

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 26 1986  
date entered MAR 27 1986

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

1. Name

historic Payson Presbyterian Church

and/or common Payson Bible Church

2. Location

street & number 160 S. Main \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Payson \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Utah code 049 county Utah code 049

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" 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 United Missionary Fellowship

street & number P.O. Box 21-4095

city, town Sacramento \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state California

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number Center Street and University Avenue

city, town Provo \_\_\_\_\_ state Utah

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1973 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Utah State Historical Society

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Payson Presbyterian Church, constructed in 1882, is a one-story Gothic Revival brick building with a rectangular plan and a steeply pitched gable roof with a bell tower. Despite a few minor alterations, the building retains its historical integrity.

Evidence of the building's Gothic Revival style is found in the use of pointed arches over the windows and door and in the decorative bargeboards on the gable end of the facade. Also located on the front gable are a circular window and a decorative corbeled brick belt course which arches over the window and door openings. All elevations of the building are symmetrically composed, with four evenly spaced windows on each side and a central doorway flanked by two windows on the facade. The bell tower, located at the peak of the front gable, is an original feature. The building rests on a stone foundation.

Alterations made to the church over the years are minor and do not significantly affect the building's integrity. The most noticeable change is the small one-story frame addition on the rear which was built sometime after 1930. The front doorway has been altered slightly by the replacement of the original door with the existing modern one (n.d.) and by the removal of what was probably a window or transom above that door; the opening itself has not been altered, however. The only alteration of note on the interior is the addition of a small, enclosed entrance vestibule.

There is one other building located on the property, a one-story brick "education building" situated just south of the church building. Since it was built in the 1970s it does not contribute to the significance of this property.

Total number of contributing buildings: 1

Total number of noncontributing buildings: 1

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1882 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1882, the Payson Presbyterian Church is historically significant as one of approximately ten remaining Presbyterian churches built in Utah as part of the church's missionary program among the Mormons during the late nineteenth century. The Payson Presbyterian Church, which was the first Protestant church built in Payson, served for over 25 years as both a school and church, making it one of the longest-lived of the approximately 20 church/schools operated by the Presbyterians. The Presbyterian Church was one of several Protestant denominations which operated day schools as an important part of their missionary work among the Mormons in Utah. Though those facilities were not successful at winning converts, they were effective in providing some of the highest quality education available in Utah prior to the establishment of a publically funded school system in the 1890s. The Payson Presbyterian Church is also architecturally significant as one of the best examples, if not the only example, of the Gothic Revival style in Payson. Though an architectural survey of Payson has not yet been completed, it is known that there are relatively few examples of the Gothic Revival style in the community. The Gothic Revival style was a popular choice for small Protestant churches throughout the state, though it was not common for Mormon churches built during the same period.

The Payson Presbyterian Church is one of a number of Protestant churches constructed in Utah during the 1870s-90s, the period of most concentrated and active missionary work by Protestants among the Mormons. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) were the first permanent settlers in the Utah territory in 1847, and it was not until after the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869 that other religious denominations began establishing permanent footholds in the region. Evangelical Protestant sects, such as the Baptists, Congregationalists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, were especially active in their efforts to proselytize Mormons. The Mormon practice of polygamy was viewed with particular concern by these churches. Protestant missionary work, which reached virtually every community in Utah, was focused around the operation of Sunday Schools for religious instruction and the establishment of day schools for secular studies.

Though their efforts were relatively unsuccessful at winning converts from Mormonism, the schooling that they provided was an important phase in the development of a public school system in Utah. These Protestant schools were often superior to those run by Mormons, so they attracted significant numbers of Mormon children as well as the children of non-Mormons and apostates. As a reaction to the Protestant schools and academies, the Mormon church began establishing its own academies for the education of Mormon youth. The passage of a public school bill in 1890, which provided for the public funding of

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Spanish Fork, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	2	4	3	7	5	8	0	4	4	3	1	7	1	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Commencing at the SE corner of Lot 1, Block 17, Plat A, Payson, Utah, thence W 181.5 feet, N 9.25 rods, E 181.5 feet, S 9.25 rods to beginning.

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state		code	county		code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger Roper/Historian  
organization Utah State Historical Society date December 1985  
street & number 300 Rio Grande telephone (801) 533-6017  
city or town Salt Lake City state Utah

# 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 A. Kent Powell

title A. Kent Powell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 22, 1986

### For NPS use only

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

James M. McPherson  
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/27/86

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Other factors also contributed to the decline in the activity of Protestant sects in Utah during the 1890s. The Depression of 1893 caused a significant decrease in the contributions from the East, which had funded virtually all of the missionary activities in Utah. The evangelical zeal of the missionary work among the Mormons was tempered by changing philosophies within the churches and by the growing Americanization of Mormons, as polygamy was dropped and statehood was achieved. Lack of success at gaining converts in Utah also led to the decline of missionary activity in the state.<sup>1</sup>

