

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **APR - 6 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem

and/or common First United Methodist Church of Salem

2. Location

street & number 600 State Street N/A not for publication

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of 5th Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First United Methodist Church of Salem

street & number 600 State Street

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Clerk's Office, Marion County Courthouse

street & number 148 High Street N.E.

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97301

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Between 1871 and 1878, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem, incorporated in 1869, erected its substantial, brick masonry church in the Gothic Revival Style at the southeast corner of Church and State Streets in the capital city of Oregon. The building site initially encompassed the west half of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 71 of the Plat of Salem and was formerly occupied by the original Methodist Church, a 40 by 60-foot wood building in the Classic Revival Style with louvered belfry which had been erected in 1852 and dedicated early in 1853. The building site is assumed to have passed to the church through an unrecorded agreement from former Methodist missionary, William H. Willson. Willson was financial agent for the Oregon Institute, a Methodist educational enterprise which became Willamette University, and owner of the land claim on which the town was platted in 1850. Title to the church site was formally conveyed by Willson and his wife to the trustees of the first society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1856. By a quit claim deed recorded in 1877, title subsequently was transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem.¹ When the site was cleared and prepared for new construction in 1870, the old church was moved to a lot acquired on the block to the west, where it remained for many years, first serving as an interim church, then filling various secular uses.²

As completed in 1878, the brick Gothic Revival church with its lofty wood belfry and spire measured approximately 66 by 107 feet in plan and was oriented with its longitudinal axis north to south. Its principal facade faced north onto State Street and overlooked the westerly end of a linear park known as Willson Avenue. The park was a block deep and several blocks long, anchored at the west end by the Marion County Courthouse (1872-1873) and at the east end by the Statehouse (1873-1876). In 1902, the third in a series of government buildings--the United States Post Office--was erected in the square directly opposite the Methodist Church. The importance of the Methodist Church as an element in the landscape surrounding and supporting the town square and its public buildings scarcely can be exaggerated. While each of the historic administrative buildings of county, state and federal governments in Salem has been replaced by a second generation of buildings dating from the 1930s to the 1950s, the feeling of a town square continues in part because of the Methodist Church which defines its southerly edge. It must be mentioned, also, that the church lies in close proximity to the campus of Willamette University, the Methodist institution which gave impetus to the platting of the townsite. University Hall, later named Waller Hall, the first permanent building on the Willamette campus, completed in 1867, is two blocks east of the church.

The church was enlarged as its congregation grew and additional property was acquired to the south and east. In 1935, the parsonage of 1876, which had been adapted as a Sunday school, and a temporary Sunday School Annex of the 1920s were replaced by a three-story, brick Sunday School Temple, a harmonious 50 by 103-foot rear wing at a right angle to the main axis of the church. In 1967, the parsonage of 1911 on the east side of the church was razed to make room for the Educational and Office Addition, which was built at a right angle to the axis of the 1935 wing. The annex thus forms a U-shaped configuration in the center of which is a garden court. The spire-topped church completed in 1878 remains the dominant feature despite the evolutionary development of the property.

Following is a description of the church in its several stages of development and renovation from 1871 to the present.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

In May, 1871, Salem and Portland newspapers reported that plans for the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem were being prepared by Cass Chapman, "the celebrated church architect," who was expected to design a building in the style of Trinity Church in Chicago. Chapman's plans were received from Chicago in July. They called for a brick building in the Gothic Revival Style with a ground plan measuring 78 by 120 feet, a spire reaching a height of 208 feet, and a single major entrance in the principal facade with a wheel window above. The estimated cost of construction based on Chapman's plans and specifications was \$50,000.³ The building committee demurred. While Chapman evidently was paid for his plans in the amount of \$225 in 1876, the plans were not acceptable to the committee without modification.⁴ Chapman's specifications, written at 160 Washington Street in Chicago, remain a part of church records, but his plans and drawings disappeared long ago and have not come to light since.

