

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon  
 COUNTY: Lane  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 31 1974

1. NAME  
 COMMON: First Presbyterian Church  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 216 South 3rd Street Representative John Dellenback  
 CITY OR TOWN: Cottage Grove CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon Fourth Congressional District  
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41 COUNTY: Lane CODE: 039

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
 OWNER'S NAME: Presbytry of the Cascades  
 STREET AND NUMBER: c/o Synod of Oregon, United Presbyterian Church, 245 SW Bancroft Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Lane County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Eugene STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Branch  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Building  
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent   
  Good   
  Fair   
  Deteriorated   
  Ruins   
  Unexposed

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(Check One)

Altered   
  Unaltered

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(Check One)

Moved   
  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove, designed by the noted Pacific Northwest architect Pietro Belluschi between 1948 and 1951, sits in the words of the architect, in a "fine lot, bordered by beautiful trees, located in the midst of the residential district, and presenting wonderful opportunities to create an intimate and inviting atmosphere . . . in which the average man may find spiritual shelter." The main volume of the church is a longitudinal block with a flat roof which gently rises in two undulating reverse curves from the low west end to the high east end which contains the chancel. This roof line and a large window containing panes of pink, violet, and yellow glass tend to emphasize the chancel end as the center of mass of all parts of the building, and as the logical yet not overpowering center of attention. Within, light from the window, which faces north, plays across a white plaster wall at the east end of the chancel in ever-changing patterns of color and light which contrast the plainness and simplicity of the light wood interior. Entrance from the street is through a large courtyard on the north side of the nave, which contains a carved redwood bell tower and a large bolder on the courtyard entrance axis which screens but does not obscure the nave door, as well as black locust trees and plantings which combine to form an effective transition zone between the world at large and the quiet world of meditation.

Other parts of the church complex include a low flat-roofed wing at the west end of the courtyard which contains a large hall with a stage, a kitchen (which was designed by a lady member of the congregation), and a parlor which can be subdivided. Another wing on the south side of the nave contains the Church School, which has its own courtyard on the south east corner of the nave. Another low flat-roofed wing east of the chancel contains the office, Pastor's study, library and a small chapel. The rough-sawn board and batten Douglas Fir siding is stained a soft grey approximating the bark of the locust trees. In Belluschi's words, ". . . The materials used are humble ones, and the details very simple, chosen more to convey the idea of purpose than that of richness, and to prove that architecture is an intrinsic art and not an arbitrary dress to be applied at the designer's changing whim." The design was in fact the result of a three-year dialogue between the architect and the congregation. A radical design for the time in Oregon, it was not executed until all concerned had had a chance to participate and were pleased. The bell tower which carries a bell from an earlier church was carved by the pastor, the Reverend D. H. Peniston and the congregation went to considerable effort to obtain the large boulder in the courtyard which Belluschi felt to be intrinsic to the spirit of the design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1951

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pietro Belluschi is generally credited with developing the "Pacific Northwest" style of architecture. He was born in Italy in 1899 and following his graduation from the University of Rome in 1922, immigrated to America and continued his studies at Cornell. In 1927 he joined the office of the prominent Portland architect A. E. Doyle and quickly rose to the position of chief designer. Following the death of Doyle in 1928, he assumed leadership of the firm, changing the name to A. E. Doyle and Associate in 1933, and Pietro Belluschi in 1943. He received national attention for the Portland Art Museum in 1932 and the Finley Mortuary in 1937. During the 1930s and '40s, Belluschi's work, especially residences and churches, began to show the development of an increasingly regional character which has since become known as the "Pacific Northwest" style. It is characterized by low massing and ample roofs with a combination of hip and gable and broken slopes. The spacial sense of modern architecture is combined with materials, especially timber, and natural colors of the Pacific Northwest. Some faint Japanese influence may be felt, but by and large it is based on regional vernacular building forms and techniques. Belluschi's work has always been characterized by its sensitivity to its surroundings.

Belluschi's competence and versatility as a designer was demonstrated with the Equitable Building in Portland, the first Miesean International style office tower to be built in the United States. Strong International school influences can also be detected in the First Presbyterian Church. In the words of Marion Ross, an authority on Pacific Northwest architecture, "The First Presbyterian Church in Cottage Grove, finished in 1951, is the least traditional and probably the best of Belluschi's Oregon churches . . . The material is all wood, and while there is no obvious suggestion of the forms of vernacular building, there can be no doubt that it is suitable for the small community in which it is sited. It would seem that in this design Belluschi had become so imbued with the spirit of the region that no obvious similarity of shape was necessary to give it the feeling of belonging." Belluschi left Oregon the same year as the First Presbyterian Church was completed to become dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Seth, Mary, "The Church of Cottage Grove," Presbyterian Life, September 17, 1955, pp. 20-23.

Ross, Marion Dean, "The Attainment and Restraint of Pietro Belluschi," AIA Journal, July, 1972.

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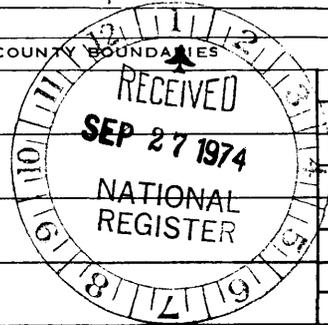
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	43	0	45	43
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	123	0	03	48
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"				
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Paul B. Hartwig, Park Historian and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: August 16, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

[Signature]

Title State Parks Superintendent

Date September 18, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 31 1974

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date Dec 31, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Lane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 31 1974

(Number all entries)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (CONTINUED)

2. Location

The First Presbyterian Church is located in Sec. 28, T. 20S., R. 3W. of the Willamette Meridian, on Lots 2, 3, 4 of Block 1, Wynn's Second Addition to Cottage Grove, Lane County, Oregon.

