

NOV 09 1989

2095

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name United Presbyterian Church  
other names/site number Gre stone Church

### 2. Location

street & number 430 Maple Street  not for publication  
city, town Pullman  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county Whitman code 075 zip code 99163

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Jack L. [Signature] 10/26/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Mark L. Baker Entered in the National Register 7 December 1989  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Structure  

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use  

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival  

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation basaltwalls sandstone  

---

roof woodother \_\_\_\_\_  

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The United Presbyterian Church (commonly known as the Greystone Church) is a Romanesque Revival structure located on a hillside overlooking downtown Pullman, Washington. Set in a neighborhood of frame houses, it is sited on a triangular lot formed by the intersections of Maiden Lane, Maple, and Spaulding streets. Maple Street parallels the building on the western, tree-shaded side; the facade of the church faces south down the hill toward town.

Greystone Church is a massive structure built of quarry-faced, ashlar Tenino sandstone on a base of rough cut basalt. The church was constructed in two distinct phases. The original building was constructed in 1898-99 as a wood frame structure; but in 1912 it was moved to the rear of the lot, turned 90 degrees, and a new larger stone church was built on the front. At that time, the older church was faced in the same quarry-faced stone to unify the entire composition. William Swain, Pullman's first architect, designed both units.

The entire ground floor level is constructed of uncoursed quarry-faced basalt. The lower level is almost entirely exposed on the south and east sides of the church but is partially below grade on the north and west sides, reflecting the natural slope of the site. The remainder of the church is faced with alternating thick and thin courses of ashlar, quarry-faced grey sandstone. Each pair of the stone courses is equal in height to the quoins which are carved from a lighter colored sandstone.

The principal facade on this imposing structure is a gable end flanked by a pair of crenelated towers, which measure 16 feet square and 62 feet high. The east tower was originally built for the earlier church, and moved to the new facade. At the center of the facade, beneath the gable peak, a rose window with stained glass is incorporated into the large arched window that punctuates the wall. The window is flanked by two smaller arched windows with stained glass. On the lower level of the facade, three flat arch windows are grouped directly beneath the rose window, and single flat arch windows are placed beneath the smaller arched windows. All of these windows have stained glass. This pattern of fenestration is repeated on the gabled ends of the transept wings. The main entrance to the church is through the front of the west tower, up a flight of concrete steps bounded by low walls and capped by a coping of sandstone.

On the ground level, flat arch windows are disposed according to the fenestration pattern of the upper levels. On the south and east sides of the building, the windows also match in height, but are glazed with clear glass. On the west side of the building, the windows are of lesser height and are glazed with stained glass.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

On the east side of the church, a third smaller tower (in place of the original), crenelated like the others, flanks the north side of the transept. Two entrances to the church pierce this tower--one at ground level, and one directly above. A wall constructed of uncoursed basalt bounds the right side of the steps leading to the north tower entrance. A truncated arch through this wall allows access to the lower entry. To the right of the small tower, centered in the gable end of the original church and rising two stories from ground level, is a projecting wing with chamfered corners, suggesting an octagonal shape. The apex of the roof of this wing is lower than the main gable ridge. All the walls of this element are illuminated with stained glass windows at both levels.

On the west side of the church, a small porch is entered through a large round arch approached by a short flight of steps. Entries into the church are located on either end of the porch; to the left lies the original structure, to the right the new.

On this western elevation, the gable end of the original church has five arched windows with stained glass. Set in window wells slightly below ground level are five, square, stained glass windows directly aligned with those above. High in the gable are three small square stained glass windows set in window wells.

The plan of the church is composed of a rectangular nave and shallow transepts. The entrance to the church is provided through the towers, which lead to a wide vestibule spanning the width of the facade. Stairs located in the front towers lead to the balcony, and a raised choir loft is located behind the rostrum. The pastor's study was located in the tower of the original structure.

Light penetrates the interior of the church through stained glass windows on three sides giving the interior a warm glow. Most striking of the interior features, however, is the magnificent open-timbered roof, 55 above the floor. The roof construction is built entirely of first-growth fir and reflects the complexity of the roof system.

The four corners of the crossing are supported by two piers against the north wall and two cast iron columns rising through the balcony from the floor below. Radiating from each of these four points are three open, scissor-braced, arched trusses supported by stout hammer beams. Broad diagonal arches intersect below the apex of the crossing.

Set at an angle of 45 degrees on either side of the ends of the diagonal arches, narrower arches span the nave and transepts. Parallel to these, and branching out from points midway between the center and each of the ends of the diagonal arches, are four small transverse arches, forming a square. Extending from the ends of the hammer beams, taking up the thrust of the arches, are transverse and diagonal wrought iron tie rods. These are supported by iron rods suspended from pendils in the centers of the arches. King posts, above the pendils, extend from the center of each of the arches through the intersection of the scissor

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

---

braces to the apex of the roof. Wrought iron straps applied to both sides of these intersections further strengthen the joints where the scissors meets the rafters. The widely spaced rafters support purlins on which the diagonal roof planking is laid. The effect of this complex roof structure is a wood equivalent to Gothic vaulting with branching ribs. The roof is further complicated by the presence of smaller secondary transepts at the balcony level. Each of these is covered by an individual pitched roof and lighted by a single arched window.

