OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
HISTORIC RESOURCE RECORD

Instructions

Use this form to enter a property into the Oregon Historic Sites Database or to request that staff evaluate a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

To have a property evaluated for its potential for listing in the National Register, please complete all blanks and write neatly. Provide as much information about the exterior and interior as possible, such as the number of stories, cladding materials, and general room layout, under "General Description." Under "Building History," include any information about the architect, builder, original owners and subsequent occupants, and historic activities or events that occurred at the property. If available, attach historic photos, newspaper clippings, obituaries, and other documentation to help the reviewer better understand your property. Use additional sheets if necessary.

IMPORTANT: Submit current exterior (all sides) and interior color photographs (entry, living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom, hallway spaces, etc). If the property has outbuildings, include these photos too.

Mail completed forms to National Register Program, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, ATTN: Tracy Collis, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or email them to Tracy.Collis@oregon.gov with "HRR" in the subject line. Emailed submissions must be under 10MB in size and include digital photos of the property. Mail submissions must include printed photographs. HRRs are reviewed within two weeks of submission.

All materials submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office become property of the State of Oregon and are available as public records. Materials submitted to the SHPO will not be returned.

Applicant Information

Name: Cherie Kausler (Secretary) Date:
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 275
City/State/Zip: Union OR 97883
Phone Number: 541-562-2038 E-mail:

Property Information

Historic Name, if known: Union United Methodist Church
Street Address: 557 N Main St
City/Town: Union OR County: Union

Owner Information

Complete if the applicant is not the owner. Response will be sent to the applicant and owner. Private property cannot be listed in the National without owner consent.

Name/Institution: Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall
Contact Name: Cherie Kausler
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 275
City/State/Zip: Union OR 97883
Phone Number: 541-562-2038 E-mail: HistoricUnionCommunityHall@gmail.com

Application Type

☐ Add this property to Oregon Historic Sites Database

Staff will enter the data submitted in the Oregon Historic Sites Database, file this application in archive and may make a determination of eligibility for the National Register, but will not respond to the applicant.

☒ Evaluate this property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places

Staff will enter the data submitted in the Oregon Historic Sites Database, file this application in our permanent archive, and will make a determination of eligibility for the National Register, and respond to the applic specific instructions on how to nominate the property to the Register.

Property Name and Address:

Exterior Description

Construction Date 1905 Note source (estimated, deed, other record(s) State of Oregon, Historic Sites + Building

Original use. Check all that apply
☐ Domestic ☐ Commercial ☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Agricultural
☒ Other: Church

Siding material(s). Check all that apply
☐ Horizontal Wood ☐ Vertical Board ☒ Brick ☐ Stone ☐ Asbestos ☐ Vinyl
☐ Other:

Write a general exterior description, including building shape, height, roof type, and any special features.
See attached

Write a general interior description, including general layout, major rooms, and any special features.
See attached

List known or probable alterations and the approximate date the work was done.
See attached

Building History *Please explain what events and persons are associated with this property and whether the building's architecture or the construction methods used to build it are noteworthy. Use additional pages if necessary.*

See attached

Union United Methodist Church
Application to the
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
Historic Resource Record
by the
Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall
September 2, 2023

The former Union United Methodist Church is located at 665 North Main Street in Union Oregon. The building was dedicated in 1905 and is an impressive building with brickwork and stained glass windows. The property lies two blocks north of the Union Historic District and has been a cultural gathering place for the community.

Exterior General Description: The former Union United Methodist Church, now managed by the Friends of The Historic Union Community Hall since 2021, boasts a rich historical presence in Union, Oregon. This one-story brick building, located at the southeast corner of North Main and Delta streets, retains its original charm despite the passage of time. Constructed in 1905, this architectural gem features a unique Greek Cross design with a gable roof. An eye-catching square bell tower graces the west (front) elevation, sporting double entry doors and a decorative steep hip roof with four gables (refer to attached photo). The gable ends of the building and the upper section of the bell tower are adorned with fabricated shingles. Notable features include lead glass stained windows in lancet bays on the west and north elevations, complete with stone lugills.

In 1955, an addition known as the Fellowship Hall was added to the east side of the original structure. This rectangular extension provides additional space for a meeting hall, a kitchen facility, storage, and two restrooms. The Fellowship Hall features a metal roof over shingles, single-pane windows, and a combination of brick and vinyl siding.