The church building committee set the limit of cost at \$30,000 and announced that a building based on a modification of the plans sent from Chicago would be erected. Plan modifications were to be ordered from Portland and, apparently, consisted of reduction in scale by one-eighth overall.⁵ The cornerstone was laid in October, 1871, but the ground story was not enclosed until December of 1872.⁶ While the church suffered through financial difficulty and lengthy lapses in construction, the old church which had been moved across the street to the west was used by the congregation. Finally, the commodious lecture hall in the ground story of the new church was dedicated on January 3, 1875, and the church was officially opened for use.⁷

Under the pastorate of the Reverend F. P. Tower, the building program was pushed to completion. A parsonage was built behind the church, at the south end of the property, facing Church Street. The second story, or auditorium level of the church was enclosed by December, 1876.⁸ However, it was not until April, 1877, that the building committee authorized its chairman to engage an architect to "complete the plans" for finishing the church.⁹ Wilbur F. Boothby, a sash and door manufacturer and contractor who was involved in many of the important building projects of the day in Salem, was engaged as architect. Boothby's specifications supplemented those provided by Cass Chapman in 1871 and concentrated on the belfry and spire, and exterior and interior finish work. O. F. Denis, of Salem, was awarded the general construction contract, and work moved forward rapidly. Formal dedication services were held on March 17, 1878.¹⁰ Even though the church was characterized as being among the finest and most commodious church edifices in the state, having an auditorium with excellent acoustical properties and seating for as many as 600, the windows remained unglazed and boarded against the weather for a time, and the spire was not yet constructed. In April, 1878, the contract for construction of the spire was awarded to R. F. Denham of Salem, and all exterior work was completed by the end of that year.¹¹

Completion of the church in 1878 was followed in the 1880s by an upswing in church membership and the beginning of a protracted but successful effort to retire the debt for construction. By 1890, the congregation numbered 462, and several hundred scholars were enrolled in the Sunday school.¹² Throughout the remainder of the 19th Century, the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem was a prosperous and progressive church.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

Externally, the original volume of the church has changed little since its completion in 1878. The ground plan measures approximately 66 by 107 feet and is oriented with its longitudinal axis north to south. The main gable roof is bisected by cross-axial, gable-roofed sections projecting from east and west walls near the mid-point. The effect of the cruciform plan would be more pronounced were it not for the stair towers on either side of the vestibule. The tower at the northwest, or street corner is larger in plan and taller in elevation than that at the northeast corner. It is surmounted by a pinnacled and louvered belfry story with gables, and by a spire, the cross termination of which reaches a height of 185 feet above grade. The spire remains one of the prominent elements in the Salem skyline even today. The pinnacles, or finials were cedar, bolted down with iron rods. The belfry and spire were framed and sheathed with yellow fir. In addition, the spire was clad with diamond pointed cedar shingles. The spire was repaired and reclad with asbestos shingles in the comprehensive renovation of 1951-1953, and it was further reconditioned in 1958.¹³ It was in 1952 that the original cross termination was replaced by a four-arm cross of cast aluminum. The spire was damaged in a storm in 1981, and the resulting dry rot in the wood framing was treated by total replacement of the framing. Exterior trim was patched where necessary and replaced. Cladding of asbestos diamond patterned shingles was replaced in kind. The reconstructed, ten-ton spire was lifted into place in three sections by Jensen-Ritchie Construction Company in September, 1982. The cast aluminum cross finial produced in 1952 was reused as the terminal element.

