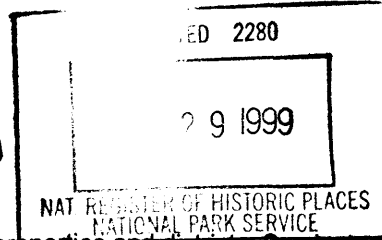


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1407



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose

other names/site number United Methodist Church of Montrose, 5MN4493

2. Location

street & number 19 S. Park Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Montrose [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Montrose code 085 zip code 81401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Sherraine Cartwright State Historic Preservation Officer 10/13/99 Date
Signature of certifying official/Title
State Historic Preservation Office, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain
- See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 11/30/99 Date of Action

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose

Montrose County/Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type. Rows include buildings (1, 0), sites (0, 0), structures (0, 0), objects (0, 0), and Total (1, 0).

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose enjoys a prominent location at the northeast corner of the intersection of Park Avenue and South 1st Street, just northeast of Montrose's downtown commercial district. There are narrow grassed areas and several mature trees running along the west (Park Avenue) and south (1st Street) sides of the building. A square bell tower entry faces the intersection and is approached by a flight of concrete stairs, with metal handrails, which leads up to a large concrete landing. Signage is found on a low brick wall that is placed on an angle at the base of the stairway. A non-historic brick faced, concrete ADA access ramp, with metal railings, extends across a portion of the west side of the building. An alley runs close to the building on the north, and a paved parking/play area is on the east. Also to the east, there is a 1991 Post Modern style addition designed by Montrose architect Patrik Davis. A narrow portion of the addition serves as a connector between what are essentially two separate buildings. The addition was constructed on the property after the 1990 removal of a free-standing parsonage that dated from 1953.

Completed in 1920, the circa 1909 design of the two story Romanesque Revival style, Akron Plan church is credited to Colorado Springs architect Thomas P. Barber. The congregation purchased the land in 1909. Shortly thereafter, the basement was constructed, roofed over, and subsequently utilized for services. The raising of funds and labor shortages resulted in sporadic construction during World War I. Construction resumed in earnest during 1917.

Over the years, the trustees of what is now known as the United Methodist Church of Montrose have conscientiously maintained the property. The existing condition of the structure and its exterior and interior is good. A 1975 engineering report identified some maintenance issues but found no major structural problems, and none have appeared since. The building retains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The building's concrete foundation extends more than ten feet below grade. The foundation walls were poured one foot thicker than specified by the architect as the building committee had past experience with the instability of the local soil. Basement walls are faced with coursed, rusticated sandstone to six feet above grade where there is a water table of rusticated sandstone. The tan colored stone came from a nearby quarry on the Uncompahgre Plateau and was shaped by local stone cutters. Sandstone also appears as trim, primarily as coping topping parapeted gable ends and the crenellated towers.

The main roof structure consists of timber trusses and a rafter/joist system. The primarily asphalt shingled roof includes a central octagonal domed portion set on a square base that delineates the area above the sanctuary of the nave. The shingled walls of the base are painted a shade of rose. The dome is topped with a large skylight and a small circular vent. Structurally, the dome includes two heavy built-up tied arches spanning north/south, providing the east/west boundary of the dome over the sanctuary. The north/south boundary consists of framing forming wood lattice trusses spanning between the tied arches.

