COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

SECTION I		
Name of Property		
Historic Name First Presbyterian Church		
Other Names N/A		
Address of Property	address not for publication	
Street Address 220 West 10 th Street		
City Pueblo Cour	nty Pueblo Zip 81003	
Present Owner of Property (for multiple ownership, list the names and addresses of	of each owner on one or more continuation sheets)	
Name First Presbyterian Church		
Address 220 West 10 th Street	Phone	
City Pueblo State(Colorado Zip 81003	
Owner Consent for Nomination (attach signed consent from each owner of property - see attached form)		
Preparer of Nomination		
Name Rev. William B. Munroe	Date <u>2/19/2007</u>	
Organization First Presbyterian Church		
Address 220 West 10 th Street	Phone	
City Pueblo State	<u>Colorado</u> Zip <u>81003</u>	
· 		
FOR OFFICIAL USE:	Site Number 5PE489	
Nomination Received	Senate # House #	
5/11/2007 Review Board Recommendation Approval Denial	CHS Board State Register Listing	
	Listing Criteria	
Certification of Listing: President Colorado Historical Socie	ety Date	

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name First Presbyterian Church
SECTION II
Local Historic Designation
Has the property received local historic designation?
[X]no
[] yes []individually designated [] designated as part of a historic district
Date designated
Designated by (Name of municipality or county)
Use of Property
Historic Religion / religious facility
Current Religion / religious facility
Original Owner Presbytery of Colorado
Source of Information
Year of Construction 1889-1890 with 1926 addition
Source of Information Church records, newspaper accounts
Architect, Builder, Engineer, Artist or Designer Frederic A. Hale
Source of Information Pueblo Daily Chieftain, 1 February 1889, p.2
Locational Status
[X] Original location of structure(s)
[] Structure(s) moved to current location
Date of move
SECTION III
YEV HVII III

Description and Alterations

(describe the current and original appearance of the property and any alterations on one or more continuation sheets)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name First Presbyterian Church		
SECTION IV		
Significance of Property		
Nomination Criteria		
 A - property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history B - property is connected with persons significant in history 		
[X] C - property has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan		
[] D - property is of geographic importance		
[] E - property contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history		
Areas of Significance		
[] Agriculture [] Economics [] Landscape [X] Architecture [] Education Architecture [] Archaeology — [] Engineering [] Law		
(explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)		
Bibliography (cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets) SECTION V		
ARAHAM I		
Locational Information		
Lot(s) 1-8 Block 13 Addition County Addition		
USGS Topographic Quad Map Northeast Pueblo		

Verbal Boundary Description of Nominated Property (describe the boundaries of the nominated property on a continuation sheet)

COLORADO STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Property Name _	First Presbyterian Church
SECTION VI	

Photograph Log for Black and White Photographs

(prepare a photograph log on one or more continuation sheets)

SECTION VII

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO ACCOMPANY NOMINATION

Owner Consent Form

Black and White Photographs

Color Slides

Sketch Map(s)

Photocopy of USGS Map Section

Optional Materials

Use of Nomination Materials

Upon submission to the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, all nomination forms and supporting materials become public records pursuant to CRS Title 24, and may be accessed, copied, and used for personal or commercial purposes in accordance with state law unless otherwise specifically exempted. The Colorado Historical Society may reproduce, publish, display, perform, prepare derivative works or otherwise use the nomination materials for Society and/or State Register purposes.

For Office Use Only	
Property Type: [X] building(s) [] district [] site [] structure [] object [] area	
Architectural Style/Engineering Type: Gothic Revival	
Period of Significance: 1889-90	
Level of Significance: [X] Local [] State [] National	
Associated Multiple Property Submission: N/A	
Acreage <u>less than one</u>	
P.M. 6th Township 20 S Range 65 W Section 25 Quarter Sections N SE SE	
UTM Reference: Zone 13 Easting 534184 Northing 4236299	

DESCRIPTION and ALTERATIONS

The First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo is located at the southeast corner of 10th and Court Streets, across from the Pueblo County Courthouse. The surrounding area contains other governmental buildings, including the county jail and a judicial building, as well as a number of other churches, including First Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and Sacred Heart

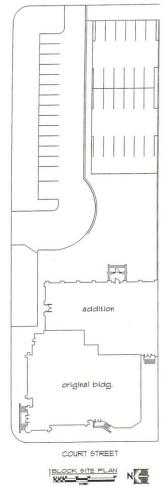
Cathedral. Constructed in 1889-90, the Gothic Revival stone church has an educational wing built in 1926 that extends the footprint eastward. The church, its addition, and a landscaped parking area to the east occupy the entire length of 10th Street between Court Street and North Main Street. An alley forms the southern boundary of the property.

The church has an irregular plan and a complex roofline composed of steeply-pitched multiple cross gables. Brown asphalt t-lock shingles cover the broad roof planes. The walls are regularly coursed, quarry-faced, Manitou red sandstone ashlar. A 168-foot steeple anchors the northwest corner. The steeple consists of a soaring octagonal spire atop a three-story square bell tower/narthex. A large projecting beveled bay with a steeply pitched polygonal roof anchors the southwest corner. Large, pointed-arched stained glass windows with tracery highlight the gabled projections facing Court and Main streets. The pointed arch is continued in select windows, gabled roof entry projections, and the openings of the belfry. The remaining windows are flat arched. The 1926 addition with its moderately pitched gabled roof is constructed of Manitou red



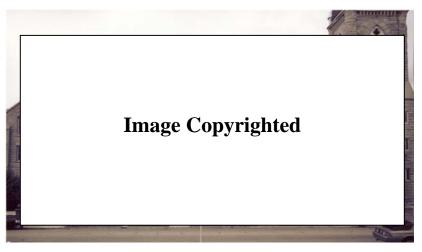
Belfry, ca. 1985

sandstone on the north façade; the east and south walls are red tapestry brick. The building possesses many outstanding ornamental features. Attached to the tower is a small pinnacle



with a conical roof. The louvered vents on the tower, which contains an 800-pound bell, have cutout quatrefoil and trefoil motifs. The bell tower has scroll modillions forming a decorative cornice with four elaborate finials marking each corner. A stone chimney on the north façade has an ornate convex-sided cap.





Ca. 1985 photographs of north façade (above) and main entrance at base of tower (left).

North Elevation (photo #2)

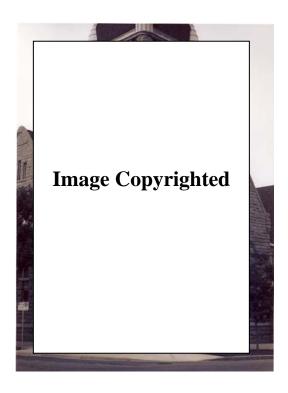
Facing West 10th Street, the north elevation of the church has a gable end that is flanked by a buttress on both sides and a centered large pointed arch window with three square windows evenly spaced below. Three slender rectangular louvered openings near the apex form gable vents. The stained glass window that fills the pointed arch opening is a Tiffany window, and is somewhat obscured by a layer of plexi-glass. Along each side of this main wall is a smaller, slender gothic-arched window in a stepped-back wall. A secondary entrance sits to the east of the gable façade. A square stone chimney pierces the roof line, and is capped by a convex roof with triangular dormers on each of the four faces and a cupola atop the convex shape.

The 1926 addition on the north façade is constructed of red sandstone similar to the church. A pointed-arch portico with buttressing shelters the central entrance of the addition. Paired windows for each of the second and third floors sit above the vestibule. Near the apex of the gable is a round louvered vent, below which is a blind gothic arch. Two windows flank each side of the vestibule projection for each of the three floors. The windows are single-hung 3-over-2 sashes. The upper sash has three vertical lights with tracery; the lower sash contains two vertical lights.

