, but the chancel walls and ceiling feature decorative millwork from a 1963 renovation. Floor treatment in the sanctuary is contemporary carpeting. The chancel's vinyl floor tiles appear to date from 1958.

A corridor extends north-south along the east side of the sanctuary, accessing the east entry, the organ lofts, the rear of the chancel, and connects to the east-west corridor along the north wall of the sanctuary. This north corridor contains the relocated 1958 baptistry, directly behind the center of the chancel. Continuing west past the baptistry leads into the first floor library and conference room, at the northwest corner of the sanctuary.

A corridor also leads directly west from the sanctuary. On the south side of this corridor, stairwells lead down to the basement and up to the second floor of the 1909 building. The corridor continues into the 1948 addition, with the large church parlor to the north, offices to the south, and classrooms to the west. Another set of stairs at the southwest corner leads up, where a similar east-west corridor connects the 1909 and 1948 portions. Classrooms and children's activity rooms are located along the north and south sides of the addition.

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In the 1948 basement, the fellowship hall dominates most of the square footage. This large open space has a finished concrete floor and walls except for the pine wood paneling at the stage area, to the east. A large industrial kitchen with period cabinetry is located south of the fellowship hall.

Under the 1909 building, there was only a partial basement (boiler room) until the 1958 renovations. At that time, the basement was fully excavated and finished. Another kitchen, with midcentury appliances and finishes, occupies the north east corner of the basement. The rest of the spaces under the 1909 building are multi-purpose rooms with minimal or non-historic finishes.

Restrooms are located on all floors, with various ages of fixtures and finishes. Several have stained-glass windows. Additional stairwells connect the narthex to the basement, the balcony, and the second floor rooms.

Alterations

1948: Educational (west) wing added, known as the Annex, measuring approximately 50 by 57 feet in plan and rising two stories plus full basement. This concrete and stone addition has a flat roof with asphalt/composition "hot mop" roofing. The interior originally included new offices for the pastor, church administration, multi-purpose rooms for Sunday School and other church-related activities, a nursery, a large open parlor on the main floor, a large fellowship hall and industrial kitchen in the basement, and multiple restrooms.

1958: Interior remodeling of sanctuary. Baptistry relocated from within sanctuary floor to the corridor north of chancel. Balcony removed and rebuilt in new configuration. Library and conference room spaces created on the main floor, due west of the sanctuary.

1963: Interior remodeling of sanctuary, notably the addition of decorative woodwork in the chancel along the walls and ceiling.

Ca. 1974: New front steps, new glass exterior doors along south facade. Gutters replaced.

1977: \$14,000 interior renovation of library, conference room and kitchen west of sanctuary. Kitchen reduced to kitchenette.

1979: \$3,000 interior remodeling of select paneling and cabinets.

1981: Reroofing of the addition. Hot mop with finish coat of asphalt.

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Significance

Built in 1909, the former First Baptist Church at 515 East Yakima Avenue is a highly visible and architecturally distinct building in downtown Yakima, Washington. Representing the work of a local Yakima architect, Newton C. Gauntt, the building is eligible to be listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for reflecting the growth of Yakima and the city's religious life, as well as Criteria C for architecture, at the local level of significance. Under Criteria A, the nominated property is associated with two important periods of development, 1883 to 1920 and 1940 to 1965, in the history of the City of Yakima. Transportation connections and development of agricultural lands through irrigation projects contributed to Yakima's early development. The city expanded and modernized during the second period of development. The church's original portion dates to the first period, when Yakima experienced its most dramatic population growth as well as the build out of the downtown. The 1948 addition and the interior renovations in 1958 and 1963 all reflect the city's second population and development boom. Under Criteria C, the building embodies the characteristics of early twentieth century church construction in central Washington.