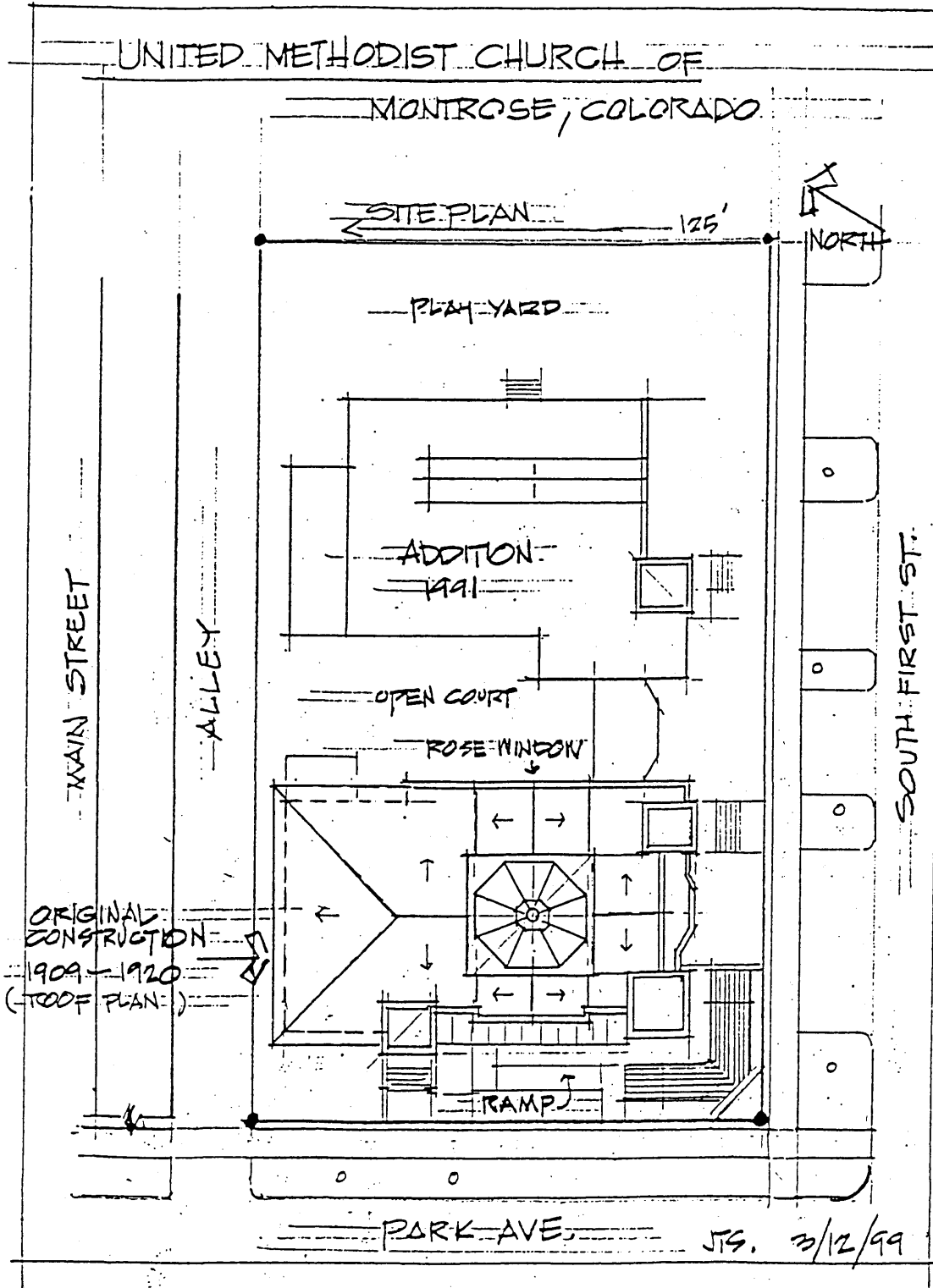
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

SKETCH MAP



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

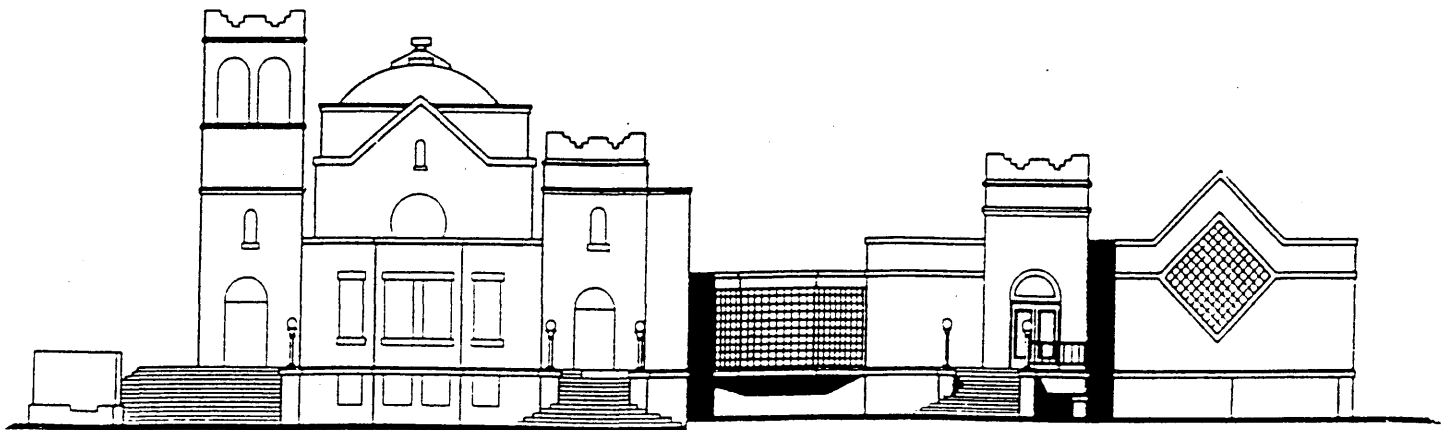
Section number 7 Page 3

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

SOUTH ELEVATION



Original Building



With 1991 Addition

Source: Brochure from 1991 Consecration Ceremony

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 4

Extending from the domed portion of the roof, there are four ridges forming a cross. The west, south, and east slopes have parapeted gable ends with shoulders. The north ridge intersects with the hipped roof that covers the portion of the building which houses the administrative and classroom area. The hipped roof has a three foot overhang with exposed rafter ends, and two brick chimneys pierce the lower edge of the roof on the east, toward the north end..

Exterior walls are of a muted yellow brick, laid in a common bond, that was locally produced by the Montrose Brick Company. Horizontal projecting corbeled trim and header courses over the bell tower arches are used to accent the roof line. The main door and window openings are topped with semicircular arches. Standing header courses, doubled and tripled, produce segmental arches over the 1/1 double hung stained glass windows on the north and east walls in the north portion of the building which houses offices and classrooms. Toward the south end of the east wall, there is a large religious stained glass rose window in the gable end. Also on the east, there is a single light door with transom at the basement level and a temporary metal storage shed that sits on a concrete pad.

On, the west side of the building, the two-story classroom portion at the north end is stepped back from the body of the church. This west facade of the church is delineated by a low, square tower secondary entry toward the north and a tall, square bell tower main entry at the south corner. The crenellated towers have belt courses of stone and double wood paneled doors with arched transoms. In the upper portions, there are small arched windows with stone sills. All four sides of the top portion of the corner bell tower have paired arched openings of molded brick that are filled with wood louvers, painted rose. The gabled pavilion has a large stained glass, arched window. It depicts "Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane", copied from a painting by Heinrich Hofmann, at Riverside Church, New York. Flanking the pavilion, the tall, narrow arched window toward the north depicts "Girl Kneeling", by an unknown artist. The window toward the south depicts "Jesus Knocking at the Door", by William Holeman.

On the south facade, below the gable there is a one story flat roofed bay which extends forward beyond the edge of the corner bell tower and the low secondary tower that is toward the east end. The bay opens into the nave to provide additional seating and has four 1/1 double hung secular stained glass windows. The arched stained glass window in the gable end depicts "The Good Shepherd", by Bernhard Pluckhorst, Syracuse, New York, Museum of Fine Art and includes geometric and foliate patterns.

The religious windows were painted on glass and then kiln fired. No information as to their maker exists, but they were installed at completion of construction in 1920. The stained glass had been covered with plexiglas in the early 1980s. The plexiglas was replaced with tempered glass in 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 5

1991 Addition

The Post Modern style, one story addition is clearly distinguishable from the original building. The yellow brick used in the construction of its walls varies slightly from the original, as the Montrose Brick Company has not been in business for some 60 years. On its street-side south facade, the forms, textures, colors, and detailing resulted in a compatible design that complements the original building. The addition has an irregular plan and a partial raised basement. It includes approximately 8,800 square feet of useable space. The main level houses restrooms, storage facilities, a large fellowship hall, and a kitchen. The basement houses classrooms, storage space, and a play area.

The asphalt covered roof is flat, except for a portion toward the east end where a front gabled roof covers a vaulted ceiling and skylighted area over the fellowship hall. The foundation is of rock faced concrete block. On the east and west walls, there are high ribbons of small horizontal window openings.

On the south facade, concrete steps, with a wrought iron railing, lead up to an entry patio that has a low wrought iron balustrade. Entry to the building is through double doors with transom set in a semicircular arch. The arched opening is located in a rose colored, stuccoed square tower that complements the towers of the original building. Below the gable peak, set within a diamond shape, there is a "rose" window filled with glass block. The building's belt course of red brick intersects two points of the diamond.