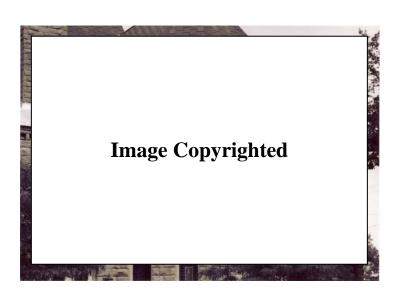
West Elevation (photo #1)

Facing Court Street, the west elevation of the church has a gable end flanked by a buttress on either side and a large, central pointed arch window with three square windows evenly spaced below. There is a round opening with louvers near the apex. Protective plexi-glass obscures the stained glass window that fills the pointed arch opening. A secondary entrance marked with a steeply pitched blind arch sits to the south of the gable façade. A square stone chimney with a metal standpipe pierces the roof slope above this entrance. A large projecting beveled bay with a steeply pitched polygonal roof anchors the southwest corner. Each bevel face is

punctuated rhythmically with Gothic arch windows above and rectangular windows below.



Ca. 1985 photographs of tower at northwest corner (left) and polygonal bay at southwest corner (below)



South Elevation (photo #3)

The fenestration pattern that began with the beveled bay continues in a similar pattern on the south façade of the church, which faces the alley. While the Gothic arch upper level windows are evenly spaced across the wall, the lower level windows are clustered in threes. The easternmost trio of windows is similar to the 3-over-2 windows of the addition's north face, each one containing three vertical lights with tracery above two vertical lights. The HVAC system components are located on this façade. The stone church is adjoined to the red brick addition at this elevation. The windows of the addition are similar to those on its north façade with upper sashes containing tracery. But the windows on this elevation have four lights with tracery instead of three lights. These windows also have sandstone lugsills and lintels. The mid-level window openings have been in filled with brick and three small windows. There is a door on the third floor without any outside access.

East Elevation (photo #4)

The east side, which faces the parking lot, is the 1926 addition. Eight brick buttresses with sandstone caps are evenly spaced along the length of red brick wall. The windows on the first floor are original, and are similar to the 4-over-2 design on the south elevation. The windows on the second and third floors have been replaced with brick infill and smaller, double-hung 1-over-1 windows. Just below the first floor windows is a belt course of sandstone that extends the full width of the wall. A recently constructed gabled roof, brick portico shelters an off-set entrance.

Page 4 Section III

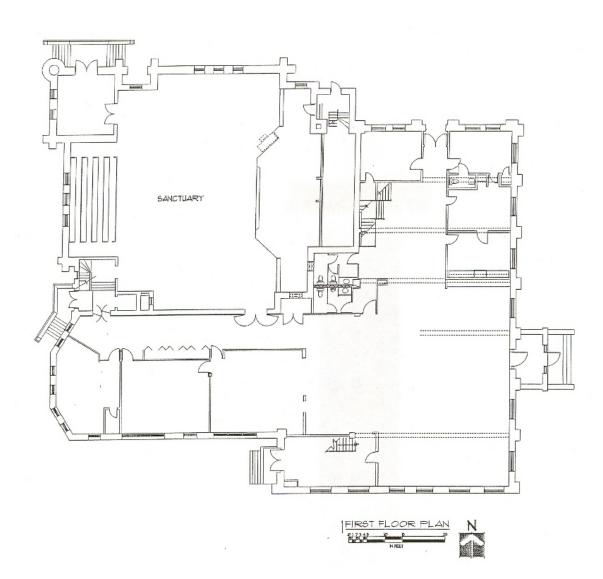
Property Name	First Presbyterian Church
• •	•