The major horizontal division of the church between ground and second stories is marked on the exterior by a string course. All outer corners of the building are trimmed at either angle with buttresses, the splays of which were clad with painted tin, as were the belfry deck and the tops of belfry gables. Typical window arch heads are pointed and framed with drip moldings. Major openings in east and west walls of the sanctuary are tripartite in arrangement. Colored and leaded glass is typical, and while the source of the glass is uncertain, the clear glass used in the ground story was reported to have been produced in San Francisco.¹⁴ According to church tradition, the wheel window was installed by William Cunningham, a farmer from Canada, who had been trained as a mason. The upper walls abutting the eaves are decorated with blind arcades of corbelled brick. All exterior trim is brick or wood. At the apex of each of the four primary gables is a chimney-like turret with corbelled top. Those atop either side gable served as ventilating shafts. The primary gables have raking cornices and plain brick corbel tables. Inset trefoils ornament the gables of the north facade. The north, or principal facade is organized, in the tradition of Gothic church architecture, as a tripartite composition in which the central section is flanked by major and minor towers. The central section is dominated by a wheel window which lights the auditorium from the balcony level. The entrance apparently departed from Cass Chapman's plans in that it consists of a pair of pointed arch portals with splayed jambs and buttresses surmounted by steep gables with cross finials. Because none of the original plans or elevation drawings have come to light, it is impossible to know what Cass Chapman specified for an entrance, but it was, apparently, a single portal. Possibly it was to have had a decorated archivolt and a trumeau, or central support in the medieval tradition. The modification may have owed to

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 4

the construction and occupation of the church in two stages, beginning with the ground story lecture hall.

The church rests on a stone foundation. The brick walls are load-bearing, but the auditorium floor was supported by two rows of three iron columns dividing the space longitudinally into three aisles. The balcony is similarly supported by iron columns.

The ground floor plan consisted of a vestibule, with dog-leg stairways on either side, and the lecture hall, which was entered through a central, double-leaf door. It was this "basement" area, entirely above ground, which was the first part of the church used by the congregation. It measured 66 feet deep and roughly 60 feet wide and had an original ceiling height of 13 feet. Upon its completion in 1875, it was finished with wood grained in imitation of light oak.¹⁵ The room back of the lecture hall corresponding to the chancel of the auditorium above, measured 19 by 42 feet, originally, and has for many years been used as a kitchen. Excepting the spire, the latest renovation work in the church was carried out in the lecture hall in 1980-1981. Robert Sherman of the Salem firm of Carkin and Sherman redesigned the space for use as a flexible dining and meeting room. The northernmost pair of columns had been enclosed in a remodelling of the vestibule in the 1950s. The four which remained free-standing were boxed with octagonal casings of oak, and all wood trim in the room was refinished to match. The center of the ceiling was lowered for mechanical systems and indirect lighting and to improve acoustical quality. Carpeting was laid wall-to-wall. Paired, pointed arch windows in the east wall were cut down to grade level and fully trimmed as doorways to give access to the garden court outside.

The second floor plan corresponds to that of the first in vestibule and stairway space at the north end. The auditorium is a lofty space with balcony organized on a straight-forward axial plan. The balcony, on the north wall, has a curvilinear profile and railing. It is supported by three iron columns. The chancel is at the south end. Natural light is provided by stained glass windows including, most dramatically, the wheel window at the top of the north wall and the major windows of tripartite composition in east and west walls. The ceiling is a modified groin vault, and all ceiling and wall surfaces are finished with plaster. The chancel, though remodeled in the 1950s, still displays its original tripartite division by a major, central ogee arch flanked by minor ogee arches. The "clustered" columns supporting the arches have Corinthian capitals and are still exposed, although painted. A historic view of the chancel end of the auditorium taken in 1905 shows that the pulpit platform and communion rail were bowed, and that the pews were arranged response in a semi-circular configuration. The pipe organ which was displayed in the central recess of the chancel, above the choir gallery, was new in that year and was the second pipe organ installed in the church. When the auditorium was dedicated in March of 1878, Salem's First Methodist Episcopal Church was reported to be the only Methodist church in the state with a pipe organ.¹⁶

The auditorium walls and ceilings were embellished with stenciled decoration at an early date. The stencil work is shown in the historic interior view of 1905. The auditorium was lighted by a 25-light gaslight chandelier installed in 1894.¹⁷ The church was first wired for electric lighting in 1914, and the second pipe organ, installed in 1905, was remodeled in 1916.¹⁸ The first major redecoration of the auditorium occurred in 1926, at

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

the same time the first re-roofing of the building in 48 years was undertaken. While the nature of the auditorium redecoration is unknown, the work was extensive enough to require holding services in the basement lecture hall in the interim.¹⁹ Possibly the existing hanging brass lanterns date from this period.

