

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints

and/or common American Legion Hall, Myrtle Post 38

2. Location

street & number 7th and Maple Streets not for publication

city, town Myrtle Point vicinity of congressional district 4th

state Oregon code 41 county Coos code 011

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 type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: meeting hall

4. Owner of Property

name American Legion, Department of Oregon

street & number 421 SW 5th Avenue

city, town Portland vicinity of state Oregon 97204

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Coos County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Coquille state Oregon 97423

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, 525 Trade Street SE

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

The sanctuary of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints (1910) in Myrtle Point is an oblong dome framed with staves, continuous from floor to cupola, of 1 x 4s laminated in groups of three, set 16" on center at the floor, and nailed up in forms to the proper curvature. The sill is raised about a foot and a half above ground atop posts and concrete block footings. The dome, oriented longitudinally on its north/south-running lot, measures 45 feet in diameter at its longest dimension. Height, from floor to apex of ceiling, is 24 feet. Sheathing was sprung around the ribs for a smooth surface. The exterior was clad with unpainted cedar shingles, and the interior was finished with lath and plaster.

The interior is lighted by an oculus, or central skylight crowned by a cupola consisting of open framework of diagonals and uprights and a shingle-clad ogee dome with finial. On north and south sides, the cupola is flanked by louvered monitors with shingled roofs having bell-cast eaves.

The skin of the dome is pierced near the sill line by four window openings in the long east and west elevations. The openings are fitted with ordinary double-hung wood sash containing one light over one, and the lintels are capped with shingled hoods.

The rounded contour of the south end is broken by three projecting square bays with peaked roofs and bell-cast eaves. The southwesterly bay nearest the street and sidewalk intersections contains the entry vestibule. The other two bays are blind, having no openings in the outside wall.

Shortly after the church was acquired by the Four Square Gospel Church in 1927, Mrs. A. T. Train, the leader of the group, made the first attempt at compensating for the auditorium's acoustical deficiencies. She ordered a false ceiling of burlap to be hung about 16' from the floor.

The first permanent alterations were made by the American Legion Post around the time of the Second World War. A small frame kitchen wing was added unobtrusively off the northeast corner of the dome, a continuous bench was built around the wall of the auditorium, and the platform floor was lowered slightly. In response to local fire safety codes, during the summer of 1961 the Legion Post inserted a permanent 12-foot ceiling and resurfaced the entire exterior with composition shingles painted grey to simulate the appearance of the original weathered cedar shingles.

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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Samuel Giles, Myrtle Point, designer

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The small, wood-ribbed dome built as a sanctuary by the congregation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Myrtle Point in 1910 is significant to the community and to Coos County as an example of individualistic building design for religious purposes. It was based in concept upon a specific model--the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City--but greatly reduced in scale and adapted to a 50 x 95-foot lot.

Demonstrating the courage of their conviction, members of the congregation carried out the concept of fellow member Samuel Giles under the supervision of local builder Thomas Dickson and carpenter Charles McCracken. Men of the congregation executed the framing and the shingling, and the women did the lathing. The sanctuary was formally dedicated on July 31, 1910.

While occupied by the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints for only seventeen years, the building continued to play a role in the religious life of the community under subsequent ownership by the Four Square Gospel Church. The local congregation of the Four Square Gospel Church was organized in the summer of 1927 and purchased the building the following November with "the announced intention of using the church until the end of the world, which Mrs. A. T. Train, the leader of the group, expected in a few short years."¹ When the small congregation ceased to function in time, the building was used by various organizations as a meeting hall. Shortly before the Second World War, Myrtle Post 38 of the American Legion acquired the property and made certain modifications for its own purposes. The Legion Post has maintained the former sanctuary to the present day, but, faced with reduced membership and dwindling treasury, the Post has proposed that the building be occupied by a tenant such as the Myrtle Point Chamber of Commerce in the future.

The sanctuary of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints in Myrtle Point sustained its share of derision in the past. It was remarked, for example, that the church "was built round" so that its congregation could not be "cornered by the devil."² Notwithstanding its eccentricity, and ultimately because of it, the building has become a minor attraction in the Coquille River Valley, which is a main route of travel between Roseburg and the Coast. During the Bicentennial Era, the church was declared a local landmark.

Following are excerpts from a note by Charles McCracken, who helped supervise construction of the church in 1910. The note appeared in the DAR's 1966 Oregon Coast number of the series entitled Oregon Historic Landmarks.

The form of the church was conceived by Samuel Giles, the son of Daniel Giles, who arrived in Coos County in 1853 when he was sixteen years old. Samuel Giles, who operated a brickyard with his father, had been in Salt Lake City and he believed he could pattern this structure after the Mormon Tabernacle with its extraordinary acoustical properties.

Unfortunately, the change in proportions and radical reduction in size to an

9. Major Bibliographical References

McCracken, Charles, and Verlin K. Hermann, "American Legion Hall, Myrtle Point," Oregon Historic Landmarks (Portland: Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Oregon Coast number, 1966), 56-57.
 Beckham, Curt, "Myrtle Point's Historic Round Building," Oregon Outdoors Magazine, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one (50 x 95')

Quadrangle name Myrtle Point, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	0	4	0	7	2	9	0	4	7	6	8	3	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1 of Block 15, Extension of Myrtle Point Plat, Coos County, Oregon. The property is located in NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 16, T.29S., R.12W., of the Willamette Meridian.

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 William P. Downing, with assistance of Curt Beckham, local historian

organization American Legion Post 38 date August 15, 1978

street & number P.O. Box 206 telephone 503/572-5280

city or town Myrtle Point state Oregon 97458

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David H. Talbot*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date August 27, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>James Carol Skell</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>10-18-79</u>
Attest: <u>W. Ray Luce</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>Sept 18, 1979</u>

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	12 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 18 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

auditorium about forty-five feet in diameter and twenty-four feet in height to center skylight resulted in acoustical chaos. Reverberations from the walls fog the sound of the speaker's voice in a large part of the sanctuary, while quiet comments on one side of the room are readily heard on the opposite side. False ceilings installed at varying heights by subsequent owners modified but never corrected the problem.³

¹Charles McCracken, and Verlin K. Hermann, "American Legion Hall, Myrtle Point," Oregon Historic Landmarks (Portland: Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Oregon Coast number, 1966), 57.

²Curt Beckham, "Myrtle Point's Historic Round Building," Oregon Outdoors Magazine, 1974.

³McCracken, op. cit., page 56.