ALTERATIONS

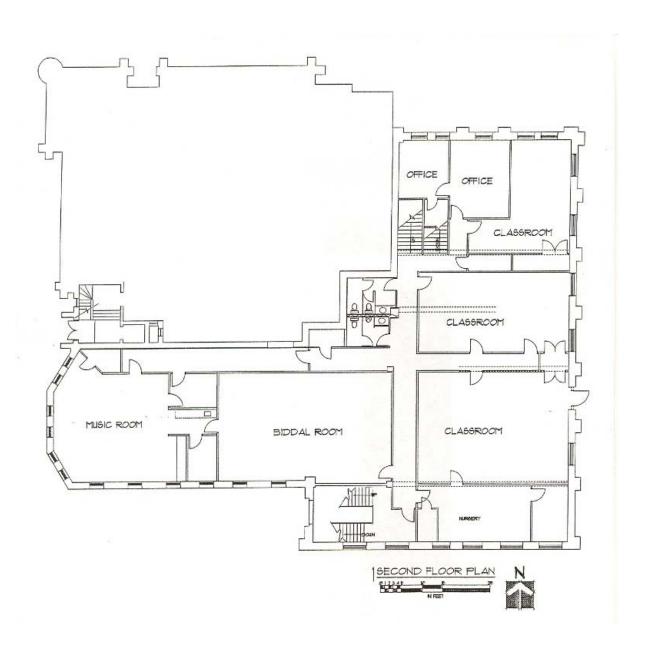
While the interior of the building has undergone several remodelings, the exterior has seen few alterations. The most obvious alteration to the church was the addition of the educational wing in 1926. While red brick was used on the addition's east and south walls, its primary streetscape façade on the north continued the stone construction of the sanctuary. An 1891 photograph and images dating to the mid-1980s provide clues to some additional, but minor, exterior alterations. The double doors into the sanctuary from the tower and Court Street as well as the concrete steps leading up to these two entrances have been altered. In the late 1980s, metal-framed plate glass doors replaced the glazed and paneled wood doors. The concrete steps that accessed both these entrances have also changed over time. In the late 1980s, reconfigured concrete staircases with sidewalls replaced the concrete steps and metal pole handrails that appear in the earlier photographs.

Upper level window and door openings in the addition were altered when the two-story gymnasium was converted into two floors of classrooms in the late 1950s. On the east side, all the small windows on second and third floors with the accompanying brick infill replaced original larger windows. Brick infill shortened several windows and eliminated a door opening on the south side as well. The main entrance doors to the education wing on the north façade also received metal framed plate glass door replacements in the late 1980s. The small gabled roof projection that serves as a vestibule for the addition's east entry that faces the parking lot was constructed in 2002.

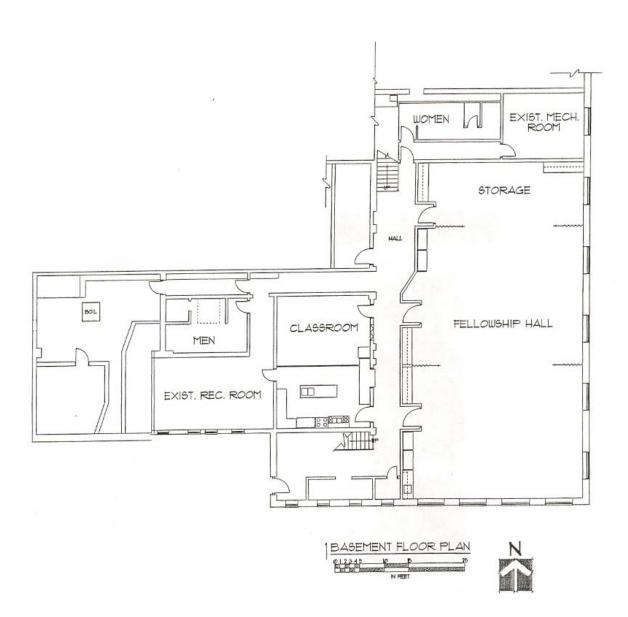
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



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Property Name First Presbyterian Church

SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

The First Presbyterian Church is being nominated under Criterion C for Architecture as an interesting local interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Gothic Revival was an enduring style in America and remained the most influential expression for churches well into the 20th century. The cornerstone was laid in October 1889 with dedication ceremonies in September 1890. Noted architect Frederic A. Hale designed the unusual building, an expression of Late Victorian eclecticism that combined two popular Victorian styles-Gothic Revival and Richardsonian Romanesque. The defining characteristics of Gothic Revival are present, including pointed-arch windows and a vertical emphasis created by a steeply pitched roof and a corner tower with a prominent spire. At the same time, the building's straight forward treatment of stone, broad roof planes and select distribution of openings is reminiscent of Richardsonian Romanesque design. The building also includes a large stained glass window designed under the personal supervision of Louis C. Tiffany. Frederic Hale, a popular Denver architect in the 1880s, designed numerous residences, university buildings, commercial buildings and churches in Colorado and Wyoming before moving to Utah in 1890. This church is one of only four known extant examples of his work in Pueblo. The church was expanded eastward in 1926 with a Gothic Revival inspired educational wing. Predominately brick, the addition's north elevation is stone to blend with the church's 10th Street façade. Despite undergoing a few minor exterior alterations in recent decades, the church retains its integrity of design, materials and workmanship.

Frederic Albert Hale

Hale was born in Rochester, New York on December 25, 1855. He attended school there and spent his summer vacations working for local architects. In 1875 he enrolled in Cornell University to study architecture and two years later left school. He found a position with an architect practicing in Rochester and worked for him from 1877 to 1879. Early in 1880 Hale came to Colorado to become the head draftsman for Robert Roeschlaub, one of the city's most prominent and successful architects. Hale left in 1883 to form a partnership with H. B. Seely. In 1886, he returned to become a full partner in the firm of Roeschlaub and Hale only to leave the following year to form his own practice. During his renewed association with Roeschlaub in 1887, the foundation design for the National Register-listed Trinity United Methodist Church [5DV115] was produced.

Hale was responsible for numerous Denver residences and several commercial buildings. The most notable residential commission was the 1888 Curry-Chucovich House [5DV146] at 1439 Court Place (listed in the National Register). Built for James M. Curry, a prominent Denver stone dealer, the house has sandstone walls and a rhyolite foundation and is noted for its unusual combination of architectural detailing. The 1884 Westminster Presbyterian Church is also attributed to "the well-known and popular architect Mr. Fred A. Hale."

Besides working in Denver, he designed other buildings throughout Colorado. In Boulder Hale was responsible for the 1889 Woodbury Hall [5BL360.3], the first building on the University of Colorado's campus to have electricity and hot and cold running water. Hale designed several

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Property Name First Presbyterian Church

buildings in Aspen, including the Aspen Community Church [5PT33] (listed in the National Register, originally built as the First Presbyterian Church), the Cowenhoven Block [5PT113.32], and the Aspen Block [5PT113.3]. The 1886 Longmont Presbyterian Church at 546 Atwood Street was also his design.

Hale's work can also be found in Pueblo. According to a search of the OAHP database, three other Hale-designed buildings have been identified in the city. The earliest was an 1887 Italianate commercial building on Union Avenue, the Graham-Wescott Block [5PE612.17]. Hale is the architect for the 1889 brick and stone Queen Anne residence of Nathaniel W.Duke [5PE4204] on Craig Street, which is listed in the National Register. That same year the First Congregational Church [5PE4209] on Evans (another National Register listed property) was also under construction. It is interesting to note that although prominent Pueblo architect Charles Stickney was a congregant, Frederic Hale is responsible for this distinctive Romanesque Revival stone church. The well-preserved church possesses unusual stonework and craftsmanship. Several *Pueblo Chieftain* articles followed the construction of both the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, which was occurring at the same time.

Hale's work extended into Wyoming where his most notable contribution was the 1886 Old Main Building, the first building for the University of Wyoming. Hale moved to Utah in 1890 and became one of Salt Lake City's most prominent architects. He died there in 1934.

Historical Background

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Pueblo was formally organized on February 1870 with the combined efforts of four pioneers and Rev. Sheldon Jackson, an untiring missionary who established numerous churches in the Western territories. To place the founding of this congregation in a broader historical context, it should be noted that Pueblo in 1870 had a population of only 500, although the city would incorporate that year. The congregation grew to 38 the following year. A Sunday School was organized and the congregation grew to the point that they could no longer crowd into private homes for worship services. They began to meet in a schoolhouse at 11th and Court Streets. In 1872, they purchased two lots at 9th and Court Streets to construct their first church building. Within a few years, the new church was self-supporting and no longer required assistance from the Board of Mission.

In 1876, the year Colorado became a state, the women of First Presbyterian, organized as the Centennial Women's Association, purchased an 800-pound bell to call the congregation to worship. According to church records, it was shipped from the factory in Troy, New York on the first freight train arriving in Pueblo on the Santa Fe line in May 1876.

