

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	OCT 29 1975

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Rock Creek Methodist Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

w of Molalla - off OR 211

CITY, TOWN

Molalla, OR
Rock Creek

VICINITY OF

First - Rep. Wendall Wyatt

STATE

Oregon

CODE
41

COUNTY

Clackamas

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Annual Reunion

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Rock Creek Cemetery Association

STREET & NUMBER

29166 South Barlow Road

CITY, TOWN

Canby

VICINITY OF

STATE
Oregon 97013

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clackamas County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Oregon City

STATE
Oregon 97045

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE

1970

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Parks and Recreation Section, Oregon State Highway Building

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE
Oregon 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

GOOD

RUINS

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in 1858 by early mid-Willamette Valley pioneers, the Rock Creek Methodist Church building became the starting point for the Butteville, Rock Creek-Hubbard circuit. Land was donated from the corners of several Donation Land Claims and John Killin supervised fellow church laymen in the construction of the building. Clusters of oak trees to the north and a small cemetery to the south surround the rectangular (20 x 24) foot one story structure.

The building is balloon framed supported by hewn sills which rest on brick piers. Shiplap siding surrounds three double hung windows on the north and south sides. The east elevation is blind and the west has a single double door entrance. The double-hung Federal style windows have nine lights over six. Although the siding incorporates a very unusual cavetto curve, other exterior detail is very simple including boxed eaves, narrow corner boards, and no water table. The ceiling and walls are composed of six inch wide hand planed lumber. All interior surfaces are intact including windows, doors, and a very handsome alter rail. The pews are an early plank type.

The vestibule was constructed about 1920. Two features here differ from the original structure. The rafters are exposed and the two windows are double hung sash, four lights over four. The vestibule has two five panel doors. The Rock Creek Cemetery Association has maintained the building and grounds since 1950 and provides a sinking fund for future maintenance.

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/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

1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rock Creek Methodist Church is one of few remaining early circuit churches in Oregon. This simple one room church was carefully constructed, and is unaltered except for the added vestibule. The simple elegance of this structure stands as an example of the unpretentious lives of early Oregon settlers.

Methodist ministers began working and developing circuits in the lower Willamette Valley in 1848. By 1850, seven circuits had been established with a total of "443 members and one colored member." In 1854 a group of mid-Willamette Valley pioneers who had recently immigrated to Oregon gathered in a log schoolhouse near the Needy Post Office, which was established a year later. The Rock Creek Methodist Church developed from this meeting. The Rock Creek Methodist Church, like other Methodist Churches in the region, could not afford a full-time pastor (had one been available). Therefore, out of necessity, they joined with other churches and established a circuit. C. O. Hosford served as the first circuit rider. Other stops on the circuit for the Reverend Hosford were Butteville, Howell Prairie, Bald Hill, Union School House, Marquam School House, Grassy Point School House, Hubbard, Woodburn, and Glad Tidings. It is doubtful that all of these stops were on the circuit at one and the same time, but they were all constituent parts.

The Rock Creek Methodist Church held services at the local schoolhouse until a wood frame structure was built. A building committee, organized in 1857, developed a building plan and raised the necessary funds. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by the church families. The E. G. Boynton family, early residents of Woodburn now buried in the church cemetery, donated the basic holdings of four and a half acres. John Killin, a layman of the Church, supervised the construction, which was completed in 1858. Samuel Redman Oglesby, another early circuit rider, presided over the first services in the new building. It was not until 1860 that the church had its first resident preacher. However, the Reverend J. Conner's ministry was short-lived. One day, shortly after his arrival, he traveled to Silverton and in the pursuing day's events won a wager and drank the reward, a dram. The elders demanded retribution for this sinful act and Reverend Conner left the Rock Creek Church.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Richards, Minnie. "Rock Creek Church Restored by Pioneer Descendants," Capital Journal (May 16, 1951), Sec. 3, page 7.

Maxwell, Ben, "Rock Creek Association has Centennial Meeting," Capital Journal, (July 28, 1952) page 15.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING										

B

ZONE	EASTING										

C

D

(UTM unavailable; listed is longitude and latitude)

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul Hartwig, Historian, Gregg Olson, Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Oregon State Highway Division

DATE

August 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

State Highway Building

TELEPHONE

(503) 378-6118

CITY OR TOWN

Salem

STATE

Oregon 97310

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

David G. Falber

TITLE

Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/29/95

TEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/24/75

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

ROCK CREEK METHODIST CHURCH

2. Location (cont.)

Rock Creek Methodist Church is located in Sec. 5, T 5 S, R1E, of the Willamette Meridian in Clackamas County, Oregon.

8. Significance (cont.)

Church activities continued in a less public fashion until 1920 when regular services were discontinued as a result of financial instability and ebbing attendance. The edifice has since remained unused except for funerals, an occasional wedding, and an annual pioneer day picnic. The Rock Creek Cemetery Association maintains the cemetery and church building through funds given at the pioneer picnics and other occasions. In 1939 the Methodist Conference designated the Rock Creek Methodist Church a historic shrine.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont.)

Capital Journal, "Rock Creek Church Holds its Centennial Celebration," (July 20, 1954).

Yarnes, Thomas D., A History of Oregon Methodism, (Oregon Methodist Conference Society: Parthenon Press, 1957), 123-124.

Space, Style, and Structure, "Buildings and Gardens," Philip Dole.