

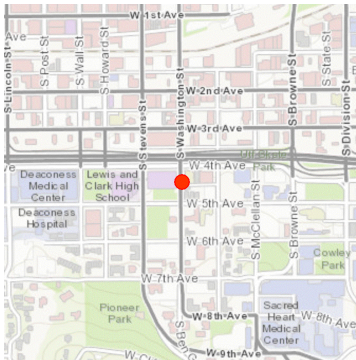


Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Westminster Church

Property ID: 706416

Location



Address: 411 S Washington St, Spokane, Washington, USA

GeographicAreas: Spokane,T25R43E19,SPOKANE NW Quadrangle,Spokane County

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1898	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remodel	1927	<input type="checkbox"/>
Built Date	1890	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Religion	Religion - Religious Facility

Historic Context: Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	John K. Dow and Worthy Niver
Architect	Niver, W.; Dow, J.K.

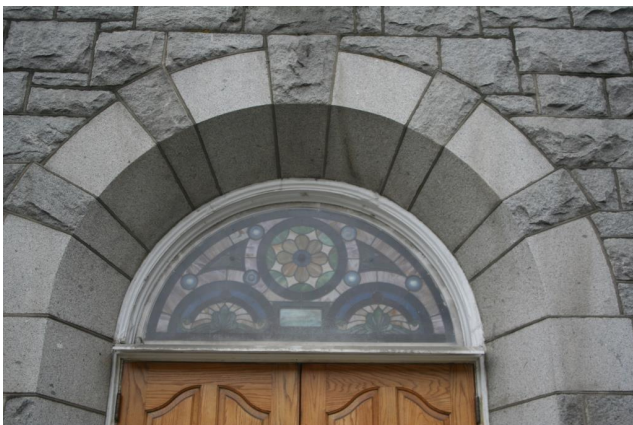
Photos



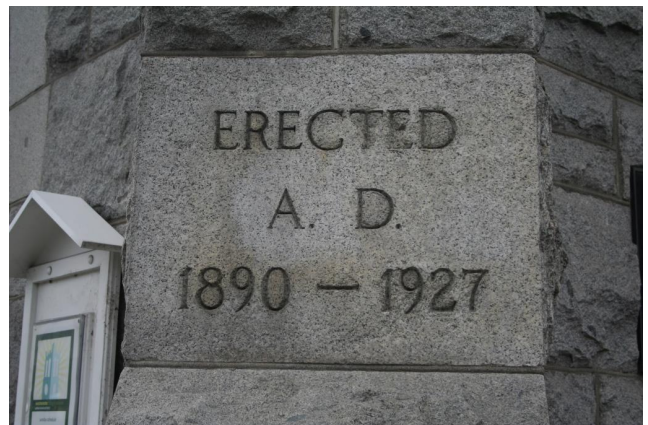
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SRS-33s.JPG



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SRS-33p.JPG

Historic Property Report



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SRS-33m.JPG



SRS-33l.JPG



SRS-33k.JPG



SRS-33j.JPG

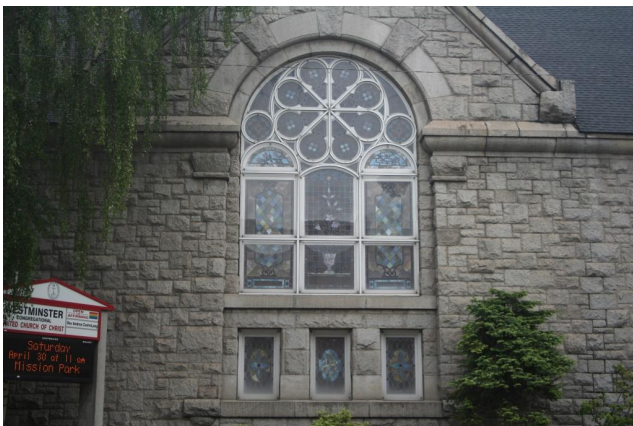
Historic Property Report



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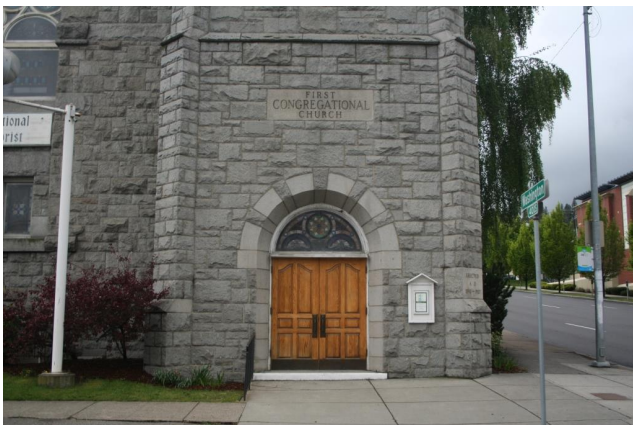
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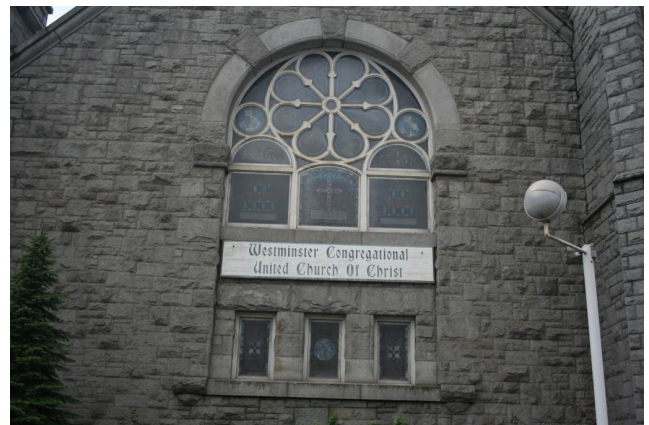
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Historic Property Report



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Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 1/1/1950

Common name:

Date recorded: 1/1/1950

Field Recorder:

Field Site number: 32JLS 1170

SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No



Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 7/17/2016

Common name: Westminster Church
Date recorded: 7/17/2016
Field Recorder: Stephen Emerson
Field Site number: SRS-33
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Stone
Form Type	Church
Roof Type	Varied Roof Lines
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Shingle
Cladding	Stone - Ashlar/Cut
Structural System	Masonry - Stone
Plan	Irregular

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes
Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Historic Property Report

Significance narrative: Henry Cowley came west in the in the 1870s to assist Henry Spalding in his protestant mission among the Nez Perce Indians in Idaho. In 1874, Cowley and his wife Abigail moved to the Spokane area to start a school for both whites and Indians. In 1879, the Cowleys and a group of his followers established the First Congregational Church at the Cowley home. A small wood frame building was constructed at the corner of Sprague Avenue and Bernard Street, in what is now downtown Spokane. That building was destroyed in the Great Spokane Fire of 1889. The congregation rallied, and constructed a new church at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Washington Street. The church opened in 1891, featuring stone walls and a tall round turret with a conical roof at the northwest corner. In 1893, First Congregational merged with Westminster Presbyterian, thereby becoming the largest church in the city. The congregation continued to grow and, in 1927, the building was enlarged. The round turret was completely replaced by a tower with a square cross-section and battlements at the top. A smaller, similar tower was built at the northeast corner. Over the years, after demographic shifts, and a few doctrinal disputes, the church evolved into the current congregation, Westminster United Church of Christ.

Westminster Church is an example of the Romanesque Style of ecclesiastical architecture, which preceded the Gothic Style. Instead of the pointed arch, Romanesque buildings employ the round arch, which effectively limits the height of buildings and affords less airy space for windows. The architects who designed the Westminster Church were John K. Dow and Worthy Niver. While Niver is almost unknown in Spokane, Dow is regarded as one of the City's most prominent architects. Among other accomplishments, Mr. Dow designed the August Paulsen Building, The Metals Building, the Bennet Block, and the Great Western Building. Although religious properties are ordinarily not eligible for the National Register, exceptions are made in the case of architectural distinction. Westminster Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, under Criterion C, as an outstanding example of high-style Romanesque church architecture, as a remarkable achievement of stonemasons, and as the signature work of the architectural partnership of J.K. Dow and Worthy Niver.

Historic Property Report

Physical description:

Located at 411 S. Washington Street, the Westminster Church has a traditional cruciform plan, formed by the main north/south gable, with a smaller gable facing west, and the semi-circular apse facing east. Two towers with square cross-sections are placed at the northeast and northwest corners. The northwest tower is the taller of the two. Both have flat roofs with crenelations, or battlements. The exterior walls are constructed mostly of massive rough cut granite blocks, mortared and randomly coursed. The stones of the west side come from quarries along the Little Spokane River and are a coarsely crystalline light grey. The stone around the window and doors of the west side and the entire north side are from a quarry at the north end of Silver Lake, near the town of Medical Lake.

Some details, such as window voussoirs and door surrounds, are built of polished granite blocks. Most windows and doors have semi-circular Romanesque arches constructed of stone voussoirs. They have stone sills as well. The main entries are in the lower level of each tower, facing north, and contain double sets of wood panel doors with half-circle stained glass window transoms above. A few windows of the middle level are rectangular, with stone lintels and sills. The main window of the north elevation is centrally placed in the north gable. It is a large Romanesque arch with stone tracery that creates a rose window at the top of the archway. There are also two distinctive round windows at the third level of the northwest tower, facing west and north. The west elevation is dominated by the west-facing gable that contains a Romanesque arch and rose window similar to that of the north side. Attached to the south elevation of the church proper is a flat-roofed 2-story addition. The addition is built of brick but the west elevation has a stone veneer of rough cut granite similar to that of the church. A stone pediment is centrally placed in the roof parapet, flanked by stone battlements. Like the church, the windows are a mix of Romanesque arches and rectangular openings. The entry is centered on the west elevation and has double steel frame doors beneath a half-circular stained glass transom window. The secondary south and east elevations of the addition are clad with common bond brick and contain double-hung windows with brick sills and lintels.

Bibliography:

Emerson, Stephen. A Historic Property Inventory of Rock Structures in Spokane County, Washington. Archisto Enterprises, 2016.