By 1889, there were over 200 members and the congregation had outgrown the little church. They planned a much larger building at 10th and Court Streets, across from the County Courthouse. The *Pueblo Daily Chieftain* reported on February 1, 1889, that Fred A. Hale was successful in having his plans adopted for not one, but two new churches in town. The article noted that although it was an open competition for architects from Denver and Pueblo, both edifices would have the same designer. The article further stated that the Presbyterian Church will have a

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seating capacity of between 500 and 600, and will be built of red sandstone with a tall and imposing steeple. Weston & Bicknell were reported to be the superintendents in charge of the construction for both churches, "which is a guarantee that the work will be well done." It was also noted that the ground would not be broken for the Presbyterian Church "until subscriptions are made and paid."

It did not take long to meet the subscription goal. A *Pueblo Daily Chieftain* article of September 29, 1889, entitled "Lovely Churches" provided the following progress report.

Another beautiful church edifice now in course of construction is that of the First Presbyterian congregation. It is being built on the corner of Tenth and Court Streets by Silas Parker, the well-known contractor and builder. Fred A. Hale is also the architect of this structure. It will be constructed of Manitou red sandstone, and will be the most costly and commanding church edifice in the city when finished. It will cost \$45,000, completed and ready for occupancy, which sum includes a \$2,000 pipe organ which is being built expressly for this church. The work of construction is well underway, but is not yet far enough along to tell what the structure will really look like when completed, but our people can rest assured that it will be all and more than we have claimed for it.

The cornerstone was laid the following month (October 10th) with a simple inscription: "1889 First Presbyterian Church." The local newspaper avidly followed the construction of the church building, which one writer described as "an important note of progress in the development of the city whose hundred thousand people in a few years to come, will erect other elegant churches and give that metropolitan appearance to the city."

A *Pueblo Daily Chieftain* newspaper article (1 May 1890) continued monitoring the project noting that contractor Parker would finish the stone work that week and then work would commence on the spire with "the top reaching over 150 feet from the ground." The plastering was nearly finished and the steam heating was being installed. The cathedral glass and new pipe organ were due to arrive; seats and carpets were ready to be put in place.

The construction also was noted in the April 1890 issue of *Western Architect and Building News* with "Fred Hale, architect, reports the First Presbyterian Church: Manitou red sandstone; foundation, lava; tower 168 feet high; cost \$40,000. Silas Parker, contractor. Contract up May 30." The church was dedicated on September 7, 1890.

The congregation continued to grow without requiring significant changes in the building until the mid-1920s, when it was decided an education wing was necessary. A three-story brick wing was erected on the east side of the sanctuary. The second floor actually was a two-story gymnasium. The Court Street (north) face of the building was the same Manitou red sandstone as the original building. Local legend has it that the sandstone for the addition was salvaged from Pueblo's Grand Opera House, which was built the same year as the original church and destroyed by fire in 1922. Cost of the education wing was \$92,873. The addition was described

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Property Name First Presbyterian Church

in a Survey of State and Local Historical Records for the Works Progress Administration, dated 1938: "Addition on the east: square built of tapestry brick with native sandstone front, three stories, gable roof."

A Kimball pipe organ was purchased in 1924 at cost of \$12,000. It is still in use, and it has been expanded over the years to some 2,000 pipes.

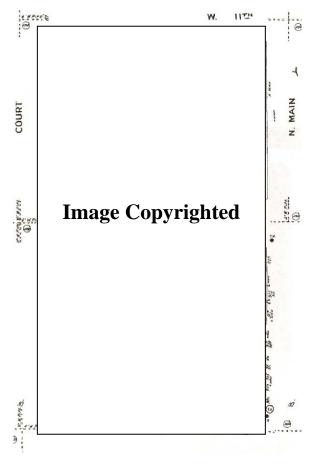
Two large stained glass windows on the north and west walls of the Sanctuary were given as memorials, both dedicated along with the new education wing in 1926. The west window was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vandeveer, using a \$1,500 bequest by Mr. Vandeveer. The north window was given by Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher. This large (11 by 16 feet) window with the three small, square panels beneath it depicts biblical themes. It was designed in the Tiffany Studios using a technique of first heating the glass, then shaping and painting it. The *Pueblo Chieftain* (26 December 1926, page 5A) provided a very detailed description of the window at its dedication.

