

PH 0508934

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED NOV 7 1977  
DATE ENTERED APR 20 1978

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

\*\*  
Converse Hall

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1840 South 13th East

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

02

STATE

Utah 84105

CODE  
049

COUNTY

Salt Lake

CODE  
035

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Westminster College (President: Dr. Helmut Hoffman)

STREET & NUMBER

1840 South 13th East

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Utah 84105

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Salt Lake County Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Salt Lake City & County Building

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Utah State Historic Sites Survey

DATE

September 1, 1976

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Utah State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Salt Lake City

STATE

Utah

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Converse Hall is a three and a half story educational building constructed of stone and brick. Built in 1906, the hall is purely Jacobethan Revival in style. Due to its being the terminal focal point of two major campus courtyards, the building has two "front" facade. In fact, all four elevations are highly decorative. Converse Hall is a three and a half story structure built of brick and stone upon a raised portion of ground in a central location on the campus of Westminster College. The educational and administrative building is one of the oldest structures on campus and is a visual focal point along the east-west axis of the campus. Surrounded by mature landscaping and in size, one of the largest buildings on campus, Converse Hall has been Westminster's architectural landmark since its construction and maintains that status today.

Architecturally, Converse Hall is an excellent example of the Jacobethan Revival style. Although the original polychrome exterior color scheme has been covered with a single color of paint, the remainder of the exterior retains its original appearance. The brick superstructure sits upon a tall foundation wall of rusticated stone. The plan is basically rectangular in shape but has three wings on both the east and west sides. There are two front sides to Converse Hall, the east and west sides, as the building was intended to be a showpiece for the major city street it faced, as well as the interior of the campus.

The horizontality of the facade composition is offset by the six narrow, tall wings with their steeply pitched triangular gable parapets. The central wing of the west wall is the widest and tallest, featuring octagonal towers with battlements at its corners, large Tudor windows, a clock and a central gable with a stepped parapet.

Window and door bays in the building are of two shapes: rectangular and gothic-arched. The windows along the fourth level and those above the main entrances are either pointed or Tudor Gothic in style while the balance of the bays are large, flat-arched, and contain pairs of two over two operable sash windows with transoms above.

Decorative elements which are associated with the Jacobethan character of Converse Hall include the steeply pitched stone copings, crenellations, label arches, and Tudor window bays and Gothic tracery. Medallions, quatrefoil motifs, corbeled brickwork and the symbolic carved stone books add to the ornamental quality of the building.

Although the interior of Converse Hall has been remodeled and the outside has been painted, the administration of Westminster College are planning to restore the building, particularly the exterior, to its original appearance.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter E. Ware (Ware & Treganza)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Converse Hall was the first building to be erected on the campus of Westminster College, the only Protestant institution of higher education in the state of Utah and the only private liberal arts college "for a million square miles." The hall was built in 1906 at a cost of \$27,000 and was designed by Walter E. Ware, a prolific Salt Lake City architect whose best known works include First Presbyterian Church, First Church of Christ, Scientist, the Chamber of Commerce Building, and a number of outstanding residences. Architecturally, Converse Hall is significant as a rare example of the seventeenth century English-inspired Jacobean Revival Style. Built of sandstone and brick, it displays the same "strictness as to detail" that characterized similar revival buildings in the East where the style was popular after 1890.

Converse Hall is perhaps the purest and best preserved of the few Jacobethan Revival. Built of sandstone in 1906, the three and one half story structure was during a period "Educational Gothic", a movement within the late Gothic Revival. A coincident trend, the English inspired Jacobethan Revival, was never widespread in Utah but was occasionally used by well-traveled architects as Walter E. Ware.

Ware, the son of Elijah Ware, whose 1865 invention, a combination steam carriage and engine is recognized as a forerunner of the automobile, was born in Needham, Massachusetts, August 26, 1861. He gained his architectural training while employed by the Union Pacific Railroad in Omaha, Nebraska and later worked in Laramie, Wyoming and Denver, Colorado before settling in Salt Lake City in 1889. He quickly became one of the City's leading architects. Among Ware's best known extant buildings are the First Presbyterian Church (1903), First Church of Christ, Scientist (1898), Matthew H. Walker Home (1903) and Henderson Block (1897).

