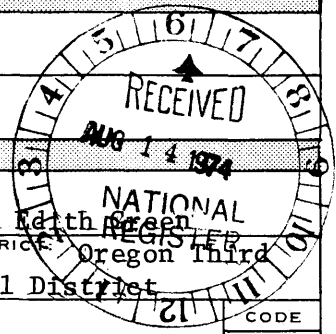


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Oregon
COUNTY:	Multnomah
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 27 1974



**1. NAME**

COMMON: St. John's Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Foot of SE Spokane Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portland

STATE: Oregon

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Representative Edith Green Oregon Third Congressional District

CODE: 41

COUNTY: Multnomah

CODE: 051

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: City of Portland

STREET AND NUMBER: Portland City Hall, 1220 SW 5th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland

STATE: Oregon

CODE: 97204

CODE: 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Multnomah County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: 1021 SW 4th Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portland

STATE: Oregon

CODE: 97204

CODE: 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Section

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

STATE: Oregon

CODE: 97310

CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon

COUNTY: Multnomah

ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 27 1974

DATE: DEC 27 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. John's Episcopal church is presently located in Oaks Pioneer Park in southeast Portland. It is a simple rectangle in plan measuring about 18 x 42 feet, with a heavy post and beam frame which is mortise and tenoned together. There are three lancet windows on each side of the nave, one flanking either side of the slightly extended vestibule tower and a single broad arched window over the altar. The medium pitched gable roof has simple boxed eaves and a small plain frieze. There is an arched louvred opening and a small round window in the tower base above the square-headed vestibule door. The double leaf doors contain four panels each. A small four-sided spire atop a square belfry with an arched louvred opening on each side rises above the tower. The lanced windows of the nave contain double-hung sashes: the upper sashes contain clear glass set in tracery mullions, the lower sashes four light symmetrically arranged. Panels of the stained glass window at the chancel end are set in tracery mullions. The horizontal exterior drop siding has vertical corner board trim. The tongue and groove interior wall finish is laid diagonally in a large chevron pattern.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

*(Continuation Sheet)*

STATE		Oregon
COUNTY		Multnomah
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	DEC 27 1974	

*(Number all entries)*

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (CONTINUED)

2. Location

St. John's Episcopal church is located on tax lot "11" of Blocks A & B of the Sellwood Addition to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1851

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian            | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

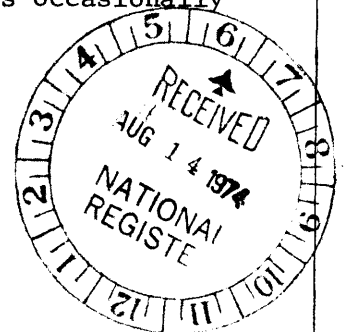
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's church is the first Episcopal church in the Oregon country, the oldest intact church building in Oregon, and for a while served as the cathedral seat of the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon. When given by Lot Whitcomb, a pioneer operator of steamboats on the Willamette River, in 1851, it was a partially completed double house outside the town of Milwaukie, which Whitcomb had founded in the 1840s as a cooperative colony but which had largely dissolved with the general exodus of the colonists to the California gold fields in 1849. Appropriate alterations were made and the building was completed as a church.

In 1862 it was decided to move the building to a more central location within the town of Milwaukie, and according to some sources, alterations were made to the chancel end in 1869. The most significant alterations however were made in 1888, at which time the building was given its present Gothic Revival character. The original square-headed windows were given pointed-arch heads, new siding was put on, and alterations were made to the tower and belfry, including the addition of a spire and a small extended vestibule. The diagonal interior panelling probably dates from this time, as well as a small vestry which once stood to the right of the nave at the chancel end. The belfry still houses the ship's bell given by Whitcomb.

The building was moved again in 1928 temporarily while a new foundation and basement were constructed. After the construction of a new church building in 1948, the venerable old structure served for a while as a chapel, but in 1969 the decision was made to raze it. Through private efforts funds were raised to load it aboard a barge and float it a short way down the Willamette River to its present site, where, minus the vestry and extended vestibule, it now serves as a museum and is occasionally used for weddings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Thomas Vaughan and George McMath, A Century of Portland Architecture. (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967), pp. 13, 181.

Ben Maxwell, "Historic Edifice," Oregon Journal (Portland: Jan. 6, 1946), Pacific Parade Section, p. 2.

"113-Year-Old Church Turns into Museum," Oregon Journal. (Portland: July 21, 1964), p. 5.

HIS 10/5034490

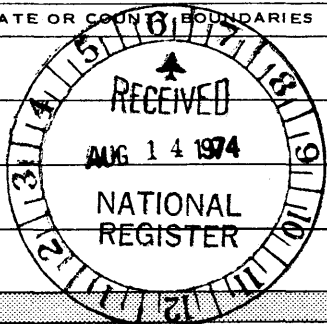
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		45 0 27 . 55 "	122 0 39 . 38 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Parks and Recreation Section DATE: August 5, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: *David G. Galbraith*

Title: State Parks Superintendent

Date: August 7, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*D. W. Powers III*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/27/74

ATTEST:

*Wm. M. ...*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: DEC 26 1974