A large Gothic window of Tiffany favrile glass of design and rich harmony of color, was given for the church as a gift from Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher Sr., as a memorial to the Thatcher family. The window is made up of four Gothic openings with tracery which illustrates the text, 'I Am the Light of the World.' At the base of these openings, four oblong panels of favrile glass bear the words of the inscription and text, while below these are three square decorative openings, each a gem of color in itself and each depicting its own individual subject. In the center foreground of the window, the figure of Christ is portrayed knocking at the door of a house by the wayside. In one hand he holds his shepherd's crook and a lighted lantern. A halo of light shines about the head, shedding its radiance upon his face and emanating from him. His robe is shown in tones of brown to a brilliant burnt-orange. The outline of the rough stone house behind him is broken by the green foliage of trees and shrubs which grow along the wall. At the right, a stone path winds through a garden of growth. At the left, blue, pink, purple and white flowers in profusion rise against a more rugged setting where sharp boulders and tall, dark cypress trees are outlines against the distant mountains. Above all, a faint outline of the crescent moon appears in the deep night sky whose rich dark blue seems to cast its atmospheric mystery over the entire landscape. The panels at the base of the window are of dark green with lettering of gold and bear an inscription 'In Loving Remembrance of Mahlon Daniel Thatcher; daughters May and Edna Thatcher, nephew, William Nevin Thatcher. Erected by Mrs. Mahlon D. Thatcher.' The memorial in its entirety was designed and made at the Ecclesiastical Department of the Tiffany Studios of New York City, under the personal supervision of Louis C. Tiffany, their art director.

A smaller window on the north wall was given later in memory of Harriet Holden Strang. It was created by the Royal Bavarian Art Institute for Stained Glass, bearing the name F.X. Zettler of Munich. Harriet Strang was a young mother who died of pneumonia when she was only 22 years old, in 1889. Oddly, the window records her date of birth as July 31, 1866, and her date

of death as April 1, 18--. Apparently the craftsman neglected to fill in the year of her death.

On the 80th birthday of the church's formal organization, February 27, 1950, the congregation endorsed an extensive renovation and redecoration project for the church. However, the work did not begin for several years. In 1952, extensive repairs and remodeling were undertaken. All parts of the building were repaired; oak floors were put in the sanctuary, the organ was moved and modernized; and the Tiffany windows were given special care. In the mid-1950s, the postwar baby boom brought more than 500 children to Sunday School at First Presbyterian, (church booklet, February 15, 1956) so the most urgent part of the renovation was to convert the two-story gym into two floors of classrooms. Now the education wing is comprised of six classrooms, a chapel, the fellowship hall, new offices and kitchen. The cost was about \$100,000, and when that project was completed the congregation set out to redecorate the sanctuary, including some acoustical treatment, carpeting, and remodeling at a cost of about \$65,000 (*Pueblo Chieftain*, 13 November 1959). In 1960, new pews were installed.



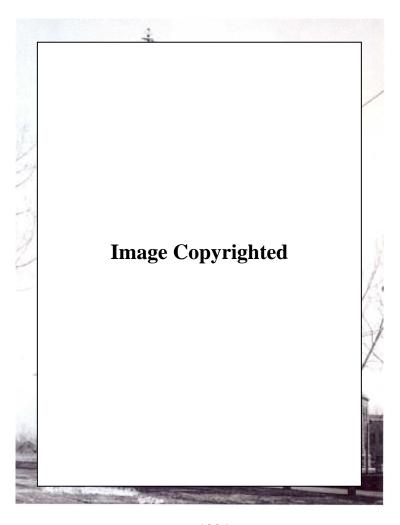
A 1951 Sanborn Map

In the late 1980s, the fellowship hall in the education wing was remodeled and the sanctuary redecorated, including a major restoration of the 60-year-old Kimball organ. The only exterior changes to the original portion of the building occurred at this time—the creation of new staircases for the two entrances. By 1984, the church had acquired the entire north half of the block for parking. (Pueblo Chieftain, 23 November 1984). During the extensive indoor remodeling. the Presbyterians worshiped every Sunday from August until early November 1985 at the nearby First United Methodist Church. (Pueblo Chieftain. 9 November 1985.) Between the landscaping of the parking lot and the interior remodeling, the cost of the project was \$525,000.