Yakima 1883 to 1920

When it incorporated in 1883 with a population of 400, Yakima City already boasted two newspapers and numerous buildings. After the Northern Pacific Railroad established a station four miles to the northwest, the buildings and people of Yakima City relocated to be closer to the station. The new settlement, dubbed North Yakima, dropped the "North" from its name in ca. 1918. The former location of Yakima City is present-day Union Gap.¹

The first train arrived at North Yakima in December, 1884. Railroad connections initially brought increased settlement and business to the region. By 1890, the city had a population of 1,535, and by 1892, the business district boasted 62 stores and office buildings. Despite the national economic setback in 1893, North Yakima hosted the first State Fair that year.² The population of the city grew rapidly, doubling to 3,154 in 1900 and surging to 14,082 in 1910 – a 350% increase from 1900 to 1910. In 1907 and 1908, the city continued to improve its infrastructure by laying cement sidewalks and paving the most important business streets with brick. Street grading work began at the Northern Pacific depot and spread east through the business district, including the portion of Yakima Avenue where the nominated property is located.³ Irrigation projects, such as the start of the Sunnyside Project in 1905 and other federal efforts, attracted farmers and agriculture related industries, such as canneries and processing plants. Solid, permanent masonry buildings such as the First Baptist Church (1909), other early churches (see Architectural Comparison section), and multiple commercial buildings reflected not only local building materials but also the general optimism and confidence that Yakima had a bright future. Growth slowed after 1910 but the city continued to attract between 3,000 and 5,000 new residents every decade through 1940.⁴

Construction of residences and commercial buildings had to keep pace to accommodate population growth. By 1920, Yakima's commercial business district was built out and its land use pattern was established. Blocks of dense commercial development and industrial warehouses defined downtown with residential districts to the north, east and south.⁵

The federal irrigation and reservoir projects of the early 1900s led to larger-scale efforts in the 1930s. That decade marked the start of the New Deal and particularly the Columbia Basin Project, which created a total of five dams (eg, Grand Coulee and Bonneville) plus irrigation canals and storage lakes. Bonneville Dam, completed in 1938,

¹ (Corning 1950), 301.

² (Corning 1950), 301. Population figure courtesy of Washington State Office of Financial Management.

³ (Construction Work On Street Paving to Be Begun This Week 1908)

⁴ (Washington State Office of Financial Management n.d.). The 1950 city population totaled 38,486. After 1950, the city's population resumed a slower growth rate, typically adding between about three to five thousand people per decade.

⁵ Historic boundaries for the core business district were Sixth Street to the east, Walnut Street to the south, Fifth Avenue to the west, and D Street to the north. 2005 Yakima Downtown Survey, Artifacts Consulting, from files of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

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provided irrigation for farms in central Washington, including the Yakima Valley, and a regional electricity source. These dams impacted residential, commercial, transportation, and other development aspects for Yakima, the region, and the state in general.⁶

First Baptist Church

All of Yakima's early churches are located in the downtown core. First Baptist Church has been a prominent, highly visible landmark along the city's main east-west thoroughfare since the building's completion in 1909. Most of the churches, including First Baptist, date from downtown Yakima's first important period of development (1883-1920). First Baptist Church is the fourth oldest, after St. Michael's Episcopal Church (1889), St. Joseph's Catholic Church (1905), and First Christian Church (1907, now Yakima Vineyard Church). Many other churches and social/civic halls followed in the 1910s.

In 1890, Reverend A. M. Allyn, assistant general missionary for eastern Washington, helped organize the First Baptist Church of North Yakima (present-day Yakima) with nine charter members. Before building their first church in 1892, the congregation used various temporary meeting places around town, including the hall over the Pioneer Drug Store, the Central School building, and a courtroom in the county courthouse, for their services, prayer meetings, and Sunday school classes. Their first regular pastor, Reverend Charles H. Davis, began his tenure with the congregation in January, 1891. Shortly after Reverend Davis arrived in 1891, the congregation purchased land for the first church, built in 1892.⁷ The nine charter members were: J. H. Needham, Miss Sadie Needham, Mrs. William Lee, Sr., Albert Fulkerson, Mrs. Piny, Mrs. Frink, Miss May McDermid, G. M. McKinney, and Mrs. McKinney.⁸

After raising funds to buy land and erect a wood frame building, the congregation moved into their first permanent church in 1892. Located on North 4th Street, two blocks west of the nominated property, the 1892 church quickly became insufficient to house the growing congregation. Under Reverend F. O. Lamoreaux, in 1906 the church began planning a new, larger building and hired architect Newton C. Gauntt to design it.⁹ In April, 1906 Gauntt had finished the church plans and received approval from the building committee, with slight changes requested.¹⁰ However, the building project languished while the 1892 church became increasingly inadequate to seat the growing congregation.

