

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 31 1980

date entered MAY 23 1980

1. Name

historic American Fork Presbyterian Church

and/or common Community Presbyterian Church

2. Location

street & number 75 North 1st East _____ not for publication

city, town American Fork _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 01

state Utah code 049 county Utah code 049

3. 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"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Presbytery of Utah

street & number 140 North Tyler Ave

city, town Ogden _____ vicinity of _____ state UT

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Utah County Courthouse

street & number Center and University

city, town Provo _____ state UT

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

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 church is a one-story, rectangular orange buff brick building with a stone foundation, approximately thirty feet wide and sixty feet long. It was designed in a modified Gothic Revival style, possibly by Peter Van Houghton, a Salt Lake City architect associated with the church. Pointed arch window openings and labels are the most prominent Gothic allusions. The side-mounted belfry tower and entrance, approximately ten feet square at the base, was rebuilt after lighting the upper section in 1952. The tower is similar in many respects, especially the tapered belcast cap, to the belfry of the Manti Church.

The present exterior appearance is little changed from the original. When the belfry was reconstructed, a stainless steel cross replaced the original weathervane. An addition was made to the rear of the Church in the mid-1940s, approximately ten feet by forty feet, to house a kitchen. An extensive renovation begun in 1975 by the congregation reversed an interior modernization undertaken after World War II. This work has brought the interior to a perfection of finish not previously known, but essentially in the original style. The renovation removed a large panel which had earlier been lowered to divide the sanctuary into two classrooms. Stained glass windows executed by J. Fred Brown of Salt Lake City replaced original clear glass and are the primary exterior manifestation of the renovation.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 1879-1881 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Community Presbyterian Church is significant as the first Protestant church in American Fork and as the sponsor of the day school in which many of the community's early citizens were educated.

The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 brought an increased flow of "gentiles" into Utah. In the 1870s the Presbyterians rapidly increased their missionary activity among the newcomers and the Mormons. In 1870 their first church was dedicated in Corrine, a railroad town, and in 1874 the Presbytery of Utah was organized.¹ The Presbyterians had two churches, eight ministers, and no schools or teachers in 1875. Four years later they counted eight churches, ten ministers, and eleven schools with fifteen teachers and eight hundred day students.²

The arrival of the Reverend George R. Bird in American Fork in September, 1877, was part of this increased missionary effort. More fortunate than many of his colleagues, Reverend Bird was able to rent space in the "Social Hall" to preach and hold Sabbath School. That fall a small group organized a church and, with the aid of the Church Erection Board, bought a shop near Main Street which they made into a temporary chapel the following year. This early congregation was made up of "mostly Scots, some English, and a few Scandinavians and Americans."³

Before Reverend Bird left American Fork he had begun the effort for the "Rebuilding of the Chapel" and secured the appointment of Miss Ada Kingsbury to conduct the day school. The Reverend Thomas F. Day arrived August 1880 and proved a worthy successor. He married Miss Kingsbury in June of 1881 and laid the cornerstone of the completed church that September.⁴ They carried on the work of the church in American Fork until 1890. The school was closed in 1909 after the provision for public education, passed in 1890, had at last made that work unnecessary.

The number of Presbyterian churches, chapels, and day schools, peaked in the 1880s and then declined. The church at American Fork, however, buoyed by the establishment during WWII of the Geneva steel complex and consequent influx of Protestants, experienced an increase in membership. The Church helps document the system of over a dozen churches and more than thirty schools maintained by the Presbyterians at the peak of their activity in Utah.

1 Theodore D. and Marian E. Martin, Presbyterian Work in Utah, 1869-1969, (SLC, Wheelwright Lithography Co., 1971), pp.3-4.

9. Major Bibliographical References

George K. Davies, "A History of the Presbyterian Church in Utah," Presbyterian History, 1947.

Records of the Presbyterian Church of American Fork, UT, 1877-1895, Community Presbyterian Church, American Fork, UT pp. 25,27, photocopy, USHS.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1
Quadrangle name Lehi, UT Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>11</u> <u>2</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 11, Block 18, Plat A, American Fork Survey

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 Henry O. Whiteside/Preservation Historian

organization Utah State Historical Society date December 1979

street & number 307 West 2nd South telephone 533-6017

city or town SLC state UT

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-17-80

For HCERS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce date 5/23/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: William H. Brathorn date 5.7.80
Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 31 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 28 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 2 General Assembly Minutes, pp. 586-594, May 1879, Synod of Utah Minutes, Volume 1.
 - 3 Samuel E. Wishard, The Mormons (New York, Literature Dept., Presbyterian Home Missions, 1904), quoted in Martin, op. cit., p.90.
 - 4 Mrs. Marvin H. Teuscher, "Community Presbyterian Church, Centennial Celebration, 1877-1977," American Fork, Utah, 1977, p.4.