

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED MAY 13 1976

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  *nb-* First Presbyterian Church, Kamiah

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*4012  
S E of Kamiah*

CITY, TOWN

Kamiah

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Idaho

VICINITY OF

CODE 16

COUNTY

Idaho

CODE

049

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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Nez Perce Joint Session

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kamiah

VICINITY OF

Idaho STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Idaho County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Grangeville

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

610 N. Julia Davis Drive, Boise

STATE

Idaho

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Kamiah church was built in 1874 by Nez Perce Indians using government funds available to them for such purposes. It was originally a simple frontier rendition of the Greek Revival style, but in 1890 was renovated into Gothic Revival style, due to the efforts of Alice C. Fletcher and Jane Gay with money from the estate of William Thaw.

This symmetrical clapboard structure is unpretentious. It is entered by a centered double doorway with a transom window. Its one story, wooden portico, approached from either side by stairs, originally consisted of two wooden posts supporting a gabled porch roof. A double hung sash window flanks the entranceway on both sides. The gabled roof has a return, a typical Greek Revival feature, which creates the impression of a pediment. A gabled belfry, with four windows was at the front of the building. Four double-hung windows were along each side, and the rear had three. When the church was Gothicized in 1890, all of the windows were lengthened at the tops and bottoms. Triangular transom windows were added to suggest Gothic arches. The belfry was removed, although the Greek Revival roofline remained. The simple portico was replaced with taller belfry on posts, with pointed-arched openings and a tall peak. The stairs were expanded to surround the porch.

Since the 1890 renovation several alterations have been made to the church. The wooden stairs have been replaced with concrete, and the original posts have also been replaced with steel pipes. An addition was added to the rear of the church in the same style, and a short, gabled entranceway to a basement addition was placed on the south side.

# 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 1874, 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With antecedents in the Nez Perce and Cayuse missionary efforts of Henry Harmon Spalding and Marcus Whitman, who came to the upper Columbia in 1836 as representatives of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, this Kamiah church represents the continuation of a long missionary tradition of great cultural importance to the plateau Indians. Asa Bowen Smith, an associate of Spalding and Whitman, came to Kamiah in 1838 for a couple of years, but the major missionary impact came later. Spalding came from Lapwai to Kamiah in the fall of 1872, bringing with him the operating base for the First Church of Oregon which he and Whilman had organized August 18, 1838. By this time his church had a thousand or so Indian members of various tribes, mainly Nez Perce. Spalding's work at Kamiah was continued by Kate and Sue McBeth, and the Kamiah church <sup>has</sup> continued for more than a century. But after Spalding left, his First Church of Oregon emerged as the First Presbyterian Church of Kamiah.

Architecturally the building is significant as an example of a frontier structure, and as a reflection of shifting patterns of taste. Greek Revival architecture was extremely popular in many early Idaho mining camps, but this building is one of the very few which are still extant. In the nation the Greek Revival, popular since the 1820's, had from the 1840's onward, been under heavy fire due to the writings of John Ruskin. The Kamiah Church obviously weathered this storm, only to emerge in Gothic Revival style in 1890 when repair was necessary. Like so many other church structures, the Kamiah church made a transition to this medieval style which remained popular for church buildings up into the twentieth century, due to in part the efforts of Ralph Adams Cram.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morrill, Allen and Eleanor, "Old Church Made New," Idaho Yesterdays, vol 16, No. 2, Summer 1972, pp. 16-25

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ~~under ten~~ less than 1  
 UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	1	5	7	6	7	1	5	5	1	1	7	0	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B 

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the building is included.

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

Merle W. Wells, State Preservation Officer

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

26 March 1976

STREET & NUMBER

610 N. Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise,

STATE

Idaho

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Merle Wells*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 26, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

*3/13/76*

ACTING DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles H. ...*

DATE

*5-11-76*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER