

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

174

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

other names/site number Idaho Methodist Episcopal Church, First United Methodist Church, Methodist Church of Idaho, United Church, 5CC241

### 2. Location

street & number 1414 Colorado Boulevard [N/A] not for publication

city or town Idaho Springs [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Clear Creek code 019 zip code 80452

### 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 [ ]. )

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer January 13, 1998 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 [ ].

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date  
Edson H. Beall 3.5.98

Methodist Episcopal Church  
Name of Property

Clear Creek/CO  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**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)

VACANT/Not In Use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, concrete  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other Wood  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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 Bibliographic 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

1880

1905

Significant Dates

1880

1905

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Methodist Episcopal Church

Clear Creek/CO

Name of Property

County/State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 455740 4399150  
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 Mark Thomas Harpe, Intern (Edited by S. Doggett)

organization Colorado Center for Community Development date 08-29-97

street & number 535 16th St. (PO Box 173364, Campus Box 128) telephone 303-620-4660

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80217-3364

#### 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 Church of Idaho Springs

street & number PO Box 3070 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Idaho Springs state CO zip code 80452

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Clear Creek County, CO

Section number 7 Page 1

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**DESCRIPTION**

The Idaho Springs Methodist Episcopal Church building occupies a portion of three narrow lots at the northwest corner of Colorado Boulevard and 15th Street. The building abuts the sidewalk along Colorado Boulevard on the south, and there is little room for landscaping on the remaining sides. An extensively altered former parsonage, located to the north, is no longer owned by the congregation and is not included in the proposed boundaries.

The overall condition of the property is good, and it retains integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The church was approved for designation as a local Historic Preservation Site by the City Council of the City of Idaho Springs on January 22, 1996.

The specific source of the building's design, which exhibits characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, is unknown. The building's irregular plan consists of three major components: the main rectangular portion which includes the nave and a Sunday School room, a choir alcove on the west, and the main entry porch and bell tower and narthex on the east. The original portions of the church were constructed in 1880. A 1905 building campaign resulted in the completion of the church in its present form. At that time, space for the Sunday School was created by extending the building approximately 16' to the south, the choir alcove was added toward the north end of the west wall, and a redesigned brick entry porch and tower were completed on the east.

The foundation of the building is of rubble stone masonry. A partial basement, with two small arched window openings on the south, is under the Sunday School extension. A shed roofed exterior stairway on the west has walls of white painted lap siding and a wood paneled door. On the southeast corner of the building, there is a cornerstone that includes a 1962 time capsule. What appears to be the original cornerstone, relocated from its 1880 location, reads "1880" and faces south. A stone reading "Methodist Church Incorporated 1868, 1962 Box Inside, CO River Stone by Perry R Barnes" faces east.

The walls are of red brick. Upon examination, a slight variation in the texture and installation of the bricks used in 1880 and in 1905 remains evident. A running bond was used in 1905, while randomly placed header courses exist in the 1880 portions.

A steeply pitched gabled roof, pierced by a small brick chimney toward the lower edge on the west, covers the main portion of the building. A half-hipped roof covers the choir alcove, and a cross gabled roof tops the main entry porch. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles that may have replaced early wood shingles. On the south, under the gable within the rake, there is decorative wood trim consisting of two sets of two small brackets supporting a vertical panel board frontispiece. The board is detailed with a carved quatrefoil flanked by trefoil designs.