In January, 1907 the congregation totaled 347, having increased by more than 100 members since the end of 1904. To alleviate the crowding and expand their facilities, the congregation raised \$15,000 towards the new building (final cost of the building came to \$52,709). Under the guidance of Reverend F. C. Whitney, they purchased the lot for the nominated property on the northwest corner of East Yakima Avenue and North 6th Street.¹¹ In November, 1907 workers broke ground for the foundation.¹² The local firm of Thacker and Smith received the construction contract, for \$26,182 (exclusive of heating, plumbing, painting, cement work and glazing).¹³ D. L. Thacker and S. Grant Smith had only recently formed a general contractor and jobbing firm in Yakima, and the First Baptist Church represented the firm's first major commission.¹⁴ Thacker and Smith also built the Standard Oil Company plant on North Front Street (Yakima), as well as furniture for one of the rooms of the Yakima County Building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition of 1909, specifically the Gentlemen's Lounging Room.¹⁵

In May, 1908 the cornerstone was laid and construction progressed. As part of the cornerstone laying event, the church held an evening vesper service with the men's chorus and several speakers. Reverend A. M. Allyn, one of

⁶ (Artifacts Consulting, Inc. 2015).

⁷ (Baptists Raise Over \$20,000 At Services Held In New Building 1909).

⁸ (Baptists Raise Over \$20,000 At Services Held In New Building 1909).

⁹ (Cornerstone Services 1908).

¹⁰ (Baptists Are Ready To Build, 1906).

¹¹ (First Baptist Church, 1990), 3-6.

¹² (First Baptist Church, 1990).

¹³ (Washington State News 1908).

¹⁴ (Strange Coincidence - Thacker and Smith Have One Happen at Their Offices, 1908).

¹⁵ (The Yakima Herald, 1908); (Furniture Will Be Made in This City, 1909).

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the early ministers for the First Baptist congregation in Yakima, delivered an address along with Reverend F. C. Whitney. The deacons set the cornerstone in place. Mrs. Bob Frayne donated the stone to the church.¹⁶

On January 10, 1909 the congregation held the official building dedication. Two services, one in the morning and one in the evening, marked the occasion. Professor Harry Sharpe played a prelude on the pipe organ at both services. Reverend Whitney, the pastor who had taken up the goal of building a new church building from his predecessor Reverend Lamoreaux, presided at both services along with several former pastors.¹⁷ Deacon B. F. Barge, chairman of the building committee, and the Ladies' Aid Society had greatly assisted with the construction, particularly in raising funds.¹⁸ On the dedication day, the congregation raised more than \$20,000 to satisfy the construction debt. Several constituents pledged \$1000 each, a great sum at the time. Total funds raised that day totaled \$21,356, slightly more than the \$20,000 owed. Some of the donors, including O. A. Fechter, were not among the 468 members and did not attend the church – they were simply guests at the dedication service. Mrs. S. C. McKinney read a history of the church at the evening dedication. She was one of three surviving 1890 charter members of the original nine.¹⁹

On the dedication day, the church's membership totaled 468, about 3.3% of the 1910 city population.²⁰ In January, 1909, the same month as the dedication of First Baptist Church, there were 45 church buildings in Yakima County. Approximately one-third of them were in North Yakima (present-day Yakima). Many congregations then had no permanent building of their own and instead used schools for their church services and Bible study, especially in rural areas.²¹ The quality of First Baptist's construction and its central location illustrate the importance of its congregation to the city's development. The previous (1892) church was removed between 1909 and 1920.²²

Newton C. Gauntt, Architect

A transplant from the Midwest, Newton C. Gauntt is not a well-known architect yet he designed numerous significant buildings in Washington, Oregon and Montana in the early twentieth century. Some of his best known extant projects are the Douglas County Courthouse (1905, listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, local level) in Waterville and the First Baptist Church in Yakima. Most of his buildings have been demolished. Receiving some acclaim for his school and house designs in the Midwest, he primarily designed schools and courthouses after moving west to Washington in circa 1905.