A low, flat roofed one story connector runs between the two buildings. Its walls are of cream colored stucco. Its south facade features a large bay. The bay's three window spaces are filled with glass block. On the connector's north wall, there are small horizontal window openings high on the wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 6

Interior

Including the full basement, the building contains approximately 16,000 square feet of floor area. Elements of the Akron Plan visible in the nave and sanctuary include: the sloping floor, curved pews set on the diagonal in a square nave, corner elevated pulpit/lectern and communion table, and a large undulating balcony over rear pews that is supported by seven cast iron columns. The balcony spans the west and south walls. At the top of the prominent central dome, a non-religious stained glass window is lit from a skylight above and fluorescent lights. The main floor structure includes a system of wood joists on steel beams framed to cast iron columns

The entrance to the sanctuary leads from the narthex located under the main bell tower and diagonally down a sloping central aisle to the opposite corner of the nave, then up a stairway to the elevated platform. To the right of the entry from the narthex is a flat floor overflow seating area created by the bay below the south gable. On the east wall, under the rose window and the original organ pipes, there is a choir loft with a floor at the same level as the pulpit platform. All woodwork is paneled natural oak at lower level of the pews, platform, and in front of the choir.

Projecting outward from the square nave to the west, south, and east are elliptical ceiling vaults below the gable roofs. Eight pilasters accent the square nave and vault intersections. Each is topped by composite Ionic capitals. This plaster detail was completed by special plaster contractors from Denver circa 1919. Above the pilasters, there is a cornice.

North of the sanctuary, there is a recessed room for the bell choir that can be partitioned off by an eight foot high oak folding door, running the length of the nave. Originally, the entire north wall could have been opened into a large meeting room with two levels of classrooms on three sides. During services a rising wall could be lifted so that classes and the Sunday School assembly could participate in the opening and closing exercises from their rooms. The alterations to the north wall date from the late 1930s or early 1940s and reflect an evolution in the way religious services were conducted. The alterations provided for enclosed classrooms and administrative offices.

The full basement has a large meeting room where services were held once the partially finished church basement was roofed. Other below grade spaces are kitchen, classrooms, storage, mechanical areas, and a coal room. The basement floor structure consists of wood on wood joists framing from exterior walls to steel beams or wood girders supported by piers and pad foundations. Wells and sumps monitor the water table.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose

Montrose County/Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [x] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C a birthplace or grave.
[] D a cemetery.
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
[] F a commemorative property.
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
#
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record
#

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1909-1920

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barber, Thomas P.

Davis, Patrik

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 7

SIGNIFICANCE

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose is nominated for listing in the National Register under Criterion C. The property is eligible under Criteria Consideration A as a religious facility significant in the area of Architecture. Completed in 1920, the building is a good local example of an ecclesiastical interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style. In addition, although the interior has been somewhat modified, the building retains its ability to reflect important elements of the Akron Plan, a Protestant church design utilized during the late 19th and early 20th century. The exterior remains in its original form except for the installation of an ADA entry ramp on the west. A clearly distinguishable, but compatible, 1991 addition on the east leaves all but a small portion of the building's east wall visible. The scale of the building, its overall size, the quality of materials and workmanship, and the numerous stained glass windows are impressive for its time of construction in what was a small, somewhat isolated town in southwestern Colorado.

The well-crafted and well-preserved building reflects elements of the Romanesque Revival style in its overall massing, rusticated stone basement walls, numerous semi-circular arches, and square towers of different heights. Many of the materials were locally produced and crafted. In some cases, such as the application of interior plaster, craftsmen came from as far as Denver. The building also reflects the long term commitment of the congregation to provide an adequate facility to meet their evolving needs.

The building compares favorably with the National Register listed Tudor Revival style First Methodist Episcopal Church of Delta (5DT896), one of Colorado's most intact examples of an Akron Plan church. The Akron Plan, believed to have originated in Akron, Ohio shortly after the Civil War, was utilized by some Protestant denominations into the early 1920s. The plan reflected a religious philosophy which stressed the importance of Sunday School attendance over church attendance. Based on a desire for separateness with togetherness, the large open, high ceilinged interiors typically incorporated perimeter balconies that allowed all students to be together for opening and closing exercises. Folding partitions provided the flexibility to create separate classrooms for small group study. Over 2,500 churches were built using the basic plan, which was adapted by numerous architects throughout the country. Their designs were executed in popular ecclesiastical architectural styles of the time.

As the philosophy of the Protestant Sunday School continued to evolve, many of the interiors were modified, particularly with the installation of more permanent partitions in the balcony area. In the case of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose, although the north side of the interior had been modified by the 1950s, the south and west sides remain largely intact. In addition, the sloping floor, and placement of the curved pews in the large open nave continue to clearly reflect important characteristics of the Akron Plan. From the exterior, the building's massing presents an appearance that is very different from the more rectangular Basilican Plan churches that typically included center aisles to accommodate the processions of more formal religious services.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 8

Historical Background

Montrose incorporated in 1882 when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had arrived. Otto Mears built a hotel with a dining room and bar, and soon there were 14 saloons in town. The Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose stems from the 1882 organization of a Methodist Sunday School by three mothers. It met in a carpenter's shop, using empty nail kegs for seats. Church services were held afterward by a minister sent from Denver. The shop was purchased for \$500 in 1883 and named the Methodist Episcopal Church. The building also served as the first public school, which was taught by another Methodist woman.