After a successful independent practice, Ware took on Albert O. Treganza as a partner in 1901, forming the firm of Ware and Treganza. Treganza, born in Denver in 1876, graduated in architecture from Cornell University and later worked in the office of Hubbard and Gill of San Diego, California. Treganza was a skillful designer and became responsible for the firm's design department. Ware became responsible for the supervision of the projects and did little designing until the partnership was dissolved in 1926. Due to Treganza's eccentric tastes, the firm produced designs in a wide variety of styles, including Neo-Classical Revival, Prairie Style, and the Arts and Crafts Style. That a Jacobethan design should be proposed by Ware and Treganza comes as no surprise, though it is uncertain who created the design for Converse Hall. Ware is given official credit although it was more likely Treganza who authored the design. In any event, Converse Hall is a very literal translation of the turn-of-the-century Jacobethan architecture developed in the Eastern U.S. and may have been patterned after a specific model.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Vinatieri, Joseph. "The Growing Years: Westminster College From Birth to Adolescence." Utah Historical Quarterly Fall, 1975.

Nyman, Emil. Westminster College - 100 Years. Salt Lake City, 1976.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	2
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4	2	7	9	0	0
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4	5	0	9	1	4	0
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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE John S.H. Smith, Deborah Von Krumm, Allen D. Roberts

ORGANIZATION Utah Division of State History DATE

STREET & NUMBER: 603 East South Temple TELEPHONE (801) 533-5755

CITY OR TOWN Salt Lake City, UT STATE 84102

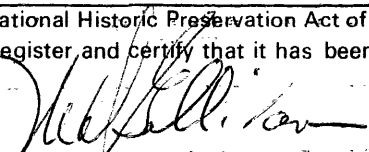
**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE X 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE Michael D. Gallivan, State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 26, 1977

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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



DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 4/20/78

ATTEST William Cole  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-12-78

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Typical Jacobethan characteristics found in Converse Hall are the steep pedimented gables with cut stone copings, Gothic, Tudor Gothic, rectangular and segmented windows with stone mullions and label arches, crenellated parapets, octagonal turrets, tabernacle-framed dor bays and extensive stone ornamentation. The exterior of Converse Hall is well preserved, though the original polychrome brick and stone walls have been painted. The interior has been remodeled extensively, though some original features have been retained. Still used by Westminster College, the college administration has expressed a desire to restore Converse Hall.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

HISTORY:

With the advent of mining finds and the driving of the Golden Spike in 1869, an influx of outsiders began to penetrate the homogenous culture of Utah. The need for Protestant schools soon became apparent, and the Presbyterian church commenced its educational work in 1869. To its establishment of the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute, April 12, 1875, Westminster College traces its early beginnings.

Salt Lake Collegiate Institute was founded by Dr. John M. Coyner in the basement of the First Presbyterian church and housed all ages. There were four divisions, the primary, the intermediate, academic, and collegiate. The objectives of the Institute were to lay a foundation for a permanent college, to establish itself as a graded school modeled after those in the East, to provide aid to anyone unable to secure an education by themselves, and to train teachers for Utah and the surrounding area.

In 1885, Dr. Jesse Fonda Millspaugh succeeded Dr. Coyner as superintendent of the Institute, but resigned in 1890 to accept the superintendency of the Salt Lake public schools. For the public schools he developed a graded system patterned after that of the Institute. Since the public schools now largely supplied the demand for the lower departments of the Institute, plans were made to develop the Institute into an academy with the idea that this would be the nucleus for a Presbyterian College in Salt Lake. On March 20, 1892, a resolution was adopted by the Utah Presbytery for the establishment of a college.

On September 7, 1897, Sheldon Jackson College, named for the Superintendent of Home Missions for Nebraska, Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah, officially opened with a class of six in the Collegiate Institute buildings. Like many private independent schools, the new college was troubled by financial difficulties and enrollment problems. Because of the size of Salt Lake City and its dominant Mormon culture, little in the way of local financial contributions could be counted upon. Consequently, most of the college's financial support came from Presbyterian churches and generous donors in the eastern portion of the United States.

The search for a campus was particularly troublesome. When the present location was finally decided upon, Col. William Ferry, a well-to-do Park City mining investor was approached. After some thought, he donated the entire sum needed for the purchase of the land, on the condition that a \$25,000 building be erected within five years.

In 1902, the name Sheldon Jackson College was changed to Westminster College, and in 1910, the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute was made the preparatory department of the college. They officially opened together in 1913.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Converse Hall was built in 1906 at a cost of \$27,000. \$20,000 of this was donated by John Converse, President of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia. As the first building on campus, it has served many functions, including the boys dormitory, administration offices, assembly hall, chemistry lab, lecture hall, classrooms, and library, to name a few. Today it houses faculty offices, classrooms, and Courage Theater.

As Westminster College enters its second century, it deserves recognition for its outstanding educational service, and as a fitting tribute to the determined faith of its founders. It is the only Protestant institution of higher education in the state of Utah.