

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE:           | Oregon     |
| COUNTY:          | Polk       |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |            |
| ENTRY DATE:      | MAY 8 1974 |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Spring Valley Presbyterian Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SE of Mc Coy

CITY OR TOWN:  
Zena

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
41

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Representative Wendell Wyatt  
First Congressional District

COUNTY:  
Polk

CODE:  
053

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress                       | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No       |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |   |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum  | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Trustees of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1560 Wallace Road N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salem

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
97304 41

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Polk County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Dallas

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
97338 41

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY:  
1970

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Parks and Recreation Section

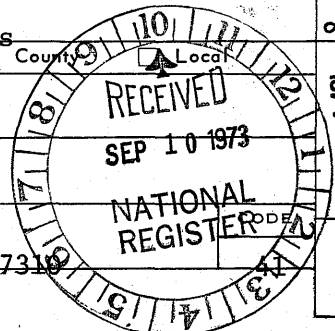
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Oregon State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salem

STATE:  
Oregon

CODE:  
97319

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| STATE:        | Oregon     |
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| ENTRY NUMBER: | MAY 8 1974 |
| DATE:         |            |

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

|           |   |   |                                |   |                                |
|-----------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |   |                                |   |                                |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins |
|           | (Check One)                                   |   |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |
|           | <input type="checkbox"/> Altered              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The church site is a small knoll at the eastern end of Spring Valley in a grove of Oak and Madrona trees. The simple, vernacular structure has Classic Revival details and is rectangular in plan. The gable roof has a central belfry inset from the facade. Hewn sills are supported about 18 inches off the ground by large stones and oak shims. Exterior wall finish is clapboard, and fenestration is regular. The north and south walls each have three window openings, double hung sash with nine lights over nine lights. The door on the east gable end is double leaf, three panel. There are two windows with round arched heads and twelve-light upper sashes over nine light lower sash placed to the right and left of the door. A small half round, or fan window is located about 3/4 of the distance from the door entablature to the ridge point. The west gable end has no openings. The square belfry has center pointed openings. On its 4 vertical sides are a boxed cornice with frieze and brackets. The south and west openings of the belfry are louvered. Concrete steps have replaced the original steps and the building has been re-roofed several times. Protective metal flashing has been place on the raking cornices at both ends of the church, but it is scarcely noticeable. The interior walls are plaster. Wainscot, chair rail, and base board are natural-finished fir, as are the benches. The ceiling has been lowered somewhat and covered with acoustical tile. The overall condition of the interior is good. The landscaping is informal and the grounds include a very well-kept pioneer cemetery.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
| MAY 8            | 1974 |

(Number all entries)

8

SPRING VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2. Location

Spring Valley Presbyterian Church is located in Section 36,  
T. 6 S, R. 4W, of the Willamette, Meridian, in Polk County, Oregon.



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1858-1859**

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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A church for Spring Valley which is on the eastern slope of the Eola hills, seven miles northwest of Salem, was organized by Rev. J.A. Cornwall during the autumn of 1851. Services for some years were held in a schoolhouse at Zena corners. The Spring Valley Presbyterian Church at Zena was begun in 1858 and completed in the following year.

Zena was named for Arvazena Cooper, wife of Daniel Cooper who moved into the community in 1863. A post office was established there March 22, 1869.

During the summer of 1858 a subscription list bearing 52 names raised support for a church building fund. Some contributed money, others materials and labor. Nelson Walling donated a four acre site for the church and cemetery.

Hewn plates, sills and beams were made on the site. The sawn lumber came up the Willamette River to Lincoln from Portland by river boat.

The church's bell, an English importation weighing hundreds of pounds acquired after the church was built, stood on a platform outside. Engineering skill of Capt. P.F. Clark, an old time resident of the community, raised the bell into the church steeple. This was completed in 1859.

Cumberland Presbyterians sponsored the Spring Valley Church but it is recorded that heretical intertrepations by an early minister resulted in a schism which caused the congregation to splinter. An interval of many years followed dissolution by the Cumberland Presbyterians, May 10, 1866. Between that time and July 23, 1881, when the church became a member of Presbytery of Oregon, various ministers conducted services in the church.

During the 1890s and early 1900s Rev. W.J. Crawford, a Baptist minister, conducted services with regularity at Spring Valley Church. During the 1940s and 1950s a number of denominations offered services, prayer meetings and youth leadership at Zena. Some 20 ministers are known to have officiated at Spring Valley Church.

The United Presbyterian Church has relinquished its claim to the church and its 4.68 acre grounds, and the property is now held and maintained by a board of trustees. What was the small farm community of Zena is now gone, and regular Sunday services are not being held in the church. Currently the church is being used as a Sunday School for children in the area and occasionally as a meeting place. The building is one of the more sophisticated of early pioneer churches in the Willamette Valley, specifically, those constructed during the decade of the 1850s.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Oregon Statesman, "Polk Historical Unit Meets in Old Church" (May, 17, 1961).

Oregon Statesman, (October 30, 1955), 5.

Maxwell, Ben, "Spring Valley Schedules Church Centenary Fete," Capital Journal, (November 1, 1958).

Oregon Statesman, "Early Families Place Plaque at Zena Church" (June 4, 1951), 3.

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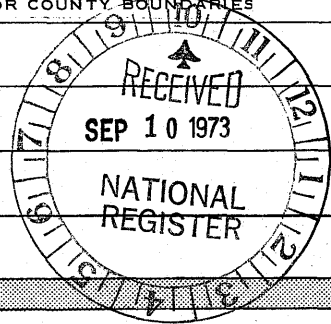
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    | 45 ° 00 ' 46 "  | 123 ° 07 ' 39 "         |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |    |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.68

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 Hartwig, Assistant Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division

STREET AND NUMBER: State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem

STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

DATE: August 1973

**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

Name: [Signature]

Title: Director of Transportation

Date: Sept. 4, 1973

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/8/74

ATTEST: [Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5.7.74