## SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

### COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1.	NAME Historic	First Christian Church	
	and/or Common	N.A.	
2.	LOCATION Street & Number	UTM References: Kelso, Zone 10 Easting 504 2000 East Kessler Boulevard Northing 510 - not	190
	City, Town	Longview — vicinity of	
	State	Cou Washington	nty Cowlitz
3.	CLASSIFICATIO Ownership: Status: Present Use:	public <u>private</u> both <u>occupied</u> unoccupied work in progress  agriculture commercial educational enter	tainment government e residence r:
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY Name First Christian Church		
	Street & Number	c/o Cliff Lewis, President of the Directors 2000 East Kessler Boulevard	
	City, Town	S Longview - vicinity of	tate Washington
	nell, Mary Louise Longview. March Pherson, George,	RAPHICAL REFERENCES  e, Charter Member of First Christian Church. Pe n, 1985. Architect. First Christian Church Construction ed at First Christian Church. Longview. 1985.	
6.	FORM PREPARED	BY Michael L. Neuschwanger, Architectural Apprenti	ce
	Organization	City of Longview Urban Services and Permits	March 16, 1985
	Street & Number	Telep 1525 Broadway	
	City or Town	Longview State	Washington 98632

### 7. DESCRIPTION

Condition:

good fair deteriorated excellent

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 perpindicular 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 contructed 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 brickwork. 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'

ruins

unexposed

Acreage: less than one acre

#### SIGNIFICANCE 8.

Specific dates 1930 Builder/Architect Arch. George MacPherson

Level of significance: local

### 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

b.

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 eminating from the Middle-Pointed thirteenth century English vernacular church, and is stylistically dissimilar to other Gothic Revival structures in Longview. 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 activie in the city's settlement period, and years following. The church is representative of Longview's cultural development, by its role as a religous 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

The First Christian Church

### 7. Description - continued

of the frontal and rear gables. The gabled entry portal features a deeply recessed, middle-pointed corbeled brick arch. Over the portal, a set of three lancet windows are trimmed by corbeled brick arch surrounds. In the second to the last bay on the southeast facing side elevation, a small choir trancept intersects with the nave. At the junction of the parapeted end gable of the sanctuary and the clerical wing, is a stout, square chimney stack with decorative brickwork, terminating in a corbeled chimney pot. The baptistry font is set into a blind faced bay of the chancel, on the central axis of the nave. A rose tracery window set in the end gable provides a hidden source of light to the baptistry. A second rose window set in the gable of the choir trancept, lights the screened organ loft. The dominant window type is the lancet, of a few varying heights and widths, with stone sills and multi-paned lights set in diamond patterned tracery.

The nave of the sancturary is five bays in length, separated from the chancel bay by the middle-pointed chancel arch. The timber vaulting of the nave is arched brace, also of middle-pointed proportions, with king-posts set on the collar beams. The trusses rest on projecting stone imposts set into buttressed walls. The roof is purlined, with a stucco finish. A wood balcony and screen define an entrance vestibule, which has slate floors, and a beaded plank, double leaf door, with decorative metal strap hinges. The nave walls are finished in plaster, with low, vertical plank wainscotting along the sides. The chancel is raised, separated by a wood rail, pulpit and lectern built into the chancel arch, from the nave.

The two story clerical wing is wood frame construction, with a half timbered, brick infill ground story. The half timbering has been removed in the frontal elevation, which is now laid up in running bond. The wing is hipped at the end, intersecting a projecting end gable. The end gable facing the rear retains a half timbered show vault. The frontal gable, in an apparent alteration, is lacking the vault. The clerical wing features small wall dormers, set directly over ground story openings. The original windows have been replaced by aluminum frames, with triple-sashed panes. At the junction of the clerical wing and sanctuary, a diminuitive entry portal abuts the side of the two story wing.

The 1945 recreation hall has brick perimeter walls, with setback buttresses on its side and end walls. The addition has multi-paned, horizontal wood sash windows set between the side buttresses. In the fron gable is a large, flat arched opening with metal sash and multiple panes. Another small, one story wood frame addition abuts the back side of the choir trancept and the side the nave walls. A metal rain shelter runs along the northwest wall of the nave, to the entry portal of the clerical wing. This structure is independent of the original and could be easily removed.

### 8. SIGNIFICANCE

### a. History - continued

MacPherson's most prominent building in Longview. The developed styles of the vaulted, Gothic Revival church and the refined, Classical order of the urban building are exemplary of MacPherson's skill and versatility. The middle-pointed proportions of the braced king-post vaulting, and the lancet windows relate the church to early English vernacular (see continuaton sheet)

# 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 Perpindicular in influence, with Tudor details.

The appearance of the buiding'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.