In 1886, a brick L-shaped, Gothic style church was built at the corner of North 2nd Street and Cascade Avenue. The Ladies Guild helped pay for the building with their annual Flower Fair held at the new Opera House. By 1906, the brick church building was in bad shape structurally, due to soil instability, and it was condemned. The members decided a new church should be built. Lots were purchased in 1909 at South 1st Street and Park Avenue. The building committee and congregation had a vision of the potential of the Uncompahgre Valley based on the opening of the Gunnison Tunnel which was dedication on September 23, 1909. The tunnel was part of one of the greatest irrigation projects to be attempted by the United States government. President William Howard Taft, federal, state, and local dignitaries attended the event that marked the changing of the valley from high desert to 280 square miles of grazing and farmland.

Church trustees directed the architect to size the new building for a town of 25,000 people and to make the footings large enough to assure no settlement from the expansive soil. Services were held in the local Masonic Hall until the church basement was built. The basement was roofed, and services were conducted there during World War I. In 1917, as funds and labor became available, construction of the new church resumed in earnest, with the final touches being completed in 1920

Thomas P. Barber of Colorado Springs is credited with the design of the building. The Akron Plan is reported to be similar to his Cameron Memorial Church in Denver. Barber also designed numerous buildings in Colorado Springs, among which are the: First Methodist Church; YMCA gymnasium; Jones/Argo Hall at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind; Beth-E1 Hospital; the Dern, Robbins and Hubbard buildings; the Alamo Hotel; the St. Vrain Apartments; the Idlewild, North Junior Lowell, Helen Hunt, and Columbia Schools. He also designed buildings in Denver, Pueblo, Greeley, and Gunnison before his death in 1932.

While history books have recorded a few names of local individuals primarily involved in the discovery or development of mining, freight and commerce, road and railroad building, the everyday efforts of the principal players dedicated to establishing a well-rounded working community were often missed. The founding members of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose were closely associated with the development of Montrose through their involvement and significant contributions to local daily life in the late 1800s and into the early 1900s. This time period and the locale produced a distinctive church

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 9

building, reflecting the prevailing philosophy of Methodism, a popular architectural style, and the use of local materials.

The construction of the 1991 addition reflected the congregation's long term effort to provide additional space. Prior to 1980, the trustees established a capital improvement fund. In 1984, a long range planning report sited the need for a barrier-free annex. Fundraising and planning continued, with the ground breaking for the addition occurring in December of 1990. It was completed and consecrated in September of 1991.

The architect for the addition was Patrik Davis, a member of the church. With a practice in Montrose, Davis has designed numerous community structures including: schools, a city library, and a county sheriff's office/jail complex.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 9 Page 10

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Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose

Montrose County/Colorado

Name of Property

County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 249365 4262840
Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John T. Shoup, Member

(Edited by S. Doggett)

organization United Methodist Church of Montrose

date April 15, 1999

street & number 2615 Cirque Way

telephone 970-240-0395

city or town Montrose

state CO

zip code 81401-5342

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name United Methodist Church of Montrose

street & number 19 S. Park Avenue

telephone 970-249-3716

city or town Montrose

state Co

zip code 81401

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 11

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description

The boundary includes Lots 13-19, less the eastern 6 feet 6 inches of Lot 19, of Block 49, City of Montrose, 1882.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the parcel of land historically associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Materials Page 12

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photographs 1-9.

Name of Property: Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Location: 19 S. Park Avenue, Montrose, Montrose County, CO
Photographer: John Shoup
Date of Photographs: Spring, 1999
Negatives: Church files.

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	West and south facades, view east
2	South facade, view north
3	West facade, view east
4	East and north sides, view southwest
5	Paved area between original building and 1991 addition, view southwest
6	South facade 1991 addition, view north
7	Choir loft from balcony, view east
8	North wall with bell choir recess, view south
9	Balcony and seating, view southwest

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Continuation Sheet

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
Montrose County, Colorado

Section number Additional Materials Page 13

USGS MAP
Montrose East, Colorado