It's worth noting that photographs from before the 1976 State of Oregon Inventory report show that the bell tower had been enclosed. This enclosure safeguards the former Presbyterian Church bell, which was generously donated to the Union United Methodist Church in 1919.

Over the years, the building has experienced some wear and tear. In 2020, Ralph Edwards of Associated Design & Engineering Services LLC observed, "All in all, this is a good property with some issues that merit attention to prevent further deterioration." Edwards further noted that the primary source of concern appeared to be a failing roof, with several areas showing signs of damage. The designed cornice gutter system had

been roofed over, rendering it ineffective and causing dry rot in the exterior cornice work. Visual inspection revealed that roof-to-wall flashings had pulled back from the wall, and the sealant had deteriorated, allowing water infiltration. However, the bell tower roof itself seemed to be in good condition, except at the connections with the lower roof, where seal failures were evident.

In October 2020, JL Inspection, operated by Logan Jones, produced a comprehensive report detailing concerns with both the building's interior and exterior. Mr. Jones expressed an overall positive assessment of the building's exterior components, especially given its age. The brickwork remained in good condition, with only minor repointing needed in a few areas, particularly at the front of the building. Concerning the original church and the dining hall addition (Fellowship Hall), structural components were found to be in very good condition, with only minor improvements required. The foundation had withstood the test of time, showing no signs of settlement.

Interior General Description: The interior of the former Union United Methodist Church exudes warmth, featuring exquisite wood paneling and inviting stained glass windows that filter soft, ambient light. Notably, the largest stained glass window set is situated on the south side of the building, impressing with its size, intricate design, and vibrant colors. As described by Ralph Edwards, "The woodwork in the building is outstanding in design, and the interior window sills and frames look great. Doors operate as they should, and the floors on all levels remain sound and level."

This charming building also includes balconies on the west and north sides, each accompanied by an alcove. The northern alcove, previously open, has been converted into an office, maintaining its original upward rolling wood sliders for easy reversion to its initial purpose.

While the largest stained glass window set, facing south away from Main Street, remains in remarkable condition with minor cracks, other stained glass windows exhibit varying degrees of damage. Ralph Edwards ntes visible signs of water infiltration have caused plaster to separate from the walls, potentially necessitating inspection and repointing by a qualified mason.

Furthermore, an inspection of the basement conducted by Ralph Edwards in 2019 revealed indications of below-ground water infiltration. While no substantial damage had occurred, the dampness in the basement generated a moldy odor.

Known or Probable Alterations and Dates: The former Union United Methodist Church has largely retained its original appearance since its dedication in 1905, with the notable exception of the addition of the Fellowship Hall in 1955.

After the 1976 State of Oregon Inventory report, the bell tower was enclosed.

It's been reported by community members that volunteers, around 2000, initiated roofing work on the church. Although these efforts endured for nearly two decades, they may have inadvertently caused improper water flow and ice buildup, resulting in damage to the internal gutter system.

In 2020, the internal gutter system of the roof had failed, prompting intervention by the Friends of the Historic Union Community Hall. Funding from the Wildhorse Foundation and the Kinsman Foundation, amounting to approximately $28,000.00, was allocated to address the failed internal gutter system. Palmer Roofing extended the white gutter system materials beyond the original areas and also remedied a failed cornice, resolving water seepage issues between the plaster and brick.

Around 2021, Second Mile Electric replaced the knob and tube electrical system in the former church at an estimated cost of $25,000.00, with funding secured from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

In 2021-2022, Mortar work on the foundation and limited brickwork was undertaken by Mulinebur Masonry. This project, along with several other renovation efforts, received funding from The Ford Family Foundation.

In August 2023, The Scottish Group removed several of the historic stained glass windows for repair, with funding provided by The Ford Family Foundation and The Wildhorse Foundation. Several grant submissions are pending, with the partial glass window renovation project expected to cost between $35,000.00 and $52,000.00, depending on funding. Quotes obtained in 2023 from two national stained glass repair companies valued the stained glass windows at over $250,000.00.

It's worth noting that staff can identify that the Historic Stained Glass windows have undergone previous repair work.