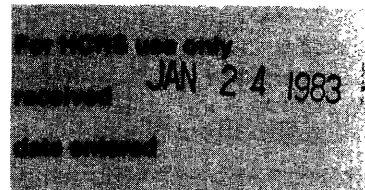


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic

and/or common First United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number West First and West Streets, n/a not for publication

city, town Reno n/a vicinity of congressional district 2

state Nevada code 32 county Washoe code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name First Methodist Church of Reno

street & number P. O. Box 789

city, town Reno n/a vicinity of state NV 89504

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washoe County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Reno state Nevada 89501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title not represented has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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

The overall complex is comprised of a three story Cathedral on the corner of West First and West Streets, a two story Parish House on the west, a two story connecting wing, and a rear addition. The grouping assumes a modified U shape.

Constructed in 1925-1926, the cathedral was one of the first poured concrete buildings in Reno. Designed by Wythe, Blaine, and Olson of Oakland, California, the structure utilizes Gothic Revival architectural themes.

The Parish House and connecting hall wing were later, c. 1940, additions designed by the prominent local architect, Edward Parsons. In 1965, the Expansion Unit addition was completed at a cost of \$30,000.

The Cathedral is over three stories in height and reflects Gothic Revival design. The form of the structure utilized large gabled rectangles. A cross gable intersects the gabled nave on the north end of the structure and a tower containing two upper tiers of open arches projects approximately four stories from the inside corner of the structure and the hall wing. Heavy vertical piers buttress the corners of the large nave. The southern or front facade contains an arched entry outlined with a band of scored molding, beneath three large stained glass window panels. The panels are arched and recessed into a large pointed arch form. The eastern facade of the Cathedral contains a projecting and gabled one story entrance on the south end. Four tall recessed and arched panels, each holding a pair of arched stained glass windows extend along the nave above the one story outer aisle. The cross gabled portion contains a large recessed arch containing three smaller vertical arched windows of stained glass. An unornamented extension of the building projects to the north and abuts the tall adjacent contemporary structure.

The two story wing connecting the Cathedral is the passage to the Hall and Parish House, designed by Edward Parsons and constructed in 1940. On the ground floor, this two story structure contains paired arched windows set into a larger arched recessed panel, and a large door also set into a recessed arch. The second floor, added in 1976-1977, is recessed to allow for balcony access between Cathedral and Hall and contains large rectangular windows.

The Parish Hall contains two stories but is a little taller than the connecting wing, with a decorative parapet that projects above the building. This structure was also designed by Edward Parsons and constructed in 1940. A stairway leads to a second floor entrance from the court yard formed by the U-shaped building. The Parish House contains tall arched windows, a tiered brick chimney stack, and an upper parapet wall with a cut-out quatrefoil design. The courtyard area is multi-paned with mature trees and shrubs.

The overall complex has developed over time, with several additions. The first floor of the passage wing and Parish Hall were the first additions, in 1940. Some interior remodeling took place in 1943. In 1948, the basement rooms beneath the sanctuary and parlors were finished according to the design of architect, Russell Mills. An Expansion Unit was added c. 1965, to the north because of the construction of the adjacent parking garage. In 1976, the balcony and second floor of the passage wing was constructed and fire access was added.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates between 1925-1926 **Builder/Architect** Wythe, Blaine, & Olson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Methodist Church Cathedral is an imposing and handsome structure. Its corner siting near the river is dramatic and impressive. The additions blend into the overall design and do not detract from the building's design.

The Cathedral is a fine Period Revival design utilizing Gothic themes. The scale of the structure makes the building appear even larger and more impressive. The inset of the windows into larger panels also gives them more importance and makes them appear to occupy a larger area. The vertical thrust of the design is somewhat lessened by the rounded quality of the inset arches. The structure gains importance as one of the first poured concrete structures in the City.

The Methodist Church organization was established early in Reno's history. It was organized in Reno in 1868 by Reverend Thomas McGrath and by 1870 work had begun on the First Methodist building in Reno. By 1900, a new brick church building was dedicated, and in 1926, the present building completed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of First Methodist Church, Reno, Nevada, 1868-1968
 Interview: Edward Parsons, May, 1982
 Washoe County Assessor's Office, Property Tax Assessment Records
 Founder's Title Company of Nevada, Title and Deed Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .33 acre
 Quadrangle name Reno Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

A	<u>111</u> Zone	<u>251801510</u> Easting	<u>41371861610</u> Northing	B	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification : Washoe Co. Assessor's Parcel # 11-041-06
 Located on portions of Lots 1 and 2, Block T of the Reno Townsite, this parcel measures 144' on the northern property line, 100' on the east line along West Street, 144' on the south line along First Street, and 100' on the west line.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>
state	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>	county	<u>n/a</u>	code	<u>n/a</u>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula Boghosian
 organization Historical Environment Consultants date June, 1982
 street & number 2306 J Street, Penthouse telephone (916) 446-2447
 city or town Sacramento state CA 95816

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature James M. Hamrick
 title Alternate SHPO date January 14, 1983

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 Entered in the National Register date 2/24/83
 Keoper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

First United Methodist Church

CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

One

The structure is on its original land parcel.