The activities and growth of the Presbyterian Church in Utah were similar to those of the other evangelical Protestant sects. In 1870 their first church was dedicated in Corrine, a railroad town near Ogden, and in 1874 the Presbytery of Utah was organized.<sup>2</sup> The Presbyterians had two churches, eight ministers, and no schools or teachers in 1875. Four years later they counted eight churches, ten ministers, and eleven schools with fifteen teachers and eight hundred day students.<sup>3</sup> Eventually, over forty schools were established by the Presbyterian Church in Utah, all of which were associated with church activities as well.<sup>4</sup> Accommodations for their activities were usually rented during the early years, then, if the community showed promise, they would sometimes erect a chapel of their own. Nine of those chapels are known to be extant.<sup>5</sup> Academies were built in Parowan, Logan, Mt. Pleasant, and Springville to provide high school-level education for students from the day schools. Of those academies only Wasatch Academy in Mt. Pleasant has continued in operation to the present. The college-level institution, Westminster College in Salt Lake City, is also still functioning, though it is no longer operated by the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian school system is credited with providing schooling for over 50,000 students and with educating many of the leaders of the Territory and State of Utah.<sup>6</sup>

Presbyterian missionary activity in Payson began in the summer of 1877 when the Rev. George W. Leonard, based in nearby Springville, secured a hall and began weekly preaching services and a Sabbath school. That fall Mrs. J.A. Frazer opened a day school in the hall, known as Charlie Long's or Independence Hall, because it had been built in 1876. By 1881 the day school counted 45 pupils, the Sabbath school, 39. The Home Mission Board concluded that the time had come to authorize a resident minister. It was not at all clear, however, that he could be situated there. Long's Hall had been obtained only because the owner was a Mormon apostate. A three day search in the town of 3,000 failed to discover quarters available to the new minister, J.A. Livingston Smith, and his family. Smith finally prevailed upon Long to allow him to partition off a corner of the dance hall for living quarters. He occupied this makeshift residence for over a year until John Challis, a disaffected Mormon living in Wyoming, sold the church an attractively sited lot for \$500. In 1882 Smith supervised and participated in the erection of a church and parsonage on that site (the parsonage was demolished in 1967). The combined cost of the buildings was \$3625. The Reverend Smith and his family moved into the seven-room parsonage on October 24, 1882, and the women teachers of the school moved into the spare rooms of house at the same time.

On November, 2, 1882, Reverend Smith dedicated the new chapel. The Rocky Mountain Christian Advocate recorded the event as follows.

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"On the 2d inst. a new church was dedicated at Payson. The edifice is said to be one of the neatest and handsomest in Utah; it is built of brick, has gothic windows, and is divided into two departments by hoisting partitions, and will be used for church and school purposes. By the side of the church is a pleasant and convenient parsonage just finished. Rev. J.A. Smith, the pastor, is to be congratulated upon his success in pushing this enterprise to completion."<sup>7</sup>

Moveable partitions became a popular feature in Protestant chapels throughout Utah after their introduction in 1879 in the Springville Presbyterian Church.<sup>8</sup> By dividing the chapel into sections, partitions made the buildings much more functional for classroom activities for both the day school and the Sunday School. In the Payson Presbyterian Church the beginning grades of the school were taught in one half of the building and the advanced grades in the other.<sup>9</sup> The Sunday School was probably similarly divided. Those partitions were removed from the building in later years.

Though the "beautiful belfry" on the chapel was part of its original construction, the "elegant 600 pound bell" was not installed until at least a year later. The reason for the delay was strictly financial--someone had not fulfilled their contribution pledge.<sup>10</sup>

The Payson Presbyterian Church was not the only Protestant church and school in Payson during the nineteenth century, though it was the most successful. Iliff Academy, established in 1890 by the Methodist Church, served as both a church and school for several years during the 1890s. After being left vacant for a number of years, the building was purchased from the church in 1915 and converted into a residence.<sup>11</sup>

The Payson Presbyterian Church served as both a school and church in the community from 1883 until 1910. Thereafter and for the next sixty years it was used only for church services and functions of the local Presbyterian congregation. In 1971 the chapel was sold to its current owners, the United Missionary Fellowship, which has operated the Payson Bible Church in the building to the present.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Edgar Lyon, Evangelical Protestant Missionary Activities in Mormon

Dominated Areas: 1865-1900, pp. 128-131.

<sup>2</sup>Theodore D. and Marian E. Martin, Presbyterian Work in Utah, 1869-1969 (Salt Lake City, Wheelwright Lithography Co., 1971), pp. 3-4.

<sup>3</sup>General Assembly Minutes, pp. 586-594, May 1879, Synod of Utah Minutes, Vol. 1.

<sup>4</sup>Presbyterian chapels which have been identified in Utah are located in American Fork, Ferron, Manti, Monroe, Salina, Springville, Kaysville, Payson, and Richfield. The first six are listed in the National Register

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<sup>5</sup>Lyon, p. 91

<sup>6</sup>Lyon, p. 133.

<sup>7</sup>Rocky Mountain Christian Advocate, Volume 7:11 (November 1882), p. 4.

<sup>8</sup>Lyon, p. 98-99.

<sup>9</sup>Madoline Cloward Dixon, Peteetneet Town, A History of Payson, p. 247.

<sup>10</sup>The Earnest Worker, Volume 1:2 (October 1883), p. 2.

<sup>11</sup>Dixon, p. 31.

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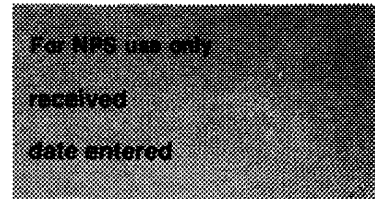
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