The Post War Era brought increased membership and a climate for tasteful modernization. The peak membership in the history of the church, 1,686 persons, was recorded in 1950. It was in 1950 also that prominent Portland architect Glenn Stanton was engaged to survey the building's needs and code requirements. In the absence of original plans and drawings, Stanton's office measured the building and produced floor plans and elevation drawings of which only reduced copies now exist in church records. These nonetheless constitute an important record of the state of the church in 1950, prior to interior remodeling. Between 1951 and 1953, \$307,787 was expended on improvements designed by Stanton and carried out by Salem contractor E. E. Batterman.²⁰ A Crusade Committee solicited funds, and exterior work was undertaken first. Exterior face brick was cleaned, repointed and waterproofed; fire escapes were added, and, in addition to the steeple repairs already described, further re-roofing was carried out. But the impact of Stanton's work was most visible in the interior. Heating and ventilating systems were overhauled. An elevator was installed in the chancel area, and new, curvilinear steel stairs to the sanctuary and balcony were added and finished with paneled wood casings, railings with turned balusters and wood top rails and carpeting.

A major undertaking of the Post War work was redecoration of the auditorium, which followed the then fashionable trend toward a more liturgical setting. The chancel was remodeled to include a new organ, side choir stalls, pulpit and lectern, and an altar with dossal and an artificially-lighted rose window above. The work also encompassed new lighting, floor covering, and new pews. Despite the extent of this work, the spatial integrity of the auditorium was maintained, as were the triple arches of the chancel, although the side spaces were filled in with wood paneling to provide choir room space.

Finally, the two major additions to the church undertaken in 1935 and 1967, respectively, must be described briefly. By 1910, Sunday school enrollment had grown to 815 and the first step for a separate Sunday school facility was taken when temporary accommodations were rented for the pastor and the parsonage built in back of the church in 1876 was adapted as a primary department and renamed Epworth Hall.²¹ In 1910 the acquisition of a 49-foot lot adjoining the east property line was approved, and Salem architect Fred A. Legge was engaged to provide plans for a new parsonage, which was completed in 1911.²² As early as 1910, the church had thought of razing the old parsonage and constructing a three-story brick Sunday school annex, but the plan could not be realized until 25 years later.²³ In the meantime, an interim plan was carried into effect by construction of a temporary Sunday School Annex adjacent to the old parsonage about 1925.²⁴

In 1927, the necessary additional land was acquired for expansion, and in 1930 the congregation voted, despite the deepening Depression, to build its permanent church school temple on five-year financial plan.²⁵ In 1935, the funds were subscribed and

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 6

Epworth Hall and the Sunday School Annex were torn down. The cornerstone of the new wing was laid on June 30, and the dedication was observed early in November of the same year.²⁶ The new three-story wing, having a basement below grade and first and second stories, measured approximately 50 by 103 feet and was oriented with its longitudinal axis west to east, at a right angle to that of the church. Its west entrance end was essentially flush with the west wall of the church, and the wing extended some 30 feet or so beyond the church at the east end. Virtually nothing is known of architects F. T. Weber and J. G. Wilson except it was they who produced a harmonious design which matched exterior materials and details of the church precisely. The contract for construction of the Sunday School Temple, or south wing, was awarded to Albert A. Siewert of Salem.

In the years following the Second World War, even before debt for the church renovation of 1951-1953 was retired, need for yet more Sunday school and office space was identified. The congregation of First Church affirmed its commitment to the maintenance of its downtown location when a parsonage was acquired off the site in the residential neighborhood on Fairmount Hill in 1961.²⁷ This cleared the way for subsequent construction of the Educational and Office Addition, or east wing. In February, 1967, the parsonage of 1911 was razed, and the new wing was constructed according to plans furnished by Salem architect Donald Richardson and was opened for use in October of that year.²⁸ The east wing, consisting of a basement and two stories joined at a right angle to the south wing, is somewhat independent, stylistically, though it is faced with brick and its front end, set back respectfully from the facade plane of the church, echoes a Gothic tripartite composition. The gable roof of the central projecting entrance section in the north, or front wall of the newest wing, is displayed against a modified mansard roof. Narrow, mullioned openings of the two-story wing are stacked in recessed panels topped by small, gable-like elements reminiscent of wall dormers. The Educational and Office wing is constructed of reinforced concrete and has a ground plan measuring approximately 50 by 115 feet. It makes of the whole a U-shaped configuration, the center of which is a garden court. The parking strip on the west, or Church Street side of the property, at least, traditionally has been planted with street trees. On the north, or front property line is a mature maple furnished by the City in recent years as part of a comprehensive street tree planting program for State Street. Along Church Street columnar European hornbeams were planted by the City in 1965 to replace 30-year old English holly trees which had begun to interfere with utilities. The earliest known view of the church, an engraving of c. 1878-1880, shows deciduous street trees on the Church Street elevation.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 7

- ¹Oliphant, J. Orin and May C. Oliphant, The First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon (Salem: First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oreogn, 1974), 25.
- ²Ibid., p. 41.
- ³Ibid., p. 42.
- ⁴Ibid., p. 49.
- ⁵Ibid., p. 42.
- ⁶Ibid., p. 43-44. The Reverend Alvin F. Waller, former Pastor of the First Methodist Church and the agent who raised funds for construction of University Hall (1864-1867) on the Willamette campus, was elected managing agent for church construction but died in the course of supervising enclosure of the ground story.
- ⁷Ibid., p. 46.
- ⁸Ibid., p. 50.
- ⁹Ibid.
- ¹⁰Ibid., p. 51.
- ¹¹Ibid., p. 54. According to one tradition, the spire may not have been entirely complete until 1880. Certainly in 1880 the church underwent repairs to stop leaks. In November of that year the south wall was given a "thorough dressing", which consisted of puttying and two heavy coats of paint and sand. Ibid., p. 56.
- ¹²Ibid., p. 56.
- ¹³Ibid., p. 123, 136.
- ¹⁴Ibid., p. 48.
- ¹⁵Ibid.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 8

¹⁶Ibid., p. 53.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 72.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 89-90.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 100-101.

²⁰Ibid., p. 127-128.

²¹Ibid., p. 83.

²²Ibid.

²³Ibid., p. 84.

²⁴Ibid., p. 94-95.

²⁵Ibid., p. 96.

²⁶Ibid., p. 99.

²⁷Ibid., p. 139.

²⁸Ibid., p. 141.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1871-1878 **Builder/Architect** Cass Chapman, Chicago, Architect and W. F. Boothby, Salem

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem, in the capital city of Oregon, is a pivotal landmark facing the elongated town square occupied by county, state and federal government buildings. Its location at the intersection of Church and State Streets is symbolically apt. The church was built between 1871 and 1878 from plans supplied by Chicago architect Cass Chapman and reduced in scale by one eighth. Salem contractor and architect Wilbur F. Boothby was engaged in 1877 to prepare plans and supervise completion of the final stages of construction. With its modified cruciform plan, its multiplicity of gables, buttresses, pointed arch openings, and its pinnacled belfry and spire, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic Revival Style. The sizable brick church was enlarged by two major additions in 1935 and in 1967 in response to growth of the congregation and diversification of the ministry. Major renovation work was carried out from 1951 to 1953, and while the chancel was altered substantially, the auditorium is spatially intact. The evolutionary development of the property reflects a vigorous and progressive downtown church which has occupied the same prominent corner site since 1852. Salem was settled in 1841 by members of the Methodist Mission in Oregon and was platted in 1850. Proceeds from the sale of lots in the townsite supported the Methodists' Oregon Institute, the educational enterprise which became Willamette University. While the present church is successor to the original Methodist Church on the site, it is nonetheless rooted through its congregation to the beginnings of Salem and to the beginnings of Methodism in Oregon. In addition to its historical associations, the church is significant to the city and state as a well-maintained and relatively rare example of its architectural type possessing integrity of location, setting, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship. It is now the only church building in Salem antedating 1880 and its spire is one of the very few tall Gothic Revival spires remaining in Oregon.

