

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME
Historic Longview Community Church

and/or Common N.A.

2. LOCATION
Street & Number 2323 Washington Way
UTM References: Kelso, WA-OR Scale: 1:24,000
Zone 10 Easting 503980
Northing 5108740
- not for publication

City, Town Longview - vicinity of

State Washington County Cowlitz

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Longview Community Church, c/o Bill Dowell, Member, Board of Directors

Street & Number 2323 Washington Way

City, Town Longview - vicinity of State Washington

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Communitarian. 25th Anniversary Issue. Longview Community Church. October, 1948.
pp. 1-6.
McClelland, Jr., John M., R.A. Long's Planned City, The Story of Longview.
Bicentennial Addition. Longview. Longview Publishing Co. 1976.
Piper, Jane, (Daughter of Rev. E. H. Gebert). Personal Interview. Longview.
March, 1985.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprentice

Organization City of Longview Date March 28, 1985
Urban Services & Permits

Street & Number 1525 Broadway Telephone 577-3330

City or Town Longview State Washington

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

The Longview Community Church is set in grounds fronting Lake Sacajawea Park and Kessler Boulevard to the west and Washington Way to the north. The grounds retain many original plantings, including the oak trees along Washington Way, elm trees along Kessler and shrubs along the sanctuary foundation. The sanctuary is a basilican, Latin cross plan, with a corner bell tower and side entry porches. The roof form is gabled, with a transept crossing intersecting the nave roof. The nave is five bays in length, before reaching the transept and chancel. Nave walls are buttressed with clerestory windows and low, shed roofed, side aisles. The church is built on a slightly raised, lighted basement.

The perimeter walls are constructed of concrete, with steel trusses carrying the wood purlins of the roof. The exterior walls are faced in a buff colored brick, laid up in running bond. Architectural details, such as copings, sills, mouldings and quoining are constructed of terra cotta tile of a similar color. The interior walls are plaster, with wood detailing. The plaster vaulting of the nave is hung from the steel roof trusses.

Verbal boundary description:

City Lots # 15,16,17,18,
Block #213, Longview
Addtn.#8, 290' X 340'

Acreage: 2 acres

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates	1925-1926	Builder/Architect	Clearman / H. L. Copeland
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Level of significance: local

a. History

The Longview Community Church was established October 14, 1923, in the Community House, following services by Rev. E. H. Gebert, a Methodist minister from Tacoma, Washington. A call was made to Rev. Gebert, who accepted and whose ministry served the church for its first 36 years. The congregation continued to meet in the temporary wood frame Community House for nine months, until the Longview Community Center was completed, when the church began meeting in its auditorium.

In a response to letters from Long-Bell's General Western Manager, S. M. Morris and Rev. Gebert, Robert A. Long proposed in May, 1924 to give \$5,000 toward the building of an interdenominational church, if the congregation could raise \$40,000 by July of 1924. The congregation could not, but eventually Mr. Long donated \$25,000 to the

b. Evaluation of Significance

The Longview Community Church is significant to Longview as one of the most developed examples of the Gothic Revival in the city. Architect H. L. Copeland was active in commercial and residential design during the city's settlement period. The church is historically important as Longview's first church, funded partially by the benevolence of Robert A. Long the city's founder. The board of directors of the church were community leaders, many of whom were executives or employees of the Long-Bell Lumber Company, which developed the planned industrial city of Longview. The non-denominational community-oriented church is an important feature of Longview's planning and cultural history. The church retains the essential integrity of its interior and exterior, at its location chosen by R. A. Long, fronting Washington Way and Lake Sacajawea Park.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Longview Community Church

7. DESCRIPTION - continued

A dominant window type, featured in the transept and clerestories, is the Tudor arched opening trimmed with tile hood mouldings and sills. The great transept and nave end windows are recessed with continuous, ribbed archivolt springing from the sills. The side aisle windows are segmentally arched, with rectilinear wood tracery, which is similar to the more vertical clerestory and transept windows. Basement windows are flat arched, with lintels set into the water table of the ground story.

Octagonal towers flank the transept windows and the parapeted north facing gable of the nave. All of the towers, the chancel entry portal and the apse end bay are crenelated with tile copings trimming the battlements. The bell tower with 11 bells from E to F-sharp, features coupled, Tudor arched openings with tile mullioned tracery. Gargoyles adorn the corners of the tower. The deeply recessed entry portals of the bell tower features drip stones which carry an ornamental light fixture. The hipped light fixtures flank a tile panel with raised lettering of the inscription "Community Church". The doors of the portals are double leaf, with geometric incised panel motifs.

The church interior is characterized by the planar plaster walls and vaults, which are relieved by engaged piers supporting decorative wood brackets and show beams. The columns of the side aisles are octagonal, supporting segmental arches of the nave wall. Clerestory windows of the nave are set in slightly recessed tudor pointed niches defined by the engaged piers. A balcony at the end of the nave defines the entrance vestibule underneath. The chancel end, while retaining the plasterwork of the engaged piers, capitols and archivolt, has been altered by modifications to the raised floor, furniture and back drop. Window frames and tracery are original, although the stained glass has been replaced. Several large, ornate chandeliers mark the axes of nave and transept.

