

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 28 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 2 1978

## 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

First Church of Christ, Scientist

AND/OR COMMON

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1813 NW Everett St,

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portland

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Multnomah

CODE

051

### CLASSIFICATION

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

STREET & NUMBER

1813 NW Everett

CITY, TOWN

Portland

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon 97209

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Multnomah County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S.W. Fourth

CITY, TOWN

Portland

STATE

Oregon 97204

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL \_\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	XX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	XXX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, is a three-story masonry and wood frame structure erected in the tradition of Beaux Arts Classicism in 1909. It occupies three quarters of a block in Couch's Addition in Northwest Portland. Its appearance is little altered from the original concept except for the addition of an elevator and a caretaker's apartment. These additions have resulted in modifications to the stairs in the northwest and southeast corners of the building and an exterior mechanical penthouse over the elevator at the rear of the main building. However, these modifications are constructed of similar materials and in a style consistent with the original construction, and they are not obtrusive.

The building is rectangular in plan and oriented to the south. The domed core of the structure is flanked by east and west wings. The lowest floor is totally below grade at the west wing and on grade at the east wing due to the sloping site. The main entrance, centered in the south facade and sheltered by a classical portico, is half a story above street grade.

The foundation is concrete; wall construction is cut stone; and floors and roof construction are of wood frame. Fenestration is arcuated. The Beaux Arts-style building is Roman in spirit. Exterior details and interior finish work convey a simplicity and restraint consistent with church doctrine.

The lower floor houses the mechanical spaces and the other small-group functions, such as teaching rooms and nursery space, while the second floor contains formal meeting rooms and a foyer and reception space. The third floor is almost totally devoted to the dignified auditorium space, which seats approximately 1,200 on its sloping floor. Spatial volumes of the auditorium consist of the oculus-lighted domed central portion and two equal barrel-vaulted wings. Seating is organized in semi-circular fashion and the focal point is the Reader's Platform and organ loft in the wall behind it. Interior finishes are painted plaster and wood trim in muted colors.

In sound condition and well maintained by its congregation over the years, the building is being acquired for adaptive use as a community center. Renovation plans call for upgrading the electrical system, addition of a sprinkler system and installation of a kitchen in an area presently used for storage. The third-level auditorium will be altered to allow for a thrust stage in place of the small Reader's Platform. The only alterations that will affect the exterior appearance of the building will be minor re-grading of the east entrance to allow for wheelchair access. On the north side, a service delivery ramp from the parking lot to the kitchen is also planned.

By purchasing this building for a community center, Northwest Service Center plans to encourage cooperation among all segments of the neighborhood population, to provide space for the operation of existing and proposed social service agencies, and to provide practice and performance space to performing arts groups.

# 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Solon S. Beman, Chicago Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Church of Christ, Scientist, erected in Northwest Portland in 1909, is significant to the city as the first permanent home of the earliest Christian Science congregation established in Portland. Following the fundamentalist precepts and spiritual healing practices of Mary Baker Eddy, who reorganized the Christian Science movement in Boston in 1879, the denomination's premier congregation in Portland traces its beginnings to 1895. The congregation dedicated its Church -- long one of the neighborhood's more monumental landmarks, in 1911.

Plans for the Church are attributed to Solon S. Beman, designer of the Christian Science Church prototype and consultant and advisor to the Mother Church project completed in Boston in 1906.

Solon Spencer Beman (1853-1914), a native of Brooklyn, entered the architectural profession as an apprentice in the New York Office of Richard Upjohn, noted exponent of the Gothic Revival. In 1879 Beman removed to Illinois, where he worked on lucrative new town developments for George Pullman and the Proctor and Gamble Company, sponsor of "Ivorydale".

Beman became well-known in Chicago for his multi-storied structures, including the nine-story Pullman Building (1881), the Studebaker Buildings of 1885 and 1888, and Grand Central Terminal of the Wisconsin Central Railroad (1888). His Commercial Style buildings were erected also in Milwaukee, South Bend, St. Paul, Grand Rapids, and Pittsburgh; and he was known as well for suburban residences for wealthy industrialists.

For the 1893 World's Columbia Exposition, Beman designed the Mines and Mining Building and the Merchants Tailors Building, which fronted the lagoon opposite the Fine Arts Building. Carried out in the tradition of Beaux Arts Classicism which characterized the Exposition, the Merchants Tailors Building attracted attention by its design and position and became the prototype of Christian Science churches across the country. Beman is credited with six buildings in this vein for the Christian Science Church in Chicago alone.

For several decades the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Portland was used to capacity, and during an occasional service, people were to be found sitting in the aisles of the 1200-seat auditorium. As the City expanded and the number of Christian Science congregations grew (there are now thirteen congregations in the metropolitan area), the First Church membership dwindled. It presently consists of some one hundred persons. No longer requiring the vast amount of space the building provides, the congregation is seeking a place to worship elsewhere. The proposed use of the building as a community service center is regarded a fitting adaptation of the building's original function by all concerned.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Withey, Henry F., and Withy, Elsie Rathburn, Biographical Dictionary of American Architects ... (Los Angeles: New Age Publishing Co., 1956), 49-50. Biographical note on architect Solon Spencer Beman.  
 Powers, Alfred, Ed., FERA Manuscript Project, Churches History, a Denominational Survey, Portland Center, Oregon State System of Higher Education

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one (30,000 sq. ft.)  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1 0	5 2 4 3 1 5	5 0 4 1 1 3 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, Block 172, Couch's Addition to Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon.

## 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  
 George C. Sheldon, President Board of Directors

ORGANIZATION  
 Northwest Service Center, Inc.

DATE  
 2 May 1978

STREET & NUMBER  
 1956 N.W. Everett

TELEPHONE  
 (503) 223-2595

CITY OR TOWN  
 Portland

STATE  
 Oregon 97209

# 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 *George C. Sheldon*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 11, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *William Labovitch*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *10/2/78*

DATE *Sept 25, 1978*



First Church of Christ,  
Scientist  
1813 NW Everett  
Portland, Multnomah County,

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Oregon **AUG 28 1978**

South (main) facade

Mike Ryerson photo, 1978

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Negative, THE NEIGHBOR  
2527 NW Overton  
*NOE* Portland, OR 97210

**OCT 2 1978**

*10/1*

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**