

PH 0507245

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED NOV 16 1977
DATE ENTERED DEC 23 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Newman Methodist Episcopal Church
 AND/OR COMMON Newman United Methodist Church (preferred)

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 128 NE "B" Street
CITY, TOWN: Grants Pass VICINITY OF: 4th
STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Oregon CODE: 033

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Newman United Methodist Church
STREET & NUMBER: 128 NE "B" Street
CITY, TOWN: Grants Pass VICINITY OF: Oregon STATE: 97526

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Josephine County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER: NE Sixth Street
CITY, TOWN: Grants Pass STATE: Oregon 97526

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
DATE: 1976
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historic Preservation Office
Oregon State Parks and Recreation Branch
CITY, TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Newman United Methodist Church, located at 128 NE "B" Street, Grants Pass, Oregon, is an excellent example of High Victorian Gothic wood construction. The main sanctuary was built from lithographic plans made available through the Methodist Church General Conference for the "small sum of five dollars each." The plans and printed specifications along with a list of material quantities, provided for a building ranging in cost from \$2,200 to \$8,000, depending on which options were taken.

The original building (1889) consisted of the sanctuary and three small Sunday School classrooms. Single-story parlor and kitchen additions were constructed on the west and south ends in 1905. The wood frame church has a modified cruciform plan, a shingled gable roof and a square bell tower with an octagonal spire surmounted by a cross. The original bell still rings on Sunday. Outer walls are pierced by hooded lancets, and there is a rose window in each of the four gable ends. The interior of the sanctuary still has the original wood flooring, sugar pine wainscoting and system of wooden arches supported by hammer beams with pierced decoration. Rosettes and turned moldings and railing posts are larch. The interior walls and ceiling are wood lath and plaster.

The chancel end is separated from the sanctuary seating by a semi-circular altar rail with a pulpit to one side and a center altar at the rear wall directly under the organ screen. There are choir pews on either side of the chancel. The sanctuary pews are also sugar pine. They are arranged on either side of a center aisle, and the forward pews are angled to create a kind of semi-circular configuration.

The interior is in good condition and has been little altered. Carpet was added to the aisles around the altar rail and in the chancel. Some structural cross-cable was added to prevent the four corners of the main sanctuary from further movement. Epworth Hall was added to the east end between 1919 and 1923.

The latter structure, with its scissors-truss roof system, false frontal gable and lancet windows, served as a gymnasium and auditorium for church young people and the community. It does not meet the Fire Safety Code at present. A modern masonry Educational Building, erected by the church on the extreme east end of the property in 1952, is not included in the nomination.

The original wooden steps and balustrade of the church's main entry are no longer extant. A perimeter fence intended to keep cows off the lawn was removed many years ago.

The church plans the following rehabilitation work:

1. Refinish the interior woodwork, patch and paint interior walls
2. Repair stained glass windows
3. Rewire the interior to bring it up to code
4. Provide a new heating system
5. Install fire suppression system
6. Repair brick foundation to prevent future deterioration
7. Install new roof
8. Install new gutters and downspouts
9. Repaint exterior and repair siding as needed

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 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 1889-1890 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Newman Methodist Church accommodated the pioneers of the area during the early growth of Southern Oregon. It had its beginnings in 1857, before Oregon became a state. Local preacher Thomas Croxton owned much of the land on which Grants Pass is situated. Croxton, his wife Hannah, and their daughter Margaret Croxton Tuffs, wife of James P. Tuffs, and a few others are credited with organizing the Methodist Church before the town was named. Croxton was a circuit rider in the Kerbyville mission circuit, which included Kerbyville, Althouse School, Jerome Prairie and Williamsburg.

The church was built in 1889 to replace a predecessor of 1886, which had soon been outgrown. The Reverend T.L. Jones, former Kerbyville circuit riding preacher, was called to direct construction of the existing church. The new church was dedicated on Sunday, August 21, 1890, by Bishop J.P. Newman, who presided at the Oregon Annual Conference held in Grants Pass that year. The design is believed to have been based upon Plan No. 6 which appeared in Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Church Extension Annual Reports 1876-1879. Among modifications made was the construction of a taller spire. Contractors were Hubbard and Newell. The interior woodwork with its Gothic motifs was designed by H.C. Kinney, who worked for the Sugar Pine Door and Lumber Company of Merlin, Oregon.

Newman United Methodist Church has been a religious and cultural center of the community for nearly ninety years. Its significance lies in the fact that it is an intact example of Carpenter Gothic architecture and is among the notable examples of its type in Oregon. Moreover, it is an important visual landmark defining the space fronting the Josephine County Courthouse (1916), which occupies an elevated site across Sixth Street to the west.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commission on Archives and History, the United Methodist Church Church Extension Manual, 1879.

Jones, T.L. From the Gold Mine to the Pulpit.

Acklen, Ruth. "Centennial Observance for Newman Methodist Church Set for Sunday", Grants Pass Daily Courier (May 24, 1957).

(see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA *less than one*

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15,000 sq. ft.

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	4 7 3	4 2 0 ⁴⁰⁰	4 6 9 8	8 7 5 ⁸⁰⁰	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C						D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 7, 8 and 9 of Block 3 of the Original Town Plat of Grants Pass.

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

John Wilson, Restoration Committee Chairman

ORGANIZATION

Newman United Methodist Church

DATE

September 1977

STREET & NUMBER

128 NE "B" Street

TELEPHONE

(503) 470-5369

CITY OR TOWN

Grants Pass

STATE

Oregon 97526

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE October 31, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/23/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12-22-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Newman United Methodist Church, Josephine County, Oregon

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Acklen, Ruth. "The Newman United Methodist Church", Oregon Historic Landmarks: Southern Oregon (Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1974), pp. 35-36.