A two story gabled education building, built in 1948, abutts the sanctuary, running perpendicular to the nave. It is also constructed of concrete, with darker, buff colored face brick and cream colored terra cotta tile hood moulds and sills. Windows are tripartite, transomed casement of wood construction. A chapel, built in 1962 runs parallel to the nave, across the yard, forming a U-shaped building group. The chapel is faced in rubble, with a great window of rectilinear tracery in the gabled north end. Directly abutting the chancel of the nave is a choir annex, a flat roofed parapeted structure faced in yellow-buff brick. Parking lots are located adjacent to the chapel and behind the education wing. A service drive runs behind the choir annex to Kessler Boulevard.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

a. History - continued

building fund, plus \$7,200 for a set of chimes in the church tower. H. L. Copeland, a local architect chosen by the church directors, proposed an extensive building group meant to serve the entire city, on an oval island at the head of the dividing Washington Way. This was scaled down by Long, "who said the church would have to settle for the corner of Washington Way and Kessler Boulevard." In July, 1925 bids on a building with a 1200 seat auditorium with basement meeting rooms and service facilities came in too high at \$138,000. On December 16, 1925, an \$89,500 bid by Fred Clearman was accepted by the church directors for the construction of an 800 seat auditorium with an unfinished basement. "Work began immediately, with a local contractor Henry Niblett, donating the digging of the basement." 2

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME Longview Community Church

8. SIGNIFICANCE

a. History - continued

The architect, H. L. Copeland was active in the settlement of the city, designing several commercial buildings (three of which are included in the thematic nomination) as well as local residences. It is notable that the church did not choose Architect Norman Torbitt, who was under contract with Long-Bell from 1924 - 1926, to do all of the company's local buildings. Torbitt, who had prepared preliminary church drawings for Robert A. Long, wrote Long complaining of the choice of another architect, which he felt violated his contract.³ Long responded that the church directors had the responsibility for choosing the architect. On the church board was S. M. Morris, Wesley Vandercook and other Long-Bell employees active in the general development of Longview.

In 1929, the Longview Community Church built a satellite auditorium in the St. Helens residential addition. While services and Sunday school classes were held in the facility, other denominational churches were also formed in the city during this period and the satellite concept was unsuccessful. The St. Helen's Church was eventually sold to Foursquare Gospel, which began holding services in the sanctuary by 1933.

In 1948, Architect George MacPherson was chosen by the church to design the Education building, adjacent to the original sanctuary. MacPherson had been responsible for the design of the Washington Gas & Electric Building in 1928 and the First Christian Church in 1930, in Longview. (Both are included in the thematic nomination).

Despite noted additions and alterations, the church retains a high degree of integrity with regard to its original appearance. The additions to building grounds, while less than fifty years old, are compatible in style and scale to the dominant sanctuary and are representative of its evolution, but do not contribute to the significance of the property.

¹ McClelland Jr., John M., R. A. Long's Planned City, The Story of Longview, Bicentennial Edition, Longview. Longview Publishing Co., 1976.

² The Communitarian, 25th Anniversary Issue, Longview Community Church, October, 1948.

³ Torbitt, Norman. Personal Letter, Longview, Washington, 1926.
(Unpublished letter, Long-Bell Files, Longview Public Library)

Contributing Resources:

1. Church

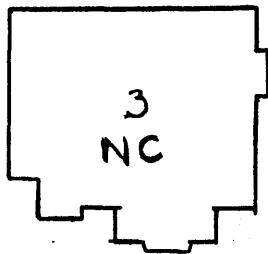
Non-contributing Resources

1. Chapel
2. Educational Building

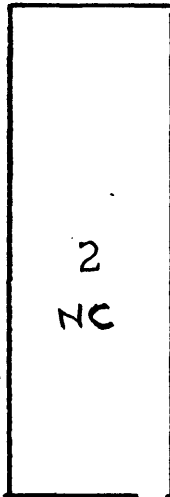
FIR ST.

TWENTY-THIRD AVE.

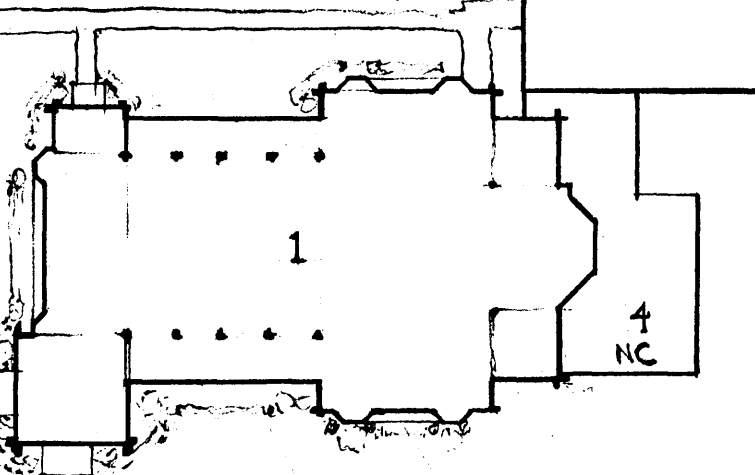
WASHINGTON DR.



3
NC



2
NC



1

4
NC

1. CHURCH
3. CHAPEL

2. EDUCATION BLDG.
4. CHOIR ANNEX

KESSLER BLVD.

LONGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH