

**CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO  
CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY  
FIELD FORM 1988-1989**

HIST. NAME: Methodist Episcopal Church  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1894/1929  
COMMON NAME:  
ORIGINAL USE: Church  
ADDRESS: 156 Greenwood Road  
OWNER: Jarvis, Robert L.  
PRESENT USE: Unknown  
ARCH./BLDR.: Clinefelter, Tom W. and Son  
(bldr.)  
T/R/S: 2S IE 10AD  
TAX LOT: 8800

STYLE: Colonial  
Revival  
RESOURCE TYPE:  
Building  
THEME: Religion  
ADDITION: Lakewood  
No. 1  
BLOCK:  
LOT: 60, 61  
QUAD: Lake Oswego  
LOT SIZE: .3 acre  
ZONE: R-7.5

PLAN TYPE/SHAPE: Asymmetrical  
NO. OF STORIES: 1  
FOUNDATION MATERIAL: Concrete  
BASEMENT: Yes  
ROOF FORM & MATERIALS: Intersecting gable; wood shake

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Wood  
STRUCTURAL FRAME: Stud  
PRIMARY WINDOW TYPE: Palladian  
EXTERIOR SURFACING MATERIALS: Wide shingle (covers original)  
DECORATIVE FEATURES: Paired, paneled doors with swan's neck pediment, pilasters and dentil course

OTHER: Large hexagonal corner belltower  
CONDITION: Good  
EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Resided (n.d.); entrance altered; belltower added, (1929)  
NOTEWORTHY LANDSCAPE FEATURES: None  
ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES: None

SETTING: Moved to present site in 1928 from State Street at Midvale Road; currently located on south side of Greenwood Road; .5 block west of State Street; 2 blocks south of Lake; area of mid-20th century residential buildings

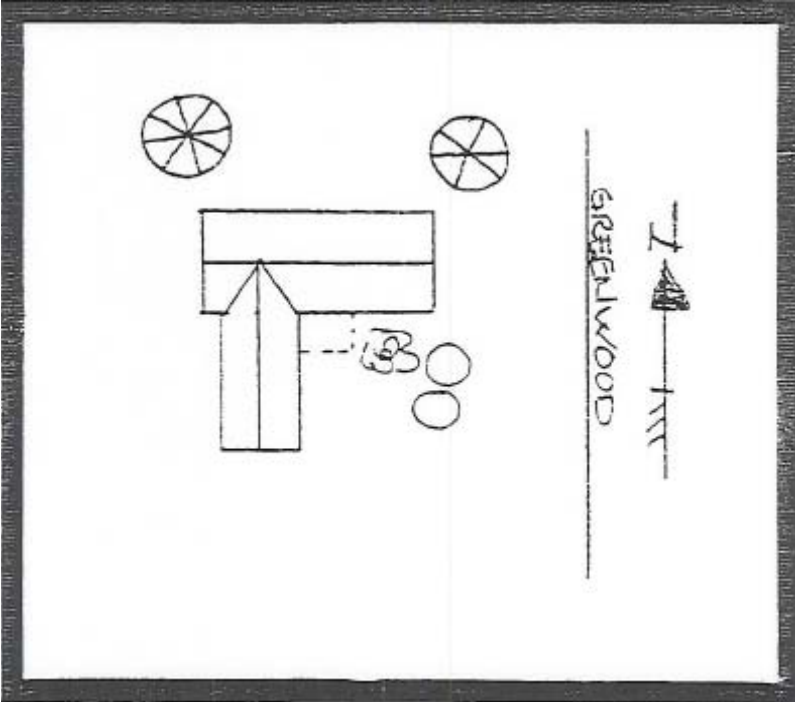
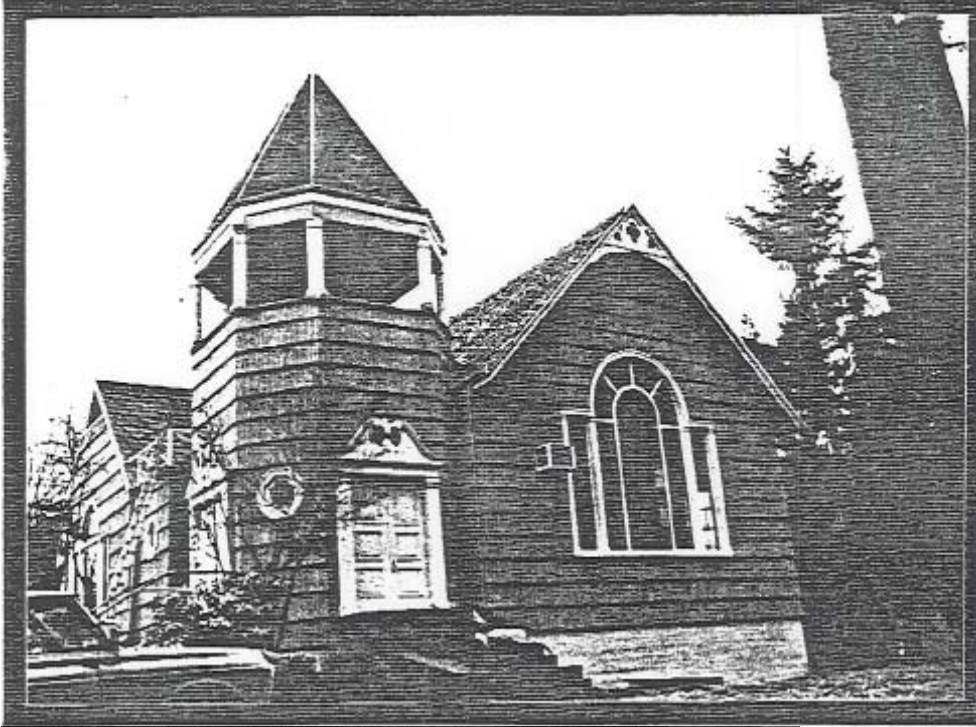
NOTES:

RECORDER(S): Koler/Morrison  
SHPO #: 345

DATE: January 1989  
FIELD #: 111

# CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

ADDRESS 156 GREENWOOD ROAD  
TAX MAP/LOT 2S 1E 10AD/8800  
SHPO# \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL/FRAME# \_\_\_\_\_



Address: 156 Greenwood Road  
Historic Name: Methodist-Episcopal Church

This building is significant because of its association with the community's earliest church congregation. It housed the Oswego Methodist-Episcopal Church for many years. The Methodist-Episcopal Church was Oswego's first church. Constructed in approximately 1894, it was originally designed in a simple vernacular form but was substantially altered in 1928 taking on features of an early 20th century Colonial Revival style and is, therefore categorized as a 20th century building type. It was originally built by Albert Clinefelter and his son Tom with the help of the congregation. Benches were constructed with square nails, hand-made by the Worthington brothers.

Reverend Jason Lee, a Methodist missionary, arrived in Oregon in 1834. His work proved very successful, beginning with a Methodist Mission working with Native Americans near Salem, and expanding to reach early settlers.

Oswegoans held services at various sites, finally building this church in c.1894. Before the building was constructed services were held under "The Peg Tree" overlooking the river at Leonard and Furnace Streets, or at the old Grange Hall. A. R. Shipley conducted Sunday School before and after the building was finished circa 1894; church records give conflicting dates of construction. The congregation had purchased a lot from Oregon Iron and Steel Company on State Street and the church was erected on the site where the Lakewood Cultural Center now stands. The Oswego Grange used the building on Saturdays and the school met there during the week. On Sundays it became the Methodist Church. Some of the early ministers to preach at the church in the 1890s included Christopher Alderson, Rev. A. S. Mulligan, and Rev. E. B. Smith. These men earned small salaries but the congregation was often generous with food donations.

In 1929 the church, by then called just the Methodist Church, was moved with ropes and rollers to a grove of trees on Greenwood Road. Later a basement, steeple, and additional entrances were added to the building. During this period the Ladies Aid Society served monthly meals to townfolk to raise funds for church improvements, charging an admission of 20 to 35 cents.

The Lake Oswego Community Theatre purchased the building in 1961 and converted the main floor into seating for 125, and a basement kitchen was set up as a refreshment center for theatre goers. The theatre has produced everything from traditional drama and Broadway musicals to plays written by local residents. In recent years the theatre moved into the Lakewood Center (formerly Lakewood School) which had been built on the original Methodist Church site after the church was moved in 1929.

Bibliography:

- Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, Department of Transportation and Development, 1984, #19, #20.
- Holmstrom, Clarice, Unrecorded Interview by T. Buettner, 10/27/88.
- Holmstrom, Clarice, Recorded Interview for "In Their Own Words" oral history project for Lake Oswego Library, 1973.
- Lake Oswego Review, "Religious Upbringings," by W. Laukkanen, 2/25-26, 1981.
- Oregon's Iron Dream, Mary Goodall, 1958.
- Ticor Title Company, Oregon City, OR.