

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME First Christian Church
Historic

and/or Common N.A.

2. LOCATION UTM References: Kelso, WA-OR Scale: 1:24, 000
Zone 10 Easting 504190
Street & Number 2000 East Kessler Boulevard Northing 5108430
- not for publication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 First Christian Church
c/o Cliff Lewis, President of the Directors

Street & Number 2000 East Kessler Boulevard

City, Town Longview - vicinity of State Washington

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cornell, Mary Louise, Charter Member of First Christian Church. Personal Interview. Longview. March, 1985.
MacPherson, George, Architect. First Christian Church Construction Drawings. Longview. 1930. Deposited at First Christian Church. Longview. 1985.

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprentice

Organization City of Longview Date March 16, 1985
Urban Services and Permits

Street & Number 1525 Broadway Telephone 577-3330

City or Town Longview State Washington
98632

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 First Christian Church is set in grounds fronting Lake Sacajawea Park across the tree lined, curving Kessler Boulevard to the southwest and Twentieth Avenue to the east. The dominant sanctuary is a timber vaulted structure six bays in length, with its gable end fronting the park. A smaller two story clerical wing runs perpendicular to the nave, forming a T-shape building plan. A recreational hall built in 1945, abuts the clerical wing, with its ridge line running parallel to the end gable of the two story structure. The addition reinforces the balanced asymmetrical form of the grouping, resulting in a general U-shape building complex. Behind these dominant volumes, across a vacated alley and outside the nominated property, is a one story administrative and school building which was constructed in 1965.

The church is constructed of brick, resting on a concrete foundation. Setback buttresses along the side walls relieve the timber vaulting of the roof. The brick coursings are laid up in running bond, with randomly placed, slightly projecting brick-work. The parapeted gables are trimmed in stone, with stone crosses located at the apex (see continuation sheet)

Verbal boundary description: City Lots # 5,6 & 7
Block # 172, Longview Addtn. #8
Roughly 135' X 126'

Acreage: less than one acre

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1930

Builder/Architect Arch. George MacPherson

Level of significance: local

a. History

The First Christian Church was funded by local congregational donations and built within the first decade of Longview's settlement. The church had been holding services in the Y. M. C. A. (Longview Community Center) Auditorium under the ministry of Reverend Wilson prior to church construction. Services were held in the Schultz home, previous to the Y. M. C. A. Since the time of construction, the church has remained at Kessler Boulevard, adding a school and administration building in adjacent lots to the rear of the original building group in 1965.

The church was designed by Longview Architect George MacPherson, who was also responsible for several commercial, civic and residential buildings in the settlement of the city. Other than the church, the terra cotta tile faced Washington Gas & Electric Building is (see continuation sheet)

b. Evaluation of Significance

The First Christian Church is significant to Longview as a prominent and fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. The revival style of the church exhibits characteristics emanating from the Middle-Pointed thirteenth century English vernacular church, and is stylistically dissimilar to other Gothic Revival structures in Longview. The high degree of integrity of the original building and the interior make this building a particularly valuable example of craftsmanship in Longview. The church was designed by a local architect, George MacPherson, who was active in the city's settlement period, and years following. The church is representative of Longview's cultural development, by its role as a religious institution. It is also an example of early settlement patterns, closely related to planning principles by its location fronting Lake Sacajawea Park.

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

1. NAME First Christian Church

8. SIGNIFICANCE - History - continued - 2

influences. Other examples of the Gothic Revival style, notably the Longview Community Church, are representative of different periods and kinds of influences. The Longview Community Church, the other comparable Gothic structure in Longview is Late Perpendicular in influence, with Tudor details.

The appearance of the building's exterior, and the interior of the sanctuary, bears a high degree of integrity of its original construction. Despite minor alterations and the addition of a recreation hall, the church is largely intact and recognizable. The recreation hall, built in 1945, while clearly distinguishable from the original building, is sensitive in its form, scale and use of similar materials. However, the elements of the church constructed after 1935 do not contribute to the significance of the property.