

# DATA SHEET

PH0695718

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1979  
DATE ENTERED

## 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 United Presbyterian Church and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON "Whitespires," Berean Fundamental Church

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 510 SW 5th Ave.

CITY, TOWN Albany

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2nd

STATE Oregon

— VICINITY OF  
CODE 41

COUNTY Linn CODE 043

### 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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Berean Fundamental Church Council, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 628

CITY, TOWN North Platte

— VICINITY OF  
STATE Nebraska 69101

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Linn County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Albany

STATE Oregon 97321

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties

DATE 1976

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN Salem

STATE Oregon 97310

## 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 historic United Presbyterian Church in Albany is a wood frame structure with basement and brick foundation having a Greek cross plan and gabled bays on each of four sides. It occupies a corner lot close to the downtown core. A square entrance and bell tower rises from the NE corner, reaching a height of 80 feet at its crenellated parapet. The two street facades of the tower are identical, having paired entry doors in lancet arched openings with ogee arch framements. Transoms are glazed with stained glass. There are buttresses at the corners of the tower. Above the entries are paired louvered openings in lancet-arched frames. The tower walls are finished with an arcaded cornice, and the corners are terminated with octagonal spires, the northeast corner spire being larger than the others. At the crossing is another spire, or fleche with louvered opening, a steep pyramidal roof covered with plain and imbricated shingles and capped with a finial.

A typical gabled bay has in its center a large stained glass window in a lancet arch with tracery. The spring line is marked by a horizontal molding. Above the window, walls are covered with shingles. Board and batten siding covers the zone between the molding and window sill. Horizontal drop siding is used below with sill.

Structural beams of the sanctuary ceiling have natural finish; tongue and groove fir is nailed to the joist. At the center is a opening, or rosette which provides ventilation. Above it is a trap door which, when opened by a rope behind the pipe organ, allows warm air to rise through the rosette and escape via the fleche at the crossing.

The walls of the sanctuary are lath and plaster with a four-foot high paneled wainscot. Seating in the main floor, consisting of 39 pews of oak and maple, accommodates approximately 178; balcony seating, consisting of 20 pews of fir made to fit the curve of the balcony, accommodates approximately 122. Sanctuary flooring is tongue and groove fir flooring covered with carpeting.

The pipe organ was purchased from the W. W. Kimball Company of Chicago and installed in 1906 by Ferris and Werry of the Eiler firm in Portland. The cost of the organ, including the rebuilding of the platform, the movable choir rail and sundry other items, was \$2,806. The organ is a two manual apparatus with 61 notes and 30 notes on the pedals. The manual case and surrounding woodwork and choir rail is oak and in excellent condition. The bell in the bell tower, operated by a hand rope, has a hand clapper and is mounted on a wood wheel. It was cast in 1865 by "Meneelys" of West Troy, New York. It had been used in the original church built on this site in 1861.

Alterations to the building have been minimal. In 1975 a small Sunday School room was converted for use as a public address and recording room. Fluorescent lighting was installed in the basement in 1977. The building is structurally sound but has sustained water damage as a result of the gap in regular maintenance in the late 1960s. In addition areas of siding on the corner tower are in need of repair. Loose boards need to be renailed and caulked, and the entire exterior is in need of paint.

The rectory for "Whitespires" was erected on the adjoining lot to the west about 1915. It is rectangular in plan, measuring 30 by 36 feet. The wood frame building with basement is two and a half stories in height and is capped with a hipped roof with overhanging eaves. Originally covered with wood shingles, the roof, now overlaid with composition shingles, is broken by a hip-roofed dormer centered in the front, or north elevation. The front porch, 27 feet in length and 8½ feet deep, has a hipped roof supported by paired columns  
(continued)

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DATE ENTERED	18 4

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

resting on a solid bannister. Exterior siding is lap siding  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide with a false lap in the center giving the appearance of a lap per each  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Interior finish work is typical of the period, with brick livingroom fireplace, lath and plaster walls, unpainted woodwork, and wainscoting in hallways and diningroom.

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United Presbyterian Church ("Whitespires"), Albany, Linn County, Oregon

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

According to Sanborn and Perris Insurance Company Atlas maps, the rectory was built sometime after 1908 and before 1912, probably about 1910. From the time of the merger of the United and Westminister Presbyterian congregations in 1967, at which time the Presbyterians vacated the property, the former rectory has been used as a rental home.

# 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	1891	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Walter D. Pugh, Architect H. C. Chamberlain, Builder
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Whitespires," the historic United Presbyterian Church now occupied by a Berean Fundamental Church congregation, is significant as an outstanding, intact example of Carpenter Gothic architecture in Albany, a community noted in Oregon for its extensive areas of late 19th century building.

Between 1846 and 1849 a group<sup>of</sup> Presbyterians led by John Courtney and others settled in the upper Calapooia Valley. In June, 1849 the Reverend Wilson Blaine made a trip from Oregon City to Linn County to organize other settlers under the precepts of the Associated Presbyterian Church. Later, the two groups, finding it difficult to survive by themselves, consolidated under the name of United Presbyterian Church. The congregation organized in Albany in October of 1853, using as its first headquarters a private home. The first church built by the congregation in Albany was erected on the present site in 1861. It was replaced some thirty years later. A rectory was added to the site, west of the church, around 1915.

The United Presbyterian congregation occupied its imposing second church at 5th and Washington until October 1, 1967, at which time the congregation merged with the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany. For a time the church was occupied by an Episcopal congregation and, later, it was used as a day-care center. The property was acquired by the Berean Fundamental Church on June 30, 1971.

The architect of "Whitespires" was Walter D. Pugh, whose practice was centered in Salem. Among Pugh's works in the capital city were the City Hall (1893)--demolished in 1972, the Thomas Kay Woolen (1896), and the Bush-Breyman Block (1889). Pugh was described in the Oregon Statesman Illustrated Annual of January 1, 1903 as "a leading architect" in the city. Pugh died in 1946 at more than 90 years of age. His only survivor today is a daughter, Mildred Emmons, of Albany.

"Whitespires" is noted for its exceptional stained glass. Three generations of artisans at the Povey Studios of Portland produced the windows. The large south window depicts the Jordan River; the north window is an idealized scene in the Pacific Northwest including mountains, a river and fir tree.