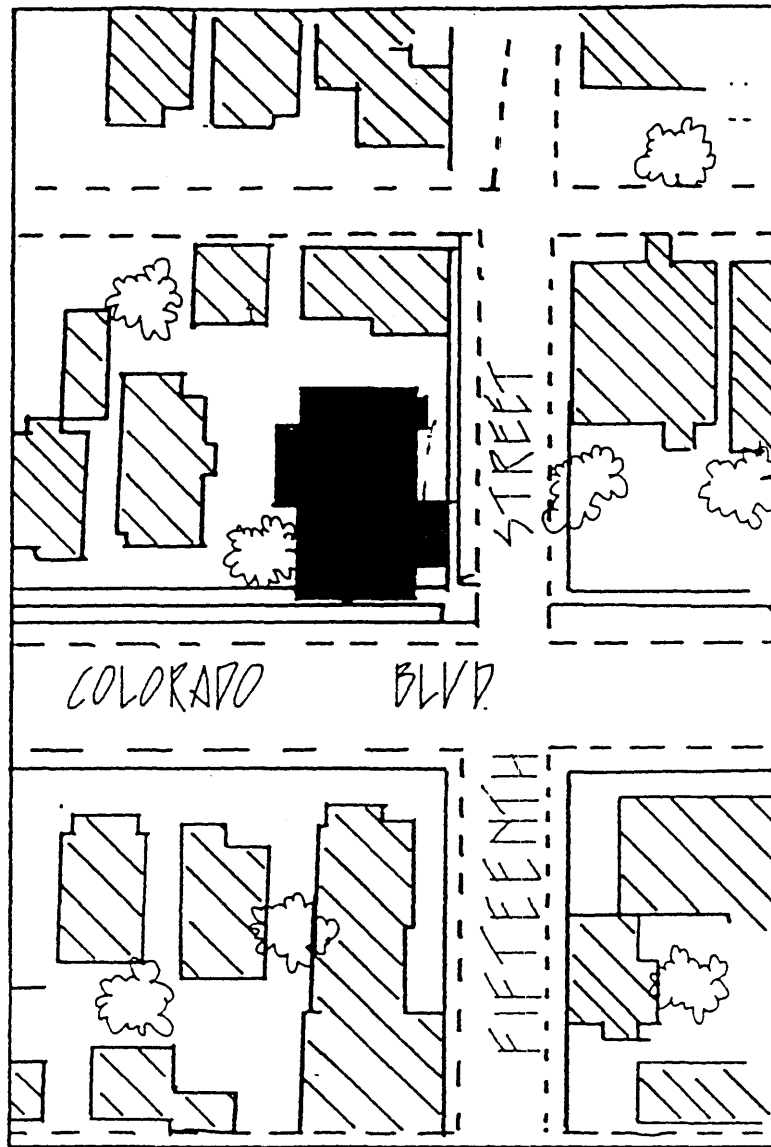
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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Clear Creek County, CO

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SITE PLAN



- METHODIST CHURCH
- ▨ SURROUNDING BUILDINGS



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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Clear Creek County, CO

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The windows frames, doors, cornices, exposed eaves and a small, hipped roof, entry porch at the north end of the east wall are of wood that is painted white. In general, windows are set within Gothic arches, and the sills are of sandstone. Most of the windows include simple Gothic tracery and are glazed with stained glass in a variety of colors. The texture of the glass varies, most likely reflecting replacements installed over time.

Large, stationary windows are located on the north and south walls of the church. Windows on the east and west are double hung and include simple Gothic tracery. The southern most window on the west has been altered to accommodate a metal fire escape that was installed in 1965. Single 1/1 lancet windows are found in the south, west, and north walls of the choir alcove.

On the east, the main entrance is sheltered by a brick porch located to the south of a bell tower. A stairway of sandstone steps, interrupted with a sandstone landing, leads up through a round arch opening to the wood floored porch. The low brick wall on the porch's east is capped with sandstone, and has a round arch opening above. Tall double, wood paneled doors, with original hardware and transom, are found on the south side of the tower portion of the building. They are set within a Gothic arch. Each door has a small diamond shaped glass insert located at eye level. A plain single entry door to the Sunday School room is on the east wall of the building.

The lower brick portion of the tower has a single 1/1 lancet window at the main level on the east and north. A pair of 1/1 lancet windows are on the east at the second level. The wood belfry is painted white and includes diamond shaped, fixed louver panels on all four sides. A broached spire tops the tower. The spire is capped with a metal finial with a ball, cone and claw configuration. Asphalt shingles, installed in a decorative pattern, accent the spire.

