

STATE OF OREGON INVENTORY  
OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
State Historic Preservation Office  
Oregon State Parks, Salem, OR 97310

County Marion

Theme 8a, 8D

Name  
(Common) First United Methodist Church

(Historic) First United Methodist Church

Address 600 State Street

Salem, OR 97301

Present Owner First United Methodist Church

Address 600 State Street

Original Use Church

Date of Construction 1877-1878



Physical description of property and statement of historical significance:

The site has been identified as the site for the first First Methodist Church (1841) west of the Rockies with its first pastor David Leslie. The First Church structure was built in late 1852 and early 1853. David Leslie was a colleague of Jason Lee, the first president of the Board of Trustees of Willamette University.

The first deed on record for the building dates from 1856, three years after construction. In 1871-1877 this original wood frame building was removed and replaced by the present main church structure. The old building was removed to the site of Salem Federal Savings and disposed of later.

With the building of the present structure in 1877, the church as we know it today began to be constructed. The original architect for the 1877 structure was Cass Chapman renowned for his Trinity Church in Chicago. Due to financial difficulties, the Church was not completed until 1877 and a new architect W.F. Bouthby was engaged. The new structure was dedicated on March 17, 1878 and cost \$45,000 (\$15,000 more than was originally projected). This Church was not free of the debt of its construction and various other maintenance projects in the 1890's until the year 1900. A new pipe organ was added in 1905.

continue on back if necessary

Recorded by Mark Siegel Date 12/2/80

Sources consulted (continue on back if necessary):

Please enclose map. Township 7 <sup>N</sup>/<sub>S</sub>        <sup>E</sup>/<sub>W</sub> Section 27

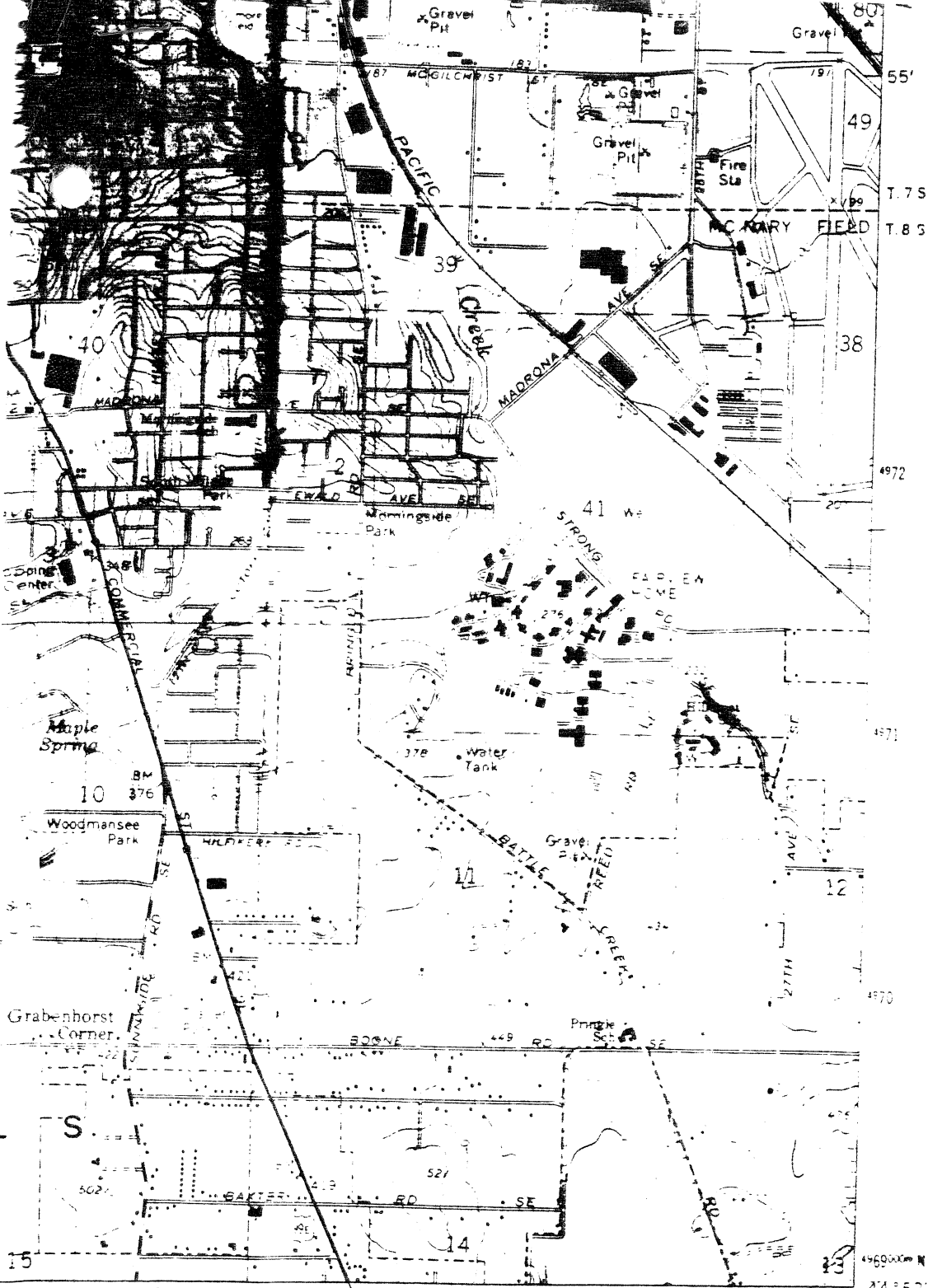
The next major addition was the Church Study School constructed to the east of the 1877 structure. In 1910 the parsonage was converted to church school use, a church Sunday-school annex was completed approximately in 1924. More complete records to date the building of this annex do not exist. The annex was built with volunteer help and its estimated cost of materials was \$1,463.

In 1935, the new Church School Temple was completed. This was built in the gothic style with a front gable gothic roof and curved gothic windows. The building is east of the present 1877 Church structure. In 1951-53 exterior work was performed on the Church including repair of the tower which was in dangerous condition at that time. The spire was given new fireproof shingles and a new metal cross was added and floodlighting. In addition, the roof of the church was made weather tight and the walls of the building were sandblasted and waterproofed. Architect for this rehabilitation was Glenn Stanton, of Portland. In addition, internal improvements were made including new pews, floor covering, organ, the inside wall cleaning, prepare the dining room floor along with the construction of redesigning vestibules and stairways as well as second floor restrooms.

The most recent addition is the 1967 Chapel addition, known as the Ferne and Brooksmore Chapel, Donald Richardson, architect. As part of this construction the old parsonage building which had been used for church school purposes was torn down. The new Chapel was dedicated October, 1967. Famous pastors of the Church have been David Leslie, 1842-48, and 1852-56, A.F. Waller 1852-1854, James H. Wilbur early 1870's and Lowell C. Rodgers in the 1870's. Wilbur was Indian Agent at the Yakima Indian Reservation and Rodgers was Professor of Natural Science at Willamette University.

Source: "The First United Methodist Church of Salem, Oregon: A Story of the Growth and Transition of the Oldest Methodist Church west of the Rocky Mountains" by J. Orin Olplant and Mary C. Olplant. Salem, OR 1974.

MARION Co.



30" 497 2 MI TO INTERSTATE 5 ALBANY 7 MI 4900000 E 123°00' 4960000 N 44°52'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
- Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

(TURNER)  
1971 N 5 W

U.S. Route    State Route   

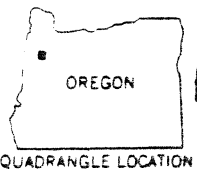
# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SALEM

SALEM WEST, OREG.

NE 1/4 SALEM 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4452.5—W12300/7.5

1969

SHPO 70



DMA 1273 LINE SERIES V892  
10/497320/4975960