The only other exterior change to the building took place in 2002 when the new portico was constructed at the entrance to the educational wing on the east side facing the parking lot.

The second-floor chapel, envisioned as a place for small weddings when the building was remodeled, has for many years been used mostly as a classroom and practice room for the hand bell choir. But since June 2005, it has become a chapel again, sheltering a new Spanish-speaking Presbyterian congregation under its skylights.

Within the last five years, the church has undergone extensive HVAC and electrical upgrades, notably extending reliable air conditioning into the sanctuary for the first time. The sound system in the sanctuary also was upgraded and wood trim was enhanced by an expert woodworker in the congregation. Cost of the last project was approximately \$300,000 (church records).



ca. 1891

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Property Name First Presbyterian Church

BIBLIOGRAPHY

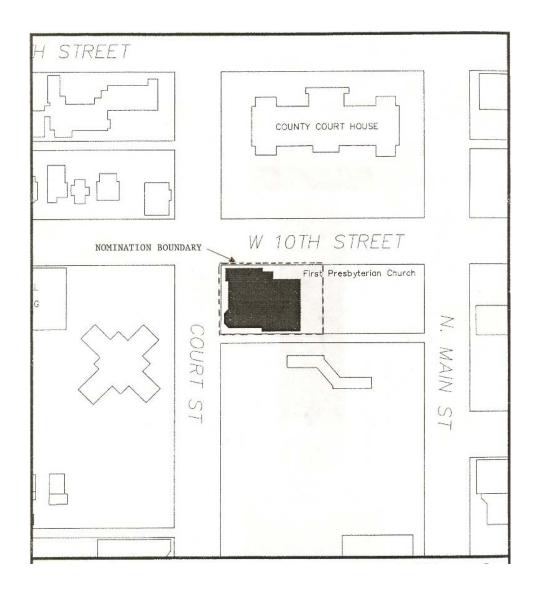
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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated parcel is Lots 5-8, Block 13, County Addition, Pueblo.

(The nomination boundary was drawn to include only the lots on which the building sits and to exclude the parking area to the east. Although the church owns Lots 1-8, the eastern lots were not historically part of the land holdings and this area is now used for parking.)



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Property Name First Presbyterian Church

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: First Presbyterian Church

Location: Pueblo, Pueblo County

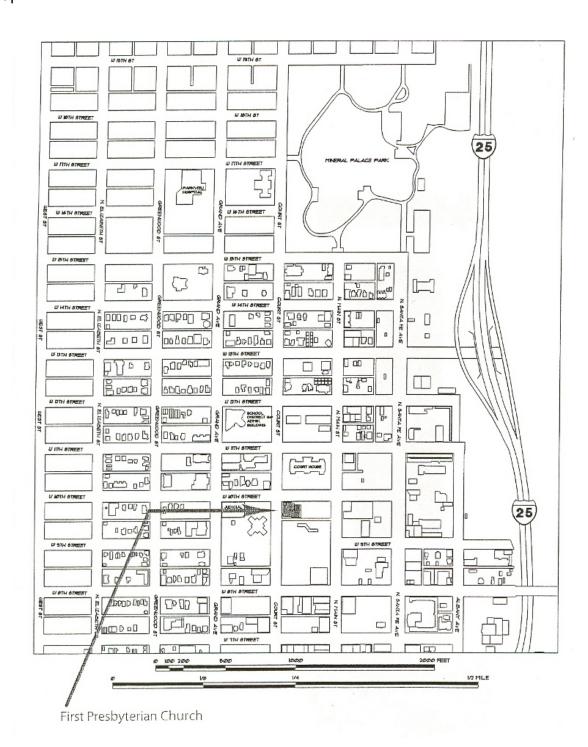
Photographer: Dave Alexander Date of Photographs: February 2007

Negatives: in possession of photographer

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 West (Court Street) facade; camera facing east
- 2 North (10th Street) façade stone church and stone wall of addition; camera facing south
- 3 South side stone church and brick wall of addition; camera facing north
- 4 East end addition's brick wall and new entry portico; camera facing west

City Map



USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Northeast Pueblo Quadrangle, Colorado 7.5 Minute Series

