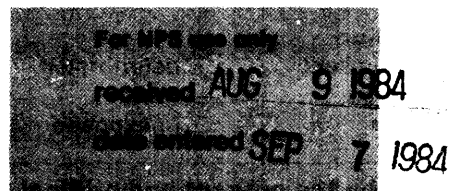


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number northwest corner of Fourth and William streets, N/A not for publication

city, town Post Falls ☒ vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Idaho code 016 county Kootenai code 055

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☒ religious
☐ object	N/A In process	☐ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	N/A being considered	☒ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Community Presbyterian Church

street & number P.O. Box 537

city, town Post Falls N/A vicinity of state Idaho

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kootenai County Courthouse

street & number 501 Government Way

city, town Coeur d'Alene state Idaho 83814

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☒ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☒ moved date 1921
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Post Falls Community Presbyterian Church consists of two frame church buildings that were constructed near the turn of the twentieth century on two different sites in Post Falls and then, in 1921, moved and joined at the present site on the northwest corner of William and Fourth avenues. Since the two church buildings were united, the former Post Falls Methodist Episcopal Church building has served as the sanctuary and the former Post Falls First Presbyterian Church building has been used as a Christian education wing.

The former Methodist Episcopal Church building was constructed in 1890 according to "Church Extension plan #51," apparently one of several architectural plans adopted by the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, whose headquarters were in Philadelphia. It was originally erected on the corner of Sixth Avenue and Henry Street. The building comprised a 50' x 32' sanctuary and a 14' x 28' Sunday school and entrance hall. The building contains many elements of the Gothic Revival style, including Gothic-arched windows; gable roofs with pierced aprons and eaves brackets; a bell tower rising from ground level at the intersection of the nave and transept-like Sunday school wing, topped by a lofty steeple; wooden corner buttresses; and colored leaded glass.

Mounted on the square bell tower above the church entry are round windows with elliptical muntins. Above them are sets of louvered rectangular bell-chamber openings. Above the louvers are sets of quatrefoil and trefoil bandsaw tracery matching the gable trim and eave brackets. Above the bell tower is an octagonal, wood-shingled spire that is nearly as tall as the church building itself. Atop the spire is the remnant of a turned-wood Latin cross.

The south and east gable ends are dominated by 8' x 12' opaque Gothic windows with 6" wide muntins. On the west wall are four evenly spaced 3' x 8' Gothic windows, two of colored glass and two opaque. Other exterior features on the former Methodist Episcopal Church building include horizontal shiplap siding painted white, a wood-shingled roof, open soffits with exposed rafters, a brick chimney extending above the former Sunday school wing, and Queen Anne style windows along the east and west sides of the raised basement.

The interior of the former Methodist Episcopal Church building is divided into five principal areas: an 8' x 8' interior entry hall, a 40' x 30' sanctuary, an adjoining 26' x 15' former Sunday school room now used for additional sanctuary seating, a 5' x 30' chancel and choir platform, and a small storage room. The chancel is raised several steps above the sanctuary floor, and the choir platform is raised above the chancel floor. A wall that apparently separated the sanctuary from the Sunday school when the building stood alone is now reduced to a stem wall extending 6' from the interior entrance hall.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☒ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates See continuation **Builder/Architect** See continuation sheet

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church is primarily significant in two respects: its architectural style and its association with early community development in Kootenai County. The building's two parts are representative of early Gothic Revival style and early vernacular church architecture in north Idaho. They are associated with early attempts to establish denominational worship in Post Falls and with the later stage of community development when Post Falls and nearby small towns turned to cooperative, interdenominational worship.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.19 acres

Quadrangle name Post Falls

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

1	1
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5	0	4	1	8	0
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5	2	8	4	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

c

D 

E

F | | | | |

G

H | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification The nomination includes the Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church and the property on which it stands, block 9, lots 19 and 20, Post Falls Townsite; two rectangular lots, comprising 60' x 140', bounded on the east by William Street and on the south by Fourth Street

List all states and counties for properties overliapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Osterberg, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization	Kootenai County Historic Preservation Program	date	April 30, 1984
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street & number Route 4, Box 854 **telephone** (208) 687-0002

city or town	Rathdrum	state	Idaho	83958
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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 24 July 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Philomena Byrne
Member of the National Register

date 9-7-84

Abstract

Chief of Registration

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Interior features include Gothic arches over door and window openings, twelve of which are visible from various locations in the sanctuary. Vertically grooved 1-1/2-wide wainscoting covers the lower walls of the sanctuary and former Sunday school room walls and painted plaster finishes the upper walls. Ceilings are covered with painted 4' x 8' wooden sheeting, whose joints run perpendicular to the ridge line and are overlain by 1' x 6' wooden battens. The acute angle formed by the gable roof design was eased somewhat by slightly lowering the ceiling apex, resulting in a beveled appearance. Floors are finished with 3" boards that are protected in the chancel and aisle by carpet. Wooden pews are arranged in ten rows on each side of the center aisle. The present pews were acquired in 1971 and the pulpit and communion table in 1949. Above the choir platform is an archivolt inscribed with a passage from Ephesians 4:13.

The former Methodist Episcopal Church building was altered only slightly when it was moved and joined with the former Presbyterian structure in 1921. Changes include the elimination of a window that had covered a portion of the north wall of the chancel below the archivolt and raising the structure about three feet to accomodate a full basement (the latter requiring the addition of several extra stairs at the front entrance). Alterations were also made to the front entrance at the time the buildings were moved together: a hipped roof was extended over the former open porch area from a point where the original eaves met the bell tower about seven feet outward to the east and south. A small south and east wall was also erected to enclose the porch, and a Gothic window and shiplap siding were installed on the two new facades. The addition of this vestibule-like structure does not detract significantly from the over-all Gothic Revival style of the original church building. More recently, a ramp, landing, and stairs have been installed on the east side of the church building.

The former First Presbyterian Church building was constructed in 1899 on the northwest corner of Second Avenue and Henry Street. It was an L-plan building of wooden frame construction including a gabled, 30' x 52' sanctuary, a 20' x 20' hip-roofed Sunday school room attached to the rear of the sanctuary, and a small entrance hall with a shed roof and two offset dormers. The exterior was finished with horizontal siding and vertical corner boards. The four-light windows arrayed along the length of the sanctuary were divided by muntins arranged in the form of the Latin cross. A squat, square bell tower with semi-circular bell openings surmounted by a pyramidal steeple and Latin cross was attached to the ridge a short distance back from the front gable end.

When the former First Presbyterian Church building was moved in 1921 to Fourth and William and joined to the former Methodist Episcopal Church building, several major alterations were undertaken. The Sunday school room was removed and in its place the former Methodist Episcopal Church building was attached. The shed-roofed entrance hall was replaced by a hipped-roofed porch and the bell tower-steeple complex was eliminated. Probably subsequent to the church building's conversion to a Sunday school building, the former sanctuary windows were replaced by those of a Queen Anne motif, repeating the theme of the present sanctuary basement windows. A pierced apron was also added in the east gable, duplicating those on the gables of the former Methodist Episcopal Church building.

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At present, other exterior features include shiplap siding matching that of the older building, shingled gable ends and roof, gable returns, enclosed soffits, double entrance doors with upper lights, and two brick chimneys—one inset on the easterly side of the north wall and one outset on the westerly side of the north wall. In 1959, a wooden fire escape was attached to the north wall and the entry porch was enclosed to accomodate a pastor's study.

The interior of the former First Presbyterian Church building has been substantially altered as a result of its conversion to a Sunday school building. The former sanctuary has been remodeled to accomodate a partitioned first floor and a new second floor. When the buildings were joined the first floor was subdivided into three Sunday school rooms, two restrooms, and a hallway leading to three stairways: one to the second floor, another to the sanctuary chancel, and a third to the basement beneath the present sanctuary. In 1941 the second floor was partitioned into two Sunday school rooms and an upper stair landing. The first and second floor walls are finished with plaster and the lower portion of the first floor walls is covered with grooved wainscoting. The first floor has a 9' ceiling finished with plaster and the floor is covered with linoleum squares; the second floor has a 9' 3" ceiling finished with acoustical tile and the floor is covered with sheet linoleum.

The basement beneath the present sanctuary is partitioned into an entryway, a furnace room, storage bays, a kitchen, and a large meeting room. Three of the basement walls were covered with wood paneling in 1964.

The site on which the Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church stands consists of two 30' x 140' lots situated on a street corner in the town's original residential district. Aside from about a dozen 30' tall yellow pine trees on the westerly side of the property, there are no other noteworthy natural or manmade features on the site.

Despite their stylistic differences, the joined church buildings convey a strong sense of structural and ornamental coherence. Aspects of the Gothic Revival appearance of the former Methodist Episcopal Church building have been carried over to the former Presbyterian building by means of common gable roofs and matching pierced aprons. Other similarities, such as the frame construction, shiplap siding painted white, wood shingle roof, and corresponding gable end massing and building height, tend to reinforce the buildings' sense of cohesiveness. The visual effect of some potentially discordant non-Gothic Revival elements, such as hipped roofs and Queen Anne windows, has been moderated by their consistent incorporation in both buildings. Some discordant elements, however, do remain, including open vs. enclosed soffits, corner buttresses vs. corner boards, and the inconsistent use of eave brackets, Gothic windows, eave returns and wooden shingled gable ends. These less harmonious features, however, serve as tangible reminders of the buildings' disparate pasts and the parish's uncommon origins.

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The building consists of two church buildings that were moved and joined on a new site in 1921. The building that currently houses the church's sanctuary was formerly the Post Falls Methodist Episcopal Church. It was constructed in 1890 during the establishment of the town of Post Falls, and it was apparently the first Methodist Episcopal Church building erected in the five northern counties of Idaho. It was also among the first of any denomination to be constructed in Kootenai County. Today this building is among the longest surviving church buildings in Kootenai County. It was preceded only by the Sacred Heart Mission at Cataldo, the Fort Sherman Chapel, in Coeur d'Alene, and the Coeur d'Alene United Presbyterian Church building.

The former Post Falls Methodist Episcopal Church building is notable, too, as one of the earliest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in north Idaho. It was constructed according to "Church Extension plan #51" of the Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and as such constitutes a local interpretation of a building plan that was used on a nationwide basis. Among its Gothic Revival features are Gothic windows, gable roofs with pierced aprons and lower eave brackets; a bell tower rising from ground level at the intersection of the nave and transept-like Sunday school wing, topped by a lofty steeple; and wooden corner buttresses.

The adjoining structure that currently serves as the Post Falls Community Presbyterian Church Christian education building was formerly the Post Falls First Presbyterian Church building. Built in 1899, it is a gabled wooden structure of an essentially functional and unadorned style. It is representative of a type of utilitarian church building that was common during the area's initial boom period when communities were beginning to develop and some religious denominations were finding themselves financially able to break away from the earlier non-denominational congregations and organize congregations of their own.

A third aspect of the Post Falls Community Presbyterian Church building's significance is its having been formed from two different church buildings in 1921. The alignment of the buildings' gable height and massing, their matching pierced aprons, wood siding, hipped-roofed porch enclosures, and Queen Anne windows evoke an overall sense of unity. The architectural integrity of the Gothic Revival style of the former Methodist Episcopal structure was, in some respects, compromised as a consequence of its being joined to the former Presbyterian building. Yet the building that resulted represents a later stage of development in communities like Rathdrum, Harrison, Post Falls, and East Greenacres, when the Presbyterian congregations in these areas found themselves no longer able to support full-time pastorates and chose what for their time and place was an unprecedented attempt at county-wide interdenominational cooperation. After consolidation in the four communities was finalized, the Coeur d'Alene Presbytery voted to have the newly reconstituted Post Falls church designated a "Demonstration Parish" by the Country Life Department of the church's Home Mission Board.

The Post Falls Community Presbyterian Church building is significant, therefore, not only in its embodiment of several architectural styles but also for its association with two successive periods of community and religious development in Kootenai County: the initial period of sectarian church development, circa 1890-1900, and a later period of interdenominational consolidation, circa 1915-1925.

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ITEM 8 (continued):

Specific Dates:

First Presbyterian Church	1899
Methodist Episcopal Church	1890
Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church	1921

Builder/Architect:

First Presbyterian Church: Dyer Brothers, Rathdrum

adjoining of Post Falls Community
United Presbyterian Church: Eric Johnson, supervisor, Post Falls
Mr. Mountjoy, architect

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National Park Service

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

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Post Falls Community United Presbyterian Church
northwest corner Fourth and William streets,
Post Falls, Kootenai County, Idaho

Photograph by Nancy Renk
March 1980

Negative on file at the Idaho State Historical
Society, Boise, Idaho

View from southeast

Photograph 1 of 1