

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

AUG 27 1979
001 16 1979

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Congregational Church of Manitou

AND/OR COMMON

Community Congregational Church**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

101 Pawnee Avenue

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Manitou Springs

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

El Paso

CODE

041**CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Community Congregational Church Members-controlled by the duly elected trustees

STREET & NUMBER

103 Pawnee Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Manitou Springs

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80829**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.El Paso County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

27 East Vermijo Street

CITY, TOWN

Colorado Springs

STATE

Colorado**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites (21/04/0007)

DATE

Ongoing FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSColorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 101 Pawnee Avenue in Manitou Springs, the First Congregational Church is a single detached structure irregular in shape and built of native stone (squared rubble). The Church is one and one-half stories in height with a two-story tower on the northwest corner. The main or west facade has two bays, the north facade five bays (plus two others set inside the projections forming the apse and narthex), the south facade the same number as it is a mirror image of the north, and the east facade a stone and cinderblock wing built over the years from 1890-1974. The roof is gabled.

The secondary features give the structure its characteristic appearance. All the structural openings employ the Gothic arch. On the west facade the main entrance occurs through such an opening and flanking this are three lancet windows, the central unit being taller and wider than the other two. The fenestration on the other sides also display the lancet window and groupings of three reflecting the features of the main facade. The tower which rises on the northwest corner has an open belfry and a pyramidal roof topped by a cross.

The interior retains much of its late nineteenth century character. The walls are painted plaster. Both the pews and ceiling beams are walnut and there is considerable use of walnut panelling. There are two balconies above the alter although one has been closed off temporarily. But most notable are the stained glass windows in all the structural openings.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880 - present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Angus Gillis & George W. Snider

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Congregational Church in Manitou Springs is significant for its role in the religious development of Manitou Springs and for its architectural features which illustrate the adaptation of Gothic elements to building in early-day Colorado. There is some inconclusive evidence that the structure was designed by Robert A. Roeschlaub, in which case there would be another dimension to the structure's significance.

In 1877 the Reverend R. T. Cross of the Congregational Church in Colorado Springs began to preach on Sunday afternoons at the schoolhouse on Ute Avenue in Manitou Springs, as the town, only one year old, had no churches. During the next two years several people from Manitou were received into the congregation in Colorado Springs, but in 1879 these parishioners decided to form a Congregational Church in Manitou itself. After organizing themselves in August of that year, the members made plans to construct a building. Although the evidence is inconclusive, there is some thought that Robert A. Roeschlaub of Denver offered a design, but in any event, as time permitted, the parishioners quarried native stone from nearby Williams Canyon and had the church built by two local contractors, Angus Gillis and George W. Snider, at a cost of \$3,400. The building was dedicated on January 1, 1882. Despite the completion of this work, the parish grew slowly and apparently served as a missionary post as most early pastors remained only about a year. Yet the congregation did increase, and in the early 1890s an addition was constructed in the rear, thus giving the church the shape of a cross. The interior was also remodeled. Over the years the congregation continued to prosper, but in 1922 the name of the structure was changed to the Community Congregational Church. Later in 1960 the congregation joined the United Church of Christ. Today, the structure is the oldest Colorado church used continuously by Congregationalists.

From an architectural perspective the Church reveals much about an early day in Colorado--a time about twenty years after the gold rush and only four years after statehood (1876). The architect's specifications--still in existence--called for the use of "Gothic arches---Gothic windows" and so forth, perhaps because the High Victorian Gothic Revival had reached its zenith in the past decade. Yet unlike structures in this style with their polychromatic building materials and highly decorated lancet windows, the First Congregational Church in Manitou Springs is a monochromatic structure with simple, relatively undecorated fenestration, the characteristic features of the Gothic Revival of the early nineteenth century. While this may reflect the architect's desire to use the older style or the architect's ignorance of the aspects of the newer style, it is more likely that the design represents an effort to build a church in High Victorian Gothic, an effort that had to be compromised by a lack of funds or adequate building materials or both. The result was a church built in the epoch of High Victorian Gothic, but appearing more characteristic of the earlier revival, all in all an interesting comment on the economics, culture, and architectural perceptions of the early settlers of Manitou Springs.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A History of the Community Congregational Church of Manitou Springs, Colorado," unpublished manuscript, copy in Colorado State Historic Preservation Office. Colorado Springs, Gazette Telegraph, 1879-1880, passim. Rocky Mountain Congregationalist, 1892-1913, passim. Manitou Journal, 1891-1893, passim.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Manitou Springs

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 3 5 0 7 5 4 0 4 3 0 0 6 5 0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 and 2, Block M, Manitou Springs, Colorado

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Richard D. Young

ORGANIZATION

Member, Community Congregational Church

STREET & NUMBER

33 Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Manitou Springs

DATE

October 20, 1978

TELEPHONE

(303) 685-9357

STATE

Colorado 80829

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Arthur C. Zimmerman

TITLE

DATE

August 15, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Carol Skell

DATE

10-16-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Brennan

DATE

10.15.79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION