Lloyd Presbyterian Church was formed in the Depot Street area during the 1870s as part of a national movement by northern missionaries to establish African-American churches in the South. Initially, Lloyd’s membership was comprised primarily of workers in the rapidly-expanding tobacco factories, which stood nearby. Shortly thereafter, the congregation grew, adding teachers, attorneys, bankers, and businessmen to its membership. This growth reflected the rapid rise in prosperity experienced by the community’s African-American citizens.

Beginning in the late 19th century, Depot Street was pivotal to African-American life in Winston (and later Winston-Salem). Depot Street is today N. Patterson Avenue. The original mixed-use neighborhood extended from Depot Street’s (N. Patterson Avenue’s) intersection with E. Third Street north to N. Liberty Street and west to N. Main Street.

The Depot Street area was initially developed due to its proximity to the thriving tobacco factories. During the early 20th century, Depot Street became the business, cultural, and social hub of the African-American community. The area was home to real estate offices, doctors’ and lawyers’ offices, drugstores, printing presses, barber and beauty shops, funeral homes, schools, movie theaters, cafes, and churches. Additionally, there was an abundance of single-family and duplex housing in the Depot Street area.

The current building housing Lloyd Presbyterian Church was constructed c. 1907. Architecturally, the church is a little-altered and rare example of the Carpenter Gothic style. According to oral tradition, members and friends built the church themselves. Women nailed the weatherboards on the outside of the building as high as they could reach, and men finished the job at the top. Women also are said to have brought baskets of food to the site for those working on the building.

Today, the handsome building features details seen in the highly-ornamented Gothic Revival style, simplified and placed on a frame structure. The gable front building has a pressed metal shingle roof; rising from the roof is a charming, small frame steeple with ornamental sawn eave brackets. At the front corners of the building and along its side elevations are frame interpretations of buttresses embellished with pointed-arched panels. Projecting from the center front bay is a pointed-arch doorway and paneled double-leaf doors. Typical of the Gothic Revival style, the windows are double-hung, lancet style. Interestingly, the back of the building was given as much detail as the front and sides. There, an octagonal bay window encloses the recessed apse of the church and is fitted with pointed-arch windows. To the north side of the church is a public alley, which was the site of significant buildings in the neighborhood’s early history, including an earlier Lloyd Presbyterian Church building and an African-American school.

During the early 21st century, the church underwent a comprehensive and highly sensitive rehabilitation.

A historic marker was placed at Lloyd Presbyterian Church in 2004 as part of the City of Winston-Salem’s Historic Marker Program.

Today Lloyd Presbyterian Church remains in use as a religious institution.

Lloyd Presbyterian Church
Local Historic Landmark #41
748 N. Chestnut St., Winston-Salem
Construction Date: circa 1907
Landmark Designation Date: 12/21/1981

Lloyd Presbyterian Church National Register Nomination
http://www.lloydpres.com/

Want to know more?
This information is also available at the Forsyth County
Historic Resources Commission’s web site:
http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org