The nave is furnished with oak pews set in curved rows and divided by a center aisle with aisles on either side. Only one of the original pews remains in the balcony (front row center). The remainder of the seating in the balcony is composed of individual wooden and cast iron seats taken from the auditorium of Bryan Hall on the Washington State University campus. Seating capacity is estimated to be 330.

At the north end of the church, steps lead to the presbytery which spans the full width of the church, projecting out from the wall approximately eight feet and extending a similar distance beneath a broad central arch. The adjacent Hays Chapel (the original church structure) has an open timber roof, but with a much simpler design. Riding atop wooden posts set flush with the walls, tie beams with king posts and diagonal struts support the roof in two places dividing the roof into three equal bays. The first-growth fir of the roof structure is complemented by fir wainscoting and a hardwood floor. The chapel is lighted by five windows directly above the wainscot in the west wall and three small square windows high in the gable above. The church features a complete basement level that includes a series of church offices and meeting rooms, a kitchen, bathrooms, and the boiler room.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1914  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1914  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

William Swain  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Distinguished by its Romanesque Revival design, its basalt and sandstone masonry, and a finely crafted timbered roof truss, the United Presbyterian Church of Pullman is architecturally significant as the finest example of ecclesiastical architecture in the Palouse. Built in 1914 (and incorporating a 1899 structure at the site) the building, commonly known as Greystone Church, has enduring ties to the Pullman community and to the Washington State University campus. When completed, it was heralded as "one of the best pieces of its style" in the state; today, it remains one of the most important landmarks in Pullman, and is a fine example of the work of local architect William Swain. Although churches are normally not eligible for listing in the National Register, the United Presbyterian Church meets the criteria because it derives its primary significance from its architectural and artistic distinction.

Historical Background: The inception of the United Presbyterian Church coincided with the arrival in Pullman of Enoch A. Bryan, then newly-appointed president of the fledgling Washington Agricultural College Experimental Station and School of Science (and the man who would later be credited with transforming the small school into a major institution). When Bryan arrived on campus in 1893, the town of Pullman had no Presbyterian church, despite a sizable body of Presbyterian students from Spokane and the Waitsburg Academy.

Concern for these students led Bryan and others to discuss establishing a new congregation in town. Learning of their interest, officials of the Waitsburg Academy donated \$1,500 for construction of a church, and \$1,000 a year for a pastor. Dr. Bryan chaired the building committee (which included William Phillips and Dr. W.G.M. Hays, pastor of Olympia's United Presbyterian Church); purchased the nominated lot for \$175; hired local architect William Swain to design the structure; and let the contract to A. Volk of Pullman. Bryan secured money for the project through a fund-raising drive, and when the structure was nearly complete in 1898, persuaded Hays to move to Pullman and organize the new congregation. As Bryan recalled, it was a rare instance of a church being constructed and furnished before the congregation was established. But in 1899, when the church opened, it had a membership of about 40 parishioners.

Dr. Hays proved to be an effective pastor, and by 1908 the building was too small for the growing congregation. In 1911, Hays, Bryan, and others began planning for a large addition. Once again, Bryan chaired the fundraising committee, and this time secured a \$10,000 grant

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Latla, W.H. A History of the United Presbyterian Church of Pullman, Washington Golden Anniversary 1899-1949, Pullman, 1949.  
Folsted, Val. History of the Greystone Church--Later Known as St. Thomas More, Pullman, 1983.  
"Impressive Ceremonies Mark Dedication of New Church" Pullman Herald, October 23, 1914.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property less than one

**UTM References**

A 

1	1
---	---

4	8	6	5	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	7	5	1	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 1 of Block 1 of Reaney's 2nd Addition as shown on: North half-section 5, Township 14 North, Range 45 East; on file in the City Planners Office, Pullman, Washington.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has been historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title John Benedict, Member Board of Directors; historical statement edited by  
organization Greystone Foundation date July 15, 1989 L. Garfield  
street & number N.W. 324 True St. telephone (509) 332-4000  
city or town Pullman state Washington zip code 99163

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

---

from the United Presbyterian national assembly, the largest gift ever bestowed on a local congregation up to that time. In May, 1913, ground was broken for a new church building which incorporated the original structure. The next year the church was completed (at a cost exceeding \$50,000) and in October, 1914, the church was formally dedicated.

The church continued to serve the Presbyterian community and students at WSU until 1963, when the congregation moved to a new church on Stadium Way. The Greystone church was sold to the Catholic diocese, and served as the Catholic student chapel until 1980. It has remained vacant since then.

Architectural Significance: Architect William Swain was born in England in 1861, and at age 20 emigrated to the United States where he settled in Duluth, Minnesota. In Duluth, Swain served as a journeyman carpenter for two years, then became a contractor. At the same time, he began a long-term self-taught study of architecture. In 1891, Swain moved to Pullman, where he practiced architecture, sold insurance, and served in several positions of civic leadership. In 1898, he served as city clerk, and was reelected in 1899. He also ran unopposed for city treasurer and served as justice of the peace from 1899 to 1901. In addition to the church, Swain designed a number of commercial buildings and structures on the campus.

Swain designed both the original church (1898-1899) and the 1914 addition, which successfully united the older frame building into a massive new stone Romanesque Revival structure. The sophistication of the design and its craftsmanship (particularly the stonework, timber truss, and stained glass) have few equals among Swain's other work or other structures in the community.