The significance of the First Methodist Church as an element in the landscape of the capital city has been discussed in the previous section which describes the property in detail. Little is known about Chicago architect Cass Chapman, who provided the original plans upon which construction was based, except that he evidently had gained a reputation as a church architect. Because Methodist national headquarters historically have been in New York it is not likely that Chapman had an official connection with the Methodist Church. Of Wilbur Boothby, who supervised the final stages of construction, somewhat more is known.

Wilbur F. Boothby (1840-?), architect and contractor of prominence in Salem in the 1870s and early 1880s, was a native of Linnington, Maine, where he was raised on his father's farm. Sources conflict with regard to some of the details of Boothby's early career, but one account claims he commenced learning the carpenter's trade at the age of 16 and that upon his arrival in California in the early 1860s, he engaged in contracting for building houses and stores among other enterprises.¹ He also may have worked in a sawmill.² In 1864, Boothby moved to Oregon, settled in Salem, and was directed by Alvin F. Waller, former pastor of the Methodist Church, to a local sash and door factory for employment. After serving as foreman in Jones and Reed's factory for about a year, Boothby bought his own sash and door factory in partnership with others. Boothby and Stapleton operated their business for several years, occasionally "drafting a house of some importance."³ In 1870, Boothby and others contracted for construction of the city waterworks, and Boothby became

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.57 acres (less than one)

Quadrangle name Salem East, Oregon

Quadrangle scale :24000

UTM References

A

1	0	4	9	7	3	2	0	4	9	7	5	9	6	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Foster and Eunice Winslow with assistance of Elisabeth Walton Potter, SHPO, and Professor Marion Dean Ross, University of Oregon History and Records Committee

organization First United Methodist Church of Salem date December 8, 1982

street & number 600 State Street telephone 503/364-6709

city or town Salem state Oregon 97301

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

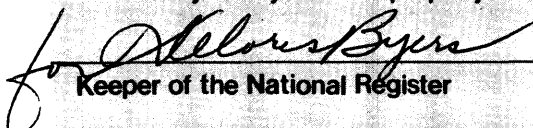
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date March 30, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/9/83

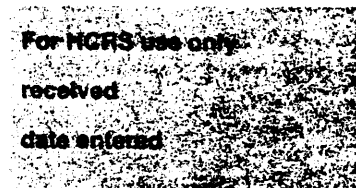
Attest:

date

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**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

first president of the Salem waterworks. He also served on the common council. In 1872-1873, Boothby erected the Marion County Courthouse from plans by Portland architect W. W. Piper and thereby established his reputation as a leading contractor in the capital city. He also worked on the State Penitentiary (1872) and the Statehouse (1873-1876). During the time he was engaged as architect by the Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem, Boothby completed the Italianate house of pioneer newspaperman and banker Asahel Bush (1824-1913). The Bush House (1877-1878) is Salem's most widely known historic house museum. It was in 1879, according to one source, that Boothby disposed of his interest in the sash and door factory and shortly afterwards opened an architect's office.⁴ From 1880 to 1883 he was engaged as supervising architect and superintendent of construction for the State Insane Asylum in Salem, a project of major scope. Much as he had done for the Methodist Church, in the case of the Asylum Boothby assumed charge of several plans submitted by other architects and adapted them to a plan of his own. He is said to have retired from the practice of architecture in 1886, after which he supported his family through his substantial real estate holdings in Salem.⁵ The date of Boothby's death is as yet unknown.