### Interior

The 1905 construction included the installation of new semicircular pews, with simply carved end panels. The pews were set facing the choir alcove on the west. An arched opening and raised platform further define the choir alcove from the rest of the nave. The central window in the alcove includes an interior mounted decorative stained glass panel installed at an unknown date.

A wood divider separates the nave from the Sunday school room. The divider includes two large pocket doors which can be raised and stored within its upper portion. The one nearest the entry includes a standard door to allow for passage when the pocket door is lowered. Wainscoting exists throughout the nave and Sunday School room. The upper walls and ceiling are white painted plaster. Most of the floors are carpeted.

The partial basement under the Sunday School room houses storage, a small restroom and an entrance to a partially excavated furnace room. In 1965, a second floor, in the form of a loft, was created above the Sunday School room, and interior access to the basement was provided.

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### SIGNIFICANCE

The Methodist Episcopal Church in Idaho Springs is significant under Criterion C for Architecture. Perhaps based on plans published in the pattern books widely circulated during the period, the building, with its steeply pitched roof, tall spire, and numerous Gothic windows, clearly reflects the verticality associated with the Gothic Revival Style. The property meets Criteria Consideration A as a religious property deriving its primary significance from its architectural importance.

In Colorado, as settlers continued to arrive, the popularity of the style for ecclesiastical architecture endured well into the 20th century, often with wood serving as the primary building material. Particularly in smaller communities, examples of the Gothic Revival tended to be straightforward interpretations as exhibited in the simple wood tracery of the property's windows. The property compares favorably with the well-preserved Zion Lutheran Church, a simple wood frame building with Gothic Revival elements, constructed sometime between 1900 and 1907 that is located in Idaho Springs at 1921 Virginia Street.

Begun in 1880, and enlarged in 1905 as the result of a building campaign, the Methodist Episcopal Church remains virtually intact and retains sufficient integrity to convey its architectural significance. It survives as a good local interpretation of the Gothic Revival style executed in brick, a building material that enjoyed increasing popularity at the time of its construction and subsequent expansion. The slight variations in the brick exterior serve as visible evidence of the expansion of the original building to meet the changing needs of a growing congregation.

### Historic Background

In Idaho Springs, the success of the surrounding mining region strongly influenced growth and development. During the 1860s, placer operations resulted in a temporary community of tents and primitive wood structures. By the 1870s, the accelerating development of hardrock mining began to give the community an aura of stability. The arrival of the railroad in 1877 strengthened Idaho Springs' position as a supply center. While wood remained the primary material for residential construction, numerous brick commercial buildings, reflecting late Victorian and early 20th-century detailing, were constructed in the downtown business district.

The Idaho Springs Methodist Episcopal congregation organized in 1868, first meeting above a local saloon, and then sharing facilities with an existing Presbyterian congregation in a wood frame building that was constructed in 1872. This building received a large addition during the 1980s. Now known as the United Church, it is once again being shared by the two congregations as the result of a merger for financial reasons in 1969. At this time, the Methodist Episcopal Church building is not in use.



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In addition to its architectural importance, the Idaho Springs Methodist Episcopal Church, St. James Church in Central City, and Father Dyer's Church in Breckenridge are the only surviving church buildings located within the nearby mountain mining communities that the Methodist Conference considers to be historically significant to the denomination's development in Colorado.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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**Unpublished Materials**

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100th Anniversary Church Bulletin containing a write up on the history of the church by a Mrs. Ken Inman.

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METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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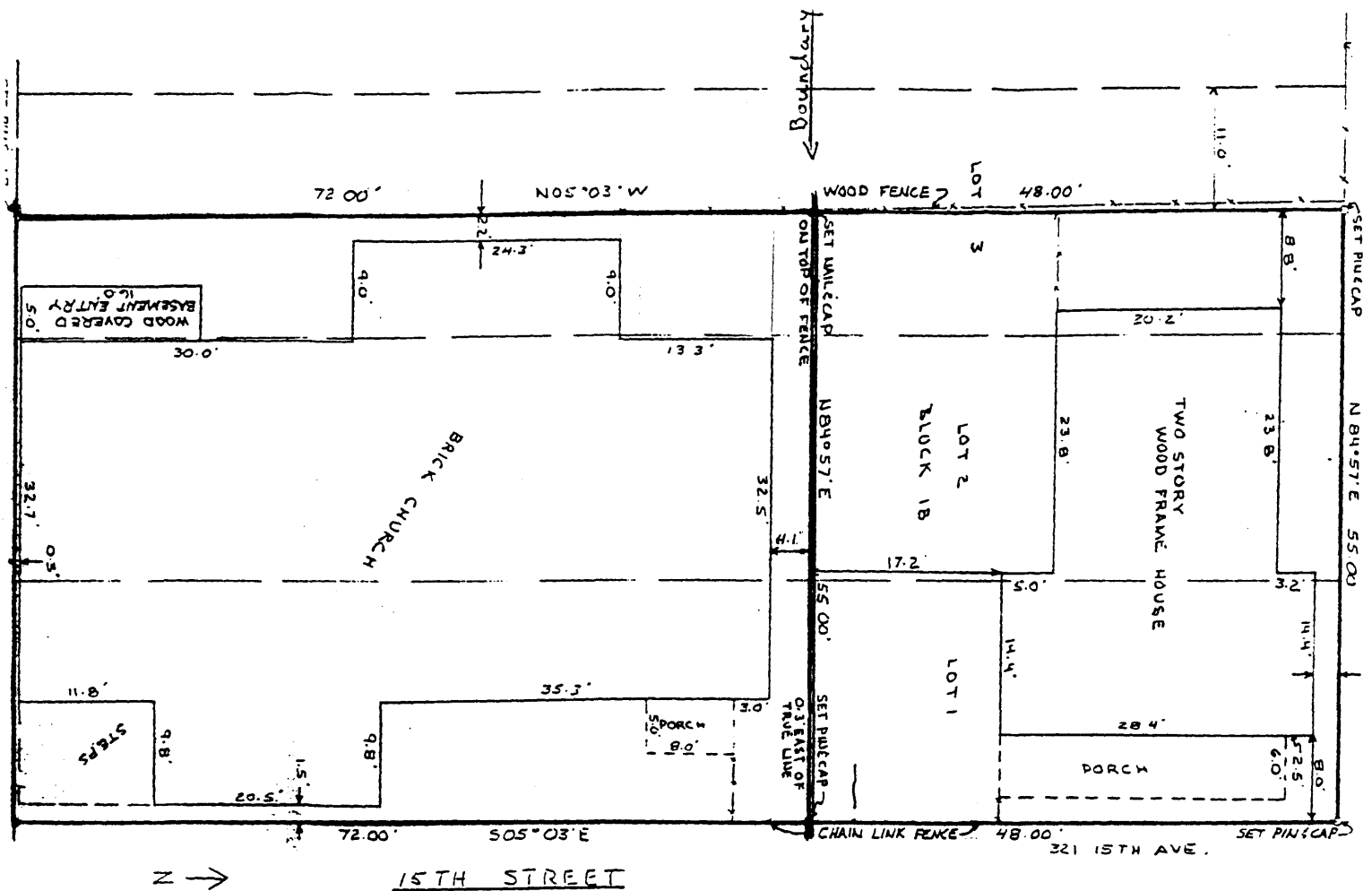
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the south 72' of Lots 1 & 2 and the south 72' of the east 1/2 of Lot 3, Block 18, City of Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification

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



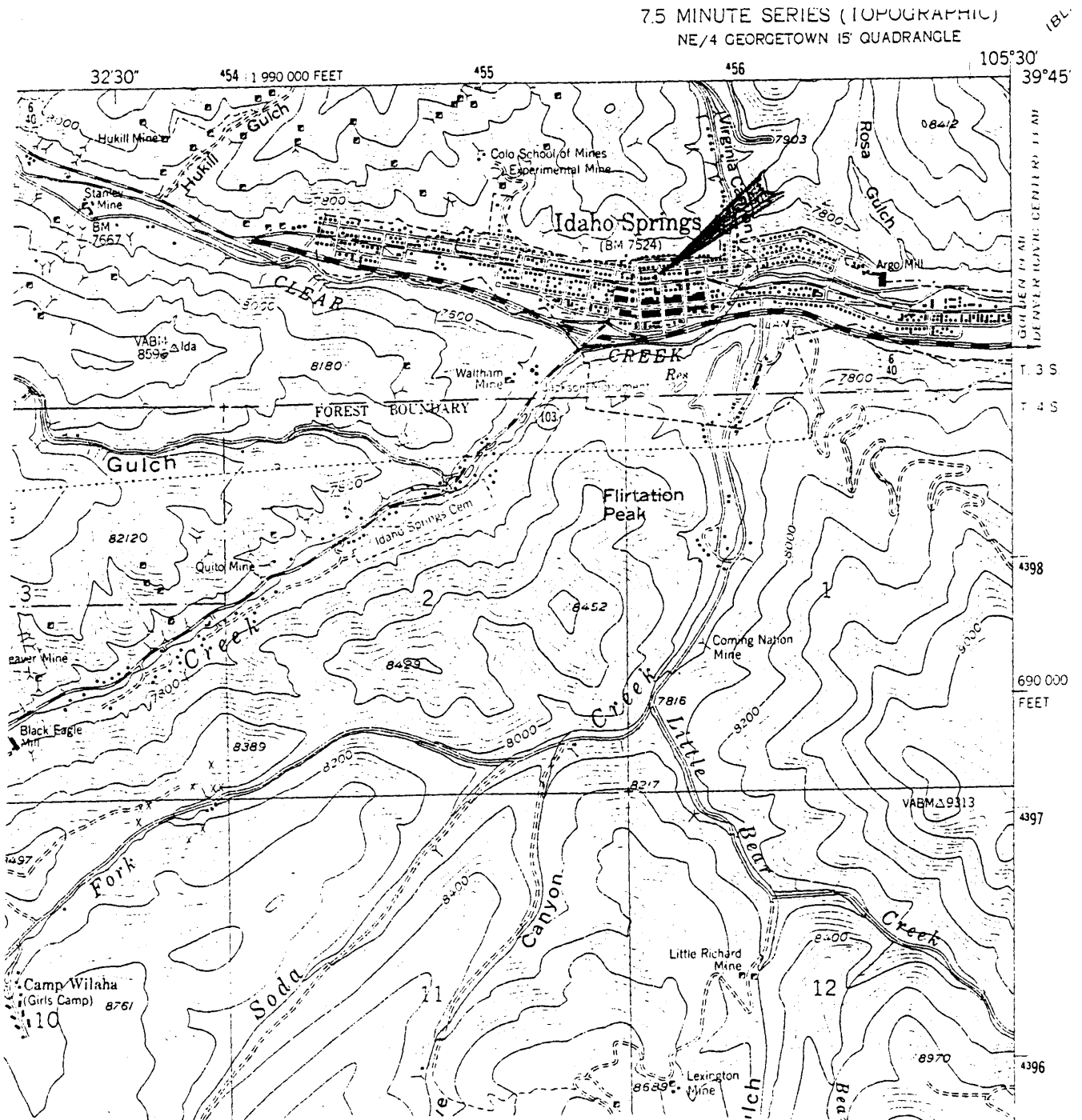
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USGS MAP  
Idaho Springs, Colorado



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Clear Creek County, CO

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**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photographs numbers 1-9.

Name of Property: Methodist Episcopal Church

Location: 1414 Colorado Boulevard, Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, CO 80452

Photographer: Mark Harpe

Date of Photographs: October 1997

Negatives: City of Idaho Springs, 1711 Miner Street, P.O. Box 907, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Information</u>
1	South and east sides, view northwest
2	East facade, view northwest
3	Main entry doors, view north
4	East and north sides, view southwest
5	North side, view southwest
6	West and south sides, view northeast
7	West side, view northeast
8	Basement entry, view northeast
9	Cornerstone at southeast corner, view north