There is little known about Gauntt's background, if he had any formal education or training as an architect. Yet, he understood the needs of his clients and the principles of construction, lighting, and ventilation along with popular architectural styles. He had a working knowledge of construction from his carpenter father. Although most of his buildings do not survive, historic photos show that he favored masonry materials (except for his house designs) and styles such as Gothic Revival, Flemish Revival, and basic elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, especially broad, round-arched entryways.

Born in 1862, Newton C. Gauntt grew up in Illinois. In 1900, he and his family resided on a farm near Paris, Illinois.²³ By that time, he had already begun his long career as a school designer with a school for Ellsworth, Indiana (1898).²⁴ In 1902, *National Builder* magazine published a Queen Anne style house design by Gauntt, titled "The Rosalie." At that time, Gauntt practiced architecture in Chicago.²⁵ Several other house designs followed in 1903 through 1905, all in the Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles.²⁶

¹⁶ (Cornerstone Services 1908).

¹⁷ (First Baptists To Dedicate Sunday 1909).

¹⁸ (Cornerstone Services 1908).

¹⁹ (Baptists Raise Over \$20,000 At Services Held In New Building, 1909).

²⁰ Population data courtesy of the Washington State Office of Financial Management.

²¹ (Rose 1909), 43.

²² (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company 1905-1952).

²³ U.S. Census, 1900.

²⁴ (Houser, 2015).

²⁵ (The Rosalie 1902).

²⁶ (Houser 2015).

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Between 1902 and 1905, he relocated with his wife and children to Washington State. By September, 1905, Gauntt had a project in the Winchester area, yet he made his home in Yakima, where his family stayed.²⁷ He had an office in Yakima from about 1905 through at least 1909, adding a Seattle office in circa 1906 and buying a 60-acre ranch and orchard near Selah in 1907.²⁸ Despite his purchase of the Selah ranch, he maintained a residence in Yakima between 1905 and at least 1909.²⁹ Although he was omitted from the earlier Polk directories' classified sections as an architect, he does appear in the 1909 volume's business section, along with nine other architects or architectural firms. That year, he worked out of his home, 6 Twelfth Avenue North.

In circa 1912, he either moved to Oregon or traveled there frequently because of numerous school commissions there. In 1914, Newton C. Gauntt received at least three copyrighted designs - for a method of fireproof construction and two for school related heat and ventilation.³⁰ His last known designs came in the early 1920s, after which he presumably retired. In the 1930 US Census, Newton Gauntt self-identified his occupation as carpenter, not architect.³¹ He passed away at age 76 in November, 1938 in Yakima and is buried along with his family in the Tahoma Cemetery there.³²

Gauntt is best known as a school designer with an interest in improved lighting and ventilation. The state superintendents of Indiana and Illinois published one of his designs as an example of an ideal school, year unknown. At the St. Louis Exposition of 1904, the State of Illinois made and exhibited a model of one of his school buildings as the "model school of the State," because officials there found children had decreased need for wearing eyeglasses if they attended classes in a properly lighted school room.³³

After relocating to Washington, Gauntt created plans for many more schools. By March, 1906, Gauntt had created plans for a new high school in Kennewick, Washington for the school board. The contractors' bid announced the building would be of stone and brick or stone and wood, according to the architect's design.³⁴ In early 1907, Gauntt also conferred with the school board of Prosser.³⁵ His school designs continued with four built around Yakima (all demolished) and one in Seattle, specifically Whittier Elementary School #1 (completed 1908, demolished 1998) in Ballard.³⁶ The Yakima area schools included: North Yakima High School (1909, demolished in late 1970s); Barge Grade School (by 1909); Lincoln Grade School (by 1909), and the Wide Hollow rural school (by 1909).³⁷ By June, 1910, he had drawn up plans for a high school in La Grande, Oregon.³⁸ More Oregon schools followed, the last known one being the Hawthorne-Buckman School (1921) near Portland. That same year, 1921, his Oakville High School was also finished in Washington (believed demolished).

His known courthouse designs extend through Washington and Montana. These include the Douglas County Courthouse (1905), the Yakima County Courthouse (1906, demolished ca. 1960), the Fergus County Courthouse (1908, status unknown) in Lewistown, Montana.³⁹ In 1909, he was one of several contenders to design a proposed new county courthouse for Montesano (then part of Chehalis County, now within Grays Harbor County).⁴⁰ He added to his courthouse resume with an addition to the Washington County Courthouse (1913) in Hillsboro, Oregon, and later in his career he designed the Wahkiakum County Courthouse (1921) in Cathlamet, Washington.

²⁷ (Winchester Notes 1905).

²⁸ (Houser, 2015); (Buys Big Ranch, 1907).

²⁹ In 1905-1906, he boarded at 11 Ahtanum Avenue. Polk directories list his home as the "end of Browne Ave" in 1908 and as 6 Twelfth Avenue North in 1909.

³⁰ (Library of Congress 1914), 196.

³¹ (Michelson 2015), <http://pcad.lib.washington.edu/person/4094/>.

³² (Records 1938), <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Record/View/280F7126882709E9C0EF6BE2F415A118>.

³³ (Wilhelm, The North Yakima High School 1909).

³⁴ (Notice to Contractors 1906).

³⁵ (Prosser Notes 1907).

³⁶ (Michelson 2015).

³⁷ (Wilhelm 1909), 41.

³⁸ (School Board Journal 1910).

³⁹ Gauntt preferred imported brick over native stone for that courthouse, in contrast to his tendency to use stone, at least in part. (Sievert, 1999).

⁴⁰ (At The County Seat, 1909).

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Another commission in Lewistown, Montana represents the only known commercial building by Gauntt. The four-story Empire business building there, designed in 1907, was to have been built in 1908 at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Main Street, a prominent feature in that city's downtown.⁴¹ Some of his other projects included the Yakima YMCA Building (1908) and adding a story to a Yakima hotel owned by E. M. Ford in 1905.⁴²

Yakima 1940 to 1965

The development of the surrounding areas kept downtown Yakima alive and changing. The city's second important period of development (1940 to 1965) started as a result of the Columbia Basin Project and the New Deal projects in general. The period ends in 1965 when the city's post-war population growth, new construction, and architectural modernization tapers off. The 1940 to 1965 period brought modernization of existing buildings and new, modern ones typical of the era.

With the electrification and large-scale irrigation of the New Deal and the Columbia Basin Project in particular, the Yakima area welcomed more business, such as fruit dehydrating plants, vinegar factories, and frozen food processors. By 1950, approximately 600,000 acres of former desert in the surrounding region had come under irrigation, becoming productive agricultural land for orchards, vegetables, hops, hay, sugar beets, and more.⁴³ Yakima had a municipal airport and a vocational school, the J. M. Perry Institute, by the early 1940s.⁴⁴ By at least 1950, the city also had a new Greyhound Bus station, two railroad stations (Northern Pacific, Union Pacific), eight hotels plus 24 motor courts, and at least six movie theaters.⁴⁵ In general, the city grew westward after World War II, in the late 1940s and 1950s.⁴⁶

Between 1940 and 1950, the city's population surged, adding more than 11,000 residents. This pattern occurred statewide but to a greater degree in Yakima. While the 1940 to 1950 period saw one of the state's biggest population spikes, at 37%, the population growth in Yakima during that same period reached 41%.⁴⁷ Statewide, this growth is largely attributed to the influx of industrial workers during the war and the baby boom which followed the war's end. In Yakima, the wave of new settlers and community expansion continued through the 1950s but essentially ended in 1965. After 1950, the city's growth slowed, growing only by 12.5% between 1950 and 1960 and by even smaller margins in the following decades.

Yakima had become the commercial center of Central Washington by the 1950s. However, it no longer relied on the agricultural industry. It had diversified and become a regional retail and professional services center, providing a closer alternative for central Washington residents than Seattle or Spokane. To accommodate modern needs and changing styles in the post-war era, many of Yakima's commercial buildings underwent facade changes (usually at the storefront level) in the 1950s and 1960s. Typically, original storefronts were replaced with aluminum storefront systems and new cladding was installed.⁴⁸

New buildings from the post-war era were largely in place by 1965. Examples include the start of the Nob Hill Plaza and the Montgomery Ward Company store (1964), the new county courthouse (1964-1965), expansion of the Chinook Hotel in the early 1960s, two new public schools in 1960-1961 (Whitney Elementary, Wilson Junior High), and many new downtown commercial buildings. The state finished the first section of Interstate 82 in 1962. Yakima has continued to add more buildings over time but not at the same rapid pace of the two development periods.

⁴¹ (Of Local Interest 1907).

⁴² (Houser, 2015).

⁴³ (Corning 1950), 299-301.

⁴⁴ (Yakima Herald Republic 2005).

⁴⁵ (Corning 1950), 299-300.

⁴⁶ (Woodbridge 1980), 376.

⁴⁷ Washington's population grew by between 11% and 21% for other decennial periods between 1930 and 1980. Incidentally, between 1940 and 1950, Yakima County grew by 37%, the same as the statewide average. (Washington State Office of Financial Management n.d.).

⁴⁸ (Artifacts Consulting, Inc. 2006), 11-12.

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1948 to 1963 Alterations

As was true of other buildings across the city, First Baptist's addition and interior renovations between 1948 and 1963 represent a time when many existing buildings were modified and updated to stay current with their owners' needs as well as shifts in aesthetic preferences across the country. In terms of the First Baptist Church, the 1948 addition signifies a growth in membership and a consolidation of functions into one location. The interior updates in 1958 and 1963 added basement and sanctuary space, added midcentury decorative and lighting elements, and generally modernized the building for the comfort and changing needs of the congregation.

In 1948, the congregation added a \$90,000 educational wing to the west, officially dedicated in the spring of 1949.⁴⁹ Its significance is associated with the congregation's growth and expansion. Previously, the Sunday School and youth groups had to meet in a separate building, for lack of space in the original church. The 1948 addition added the Fellowship Hall, the large basement kitchen, and two floors of classrooms and nursery space, where parents could hand over noisy babies while attending church services. The firm of Frederick V. Lockman designed the 1948 addition.

In 1958, interior renovations by prominent Yakima architect John S. Villesvik expanded the sanctuary, relocated the baptistry to its current location, created the library and conference room west of the sanctuary (later remodeled again), and excavated and finished additional basement spaces. The former (round) balcony was removed and the current one added. With these alterations, the remodeled sanctuary could seat 665 people.⁵⁰ These renovations are excellent representations of the work of one of Yakima's most prolific and prestigious midcentury architects. John S. Villesvik's firm shaped Yakima's built environment like few others (see below for more information on Villesvik).

In 1963, the Yakima architectural firm of Cowan and Paddock refined the chancel, at the front of the sanctuary. They added the custom wood grillework to the walls and ceiling, giving the space a uniquely midcentury flare while displaying church symbology, specifically crosses, repeated in symmetrical patterns. The 1963 decorative work is the last significant and contributing alteration to the building.

Frederick V. Lockman, Architect

Born in Wisconsin but raised in Seattle, Frederick V. Lockman received his architectural degree from the University of Washington in 1920. After working for others and obtaining his architectural license, he started his own firm in 1925. During the 1930s and 1940s, when private commissions were scarce, he went to work for federal agencies, specifically the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. After the end of World War II, he restarted his private practice with an emphasis on church or other religious property commissions and consultations. Lockman belonged to the Church Architectural Guild of America, with numerous church designs around Washington State.⁵¹

John S. Villesvik, Architect

John S. Villesvik's firm designed the 1958 interior renovations to the First Baptist Church. Born in 1905 in Bagley, Minnesota, John Storm Villesvik spent his childhood in Spokane and Tacoma. He attended the University of Washington, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Architecture in 1929. After graduation, Villesvik worked for Bebb and Gould, one of Seattle's most prestigious architecture firms of the last century. While working as a draftsman for them, Villesvik won the lead design role at the firm for the Everett Public Library (1933-1934).⁵² When he relocated to Yakima, he went to work for prominent architect John Maloney.⁵³ After Maloney opened a Seattle office in 1943,

⁴⁹ Groundbreaking for the addition was July 19, 1948. (unknown 1984), handwritten copy in church archives, courtesy of Roger Wilson. Also, (Anderson 1949). The addition is believed to have been completed in 1948, despite the delayed dedication the following year.

⁵⁰ (Sugden 1965).

⁵¹ (Houser, 2012).

⁵² (Michelson 2015), Villesvik.

⁵³ (Artifacts Consulting, Inc. 2015).

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Villesvik started his own firm in Yakima in April 1945, to focus on the Yakima Valley.⁵⁴ Villesvik's experience with Maloney attracted commissions and his firm quickly grew. Villesvik's firm designed a range of projects, from residential to educational, civic to commercial. Some of these included: the Schreiner Title Company (1951), the Yakima Airport (1953), the Fred and Elizabeth Young House (1954, National Register listed), several schools for the Yakima School District (mid-1950s), St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (1957), the Yakima Valley Museum (1958), the Main Yakima Library (1959), and an addition to the Yakima County Courthouse (1962).⁵⁵ Villesvik retired in 1972 and passed away on July 16, 1993. Besides the Young House, Villesvik's firm also designed houses for local professionals and business leaders. Maurice R. Smith joined the firm in the 1940s but attained associate status in 1957.⁵⁶ It is not known the amount of design input from Smith, or others at the firm for that matter, in any of these projects nor in the 1958 interior remodeling of First Baptist Church.

Cowan, Paddock and Hollingbery, Architects

These three mid-century architects represented the premiere young, progressive design talent in central Washington in the mid-twentieth century. Two of them, Cowan and Paddock, grew up in Yakima, studied at the University of Washington (and Yale, in Cowan's case), and returned to Yakima for their careers. Hollingbery, a Californian, studied and settled down in eastern Washington before joining the other two in professional practice. All three men worked together in various combinations in the 1950s and 1960s: Cowan and Paddock, 1956 – 1962; Cowan, Paddock and Hollingbery, 1962 – 1966; Paddock and Hollingbery continued their firm without Cowan when the latter left for Seattle in 1967. Paddock and Hollingbery maintained their partnership through at least 1987.⁵⁷ Although Hollingbery joined Cowan and Paddock in 1962, the 1963 renovation drawings for First Baptist Church in Yakima only show Cowan and Paddock's names. It is unclear if Hollingbery had any involvement in that project.

James Douglas Cowan, born in Yakima in 1920, studied at the University of Washington from 1938 to 1940 before serving in the U. S. Navy during World War II. After the war's end, he finished his Bachelor of Architecture degree at Yale University, graduating in 1947. That same year, he returned to Yakima and went to work for noted local architect John W. Maloney as a draftsman and designer. In 1951, while with Maloney's firm, Cowan received his own architectural license from the State of Washington. He also joined the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), presumably around that time, as did Paddock. Cowan graduated from Naches High School and attended Yakima Valley Junior College for one year prior to the University of Washington. He formed a partnership with Paddock in Yakima and later added Hollingbery. Cowan and Paddock specialized in "business, school, and institutional projects."⁵⁸ After Cowan and his wife Ruth relocated to Seattle in 1967, he became executive director of the Washington State Council of Architects, an AIA organization. In 1977, the AIA named James Cowan a Fellow. While in Seattle, he worked for McKinley Associates, Richardson Associates, and as vice president and manager of planning and design for Seafirst National Bank. Even after retiring in 1985, Cowan continued his own architectural consulting business until his health declined. He passed away in Seattle in 1999.⁵⁹

Born in 1919, William Edward Paddock also hailed from Yakima. After graduating from Yakima High School in 1938, he attended the University of Washington (UW) with Cowan. Paddock graduated from the UW with his Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1943. During World War II, he served as an Air Engineer in the U. S. Air Force. Like Cowan, he returned to Yakima and worked as a draftsman for John W. Maloney from 1947 to 1948. In 1948, Paddock advanced to the level of designer and co-manager with Maloney's firm. Paddock received his Washington State architectural license in 1952. In 1956, Paddock formed a partnership with James Cowan with offices in the Larson Building in downtown Yakima. That partnership lasted through 1962, when the duo added Donald Hollingbery as a partner.⁶⁰ Paddock passed away in 2002.

⁵⁴ (Christiansen 2007).

⁵⁵ (Artifacts Consulting, Inc. 2015), also National Register Nomination for Young House by Christiansen.

⁵⁶ (Christiansen 2007).

⁵⁷ (Paddock, William Edward 1970); also, drawing index for firm, courtesy of Michael Houser, State Architectural Historian, Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Olympia, WA.

⁵⁸ (Obituary for James Douglas and Ruth Moulton Cowan 1999).

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ (American Institute of Architects, 1970).

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Born in 1924 in San Francisco, Donald Ross Hollingbery, Sr. studied architecture at Washington State College. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architectural Engineering in 1948 after serving in the U. S. Naval Reserve during World War II. He operated his own solo practice from 1952 to 1962 in Moses Lake, when he joined Cowan and Paddock as a new partner. Prior to that, he worked on several commercial buildings in Moses Lake (e.g., the J. C. Penney Company store in 1953 and the Sears & Weisfields building in 1956), the Grant County Courthouse in Ephrata (1954), and an unknown project at Wanapum Village (1960) in Grant County, Washington. Donald Hollingbery, Sr. passed away in 2003 in Yakima. One of his children, Don Hollingbery, Jr. also became an architect.

Cowan and Paddock worked primarily in central and eastern Washington between circa 1956 and 1962. Two of their earliest projects were the Yakima Federal Savings and Loan building (1958) and an addition to Nob Hill School in Yakima (ca. 1958).⁶¹ In 1958-1959, the duo designed and supervised construction of a family housing project for Larson Air Force Base near Moses Lake, Washington.⁶² They also designed school buildings in Prosser, Colville, and at Yakima Valley Junior College between 1960 and 1961. One of the duo's largest projects was a men's dormitory complex at Central Washington College in Ellensburg. Completed in 1960, Stephen S. Whitney Hall consisted of six three-story buildings, with student housing units arranged around office and lounge spaces.⁶³

The firm of Cowan, Paddock and Hollingbery had the following known projects in central and eastern Washington in the 1960s: Big Bend Community College Campus (1963) in Moses Lake; Washington State University (WSU) Irrigation Experiment Lab building (1964), Prosser; Centennial Yakima Banking Center, Bank of Washington (1968); and, Physical Education Building (1969) at WSU, Pullman. The last two may have been Paddock and Hollingbery, potentially with design input from Cowan prior to his departure from the firm. All three men did work for Yakima Valley College between 1957 and 1969.

Architectural Style – Richardsonian Romanesque

The First Baptist Church of Yakima is an excellent regional example of the Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, a popular mode for church construction in the late 19th and early 20th century across the country. Masonry communicates permanence, and heavy stone construction, a hallmark of this style, is seen on other late 19th and early 20th century buildings in the Yakima Valley. However, First Baptist is one of the most intact and best representatives. The style is derived from European Romanesque architecture.

Elsewhere in the country, Richardsonian Romanesque appears on buildings from about 1870, and on churches in particular from about 1880. The style arrived a bit later to the Pacific Northwest. From about 1900, the Richardsonian Romanesque style became one of several which were popular regionally for courthouses, libraries, churches, and other public buildings. The style, along with its typical masonry construction, conveys permanence, stability, and sturdy elegance.

Richardsonian Romanesque is characterized by heavy stone construction, massive low arches, short columns, and narrow yet emphasized arched openings such as arcades and windows. Highly textured exterior walls, solid volumes balanced with asymmetrical composition, projecting and recessed elements, and round-arched windows and doorways are typical characteristics. The Richardsonian Romanesque aspect of the building is expressed through the rough-faced stone walls, the round arched entryways, and the heavy massing. The square tower of First Baptist is another common feature, although East Coast examples would usually have a much taller tower.

⁶¹ (Paddock, William E. 1962); also, (Pacific Architect and Builder 1958), 35.

⁶² (U. S. Government Accountability Office 1961), <http://www.gao.gov/products/454666#mt=e-report>.

⁶³ (Project Preview 1959), courtesy of architect files, Michael Houser, Washington State Architectural Historian.

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