The First Methodist Church of Salem is significant to the state also as an embodiment of church organization which had its beginnings in Oregon in the Methodist Mission founded in 1834 by the Reverend Jason Lee (1803-1845). The importance of the Methodist Mission in Oregon was not just that it was the first among several missions to the Indians in the Pacific Northwest, nor that it was at its height in 1841 the largest single foreign missionary enterprise to have been launched from the United States. The primary purpose of the mission under Jason Lee was to convert the native population to Methodism, and toward that end, satellite stations were set up throughout the region--at Nisqually on Puget Sound, Clatsop Plains on the coast, and The Dalles on the Columbia River. While some tentative success was realized among the Indians of the middle Columbia at "Wascopam", the Methodists eventually were discouraged in their proselytizing efforts among the scattered and decimated tribes of the Willamette Valley, where the base of their operations was laid.

Two major reinforcements of funds, equipment and personnel were raised before the mission was dissolved in 1844--ten years after its founding. Secular departments, including mills, farms and a store used by the settler community, had been established to sustain the enterprise. With the last of the reinforcements, arriving from New York in 1840, there were 68 men, women and children connected with the Oregon Mission, all of them supported by the New York-based Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. As part of the optimistic plan for expansion and outreach, the principal station was moved to Chemeketa Plain, the place which became Salem, where a stream allowed for the construction and operation of a grist mill and saw mill. The mill, Jason Lee's dwelling place, the Indian Manual Labor Training School, and the parsonage for Gustavus Hines, preacher-in-charge of the Willamette Station and director of the Indian School, were the first buildings erected in Salem and were among the most imposing in pre-Territorial Oregon.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 3

Returning to the United States in 1838, Jason Lee toured the western border states and the Eastern Conferences to inspire support for the mission and encourage emigration. With a petition from Willamette Valley settlers, he memorialized Congress on the need for government protection of the rights of United States citizens in the far Northwest, which was, since the Treaty of Ghent, occupied jointly by the United States and Great Britain. Members of the Methodist mission were instrumental in the organization of the Provisional Government of Oregon, which operated from 1843 until Oregon became a Territory of the United States in 1848. At Salem, in 1842, members of the mission founded the Oregon Institute, the first institution of higher education west of the Rocky Mountains. It was chartered as Willamette University by the Territorial Legislature in 1853. While their primary Christian mission may have failed, the Methodist missionaries played a role of utmost importance in the settlement and orderly development of the Oregon Country. Those who stayed in Salem upon the dissolution of the mission in 1844 were leaders of the Methodist Church from which the present congregation is descended. The list of early pastors is headed by the Reverend David Leslie and the Reverend Gustavus Hines, both of whom had been prominent members of the mission.

The Methodist Church in Salem was organized by the missionaries, including Jason Lee, at an early date--presumably in the summer of 1841, and is, therefore, the oldest Methodist church organization in the region.⁶ However, the distinction of having erected the first Methodist church edifice in Oregon belongs to Oregon City. The Reverend Alvin F. Waller (1808-1872), a native of Pennsylvania, was a member of the "great reinforcement" of the Oregon Mission of 1840. Upon his arrival he was assigned to the mission station at the Falls of the Willamette (Oregon City), where in the fall of 1842 he initiated a public subscription campaign to finance construction of a church. Thought to be the first Protestant church erected anywhere on the Pacific Coast, its construction was commenced in 1843 and it was dedicated in 1844. By the time the church at Oregon City was opened for use, Waller had been rotated to "Wascopam", the station at the "Dalles" of the Columbia. Waller became Pastor of the Methodist Church in Salem from 1848 to 1852 and was instrumental in obtaining the Territorial charter for Willamette University, successor to the Methodists' Oregon Institute. University Hall (1864-1867), the first permanent building of the University, was renamed Waller Hall in 1912 to honor the agent who had raised funds to cover the building's construction. In 1872, Waller was elected managing agent for construction of the new First Methodist Church in Salem. He died in the course of supervising enclosure of the ground story.

As was recounted in the previous section, the original Methodist church edifice in Salem was erected in 1852 and dedicated in 1853. It was located on the site of the present church, on Block 71 of the Plat of Salem, at the corner of Church and State Streets. Of wood construction in the Classic Revival Style, it measured 40 by 60 feet in plan and it had an octagonal louvered belfry. The building site is assumed to have passed to the church through an unrecorded agreement from former Methodist missionary, William H. Willson, financial agent for the Oregon Institute and owner of the land claim on which the town was platted in 1850. It was in 1853 that the first member of the Methodist Episcopacy arrived in Oregon. When Bishop Edward R. Ames created three districts in that

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

year, Methodists in Salem and throughout the Oregon Territory became an integral part of the connection of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In response to the first stirrings of church development by groups representing other parts of the Methodist division, the church was incorporated under the name of "First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem" in 1869.⁷ When the church site was cleared and prepared for construction of a new church of brick in 1870, the old church was moved to a lot acquired on the block to the west of Church Street, where it remained for many years, first serving as an interim church, then filling various secular uses.

The old Classic Revival church of 1852-1853 had embodied the development of Methodism in Salem from the mission period to full connection in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In its place, the splendid new Gothic Revival church of brick, completed in 1878, was an apt reflection of the vigorous and progressive church which the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Salem had become by the closing years of the 19th Century. By 1910, it was recognized as one of the major churches in the Oregon Annual Conference with 980 members.⁸ It remained strong despite the admission of other Salem churches to the Conference. South Salem Methodist Church (formerly Salem Mission Church and later re-named Leslie Memorial Church) received an appointment in 1894. Jason Lee Memorial Methodist Church was opened in North Salem in 1912. Methodist churches were established in other sections of town as time went on.

Enlarged and expanded by additions of 1935 and 1967, "First Church" has continued to serve a growing congregation and church school, Willamette University, and the changing needs of the community and the ministry to the present day. Following the 1939 Declaration of Union by the Uniting Conference of three related denominations--the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, the downtown church became known as the First Methodist Church of Salem. It was in 1968 that the current style, First United Methodist Church of Salem, was adopted in response to the Uniting Conference which merged the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.⁹

Because it is descended from the first Methodist church organized in the Oregon Country, the First United Methodist Church of Salem enjoys special stature in the Oregon-Idaho Conference today. It is host to the annual meetings of the Conference three out of every four years. The church enjoys equivalent stature in the community. Not only is it a landmark in the urban center, it has been the setting of innumerable social and public service events throughout the years.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page 5

¹Hodgkin, Frank E., and Galvin, J. J., Pen Pictures of Representative Men of Oregon (Portland: Farmer and Dairyman Publishing House, 1882), 151.

²Gaston, Joseph, The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912, Vol. IV (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912), 1060.

³Hodgkin, p. 151.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Gaston, p. 1060.

⁶Oliphant, J. Orin and May C. Oliphant, The First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon (Salem: First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon, 1974), 9.

⁷Ibid., p. 38.

⁸Ibid., p. 82. The peak membership in the history of the church, 1,686 persons, was recorded in 1950. Ibid., p. 106.

⁹Ibid., p. 147.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

1

Oliphant, J. Orin and May C. Oliphant, The First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon (Salem: First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon, 1974).

Hodgkin, Frank E., and Galvin, J. J., Pen Pictures of Representative Men of Oregon (Portland: Farmer and Dairyman Publishing House, 1882), 151-152. Note on W. F. Boothby.

Gaston, Joseph, The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912, Vol. IV (Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1912), 1059-1060. Note on Salem architect and contractor Wilbur F. Boothby.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

The First United Methodist Church of Salem is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 27, T.7S., R.3W. of the Willamette Meridian in Salem, Marion County, Oregon. It occupies a fraction of Lot 6 and Lots 7 and 8 of Block 71 of the Original Plat of Salem. The property is more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of Lot 8, Block 71 of the Plat of Salem, thence southwesterly along the east edge of Church Street 159 feet, thence southeasterly along the north edge of an alleyway 157.06 feet, thence northeasterly in a line parallel with Church Street 159 feet, thence northwesterly along the south edge of State Street 157.06 feet to the point of beginning, containing in all 24,972.54 square feet, or 0.57 acres, more or less.