

949

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
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 Alger, Amanda K., Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Wilt Memorial Church; First Methodist Episcopal Church; 5WL.5088; Eaton United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 303 Maple Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Eaton [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Weld code 123 zip code 80615

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Georgina Cortez, State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 9/6/06

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, 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:

- [X] 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 of the Keeper: Gordon H. Beall

Date of Action

10.25.06

Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Weld County/ Colorado
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

2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	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)

RELIGION/ religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
REVIVALS/ Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls BRICK
roof COMPOSITION
other STONE

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.
- 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:

- 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
SOCIAL HISTORY

Periods of Significance

1925-1956

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

WILSON & WILSON
C.H. YOUNG & SONS

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Weld County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 524268 4486307 (NAD 27)
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. 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 Frances Verniece Thomas, church member (for the property owner)

organization Eaton United Methodist Church date May 25, 2006

street & number 303 Maple Avenue telephone (970) 356-6900 x12

city or town Eaton state Colorado zip code 80615

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 Eaton United Methodist Church/ Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church

street & number 303 Maple Avenue telephone (970) 454-3938

city or town Eaton state Colorado zip code 80615

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.

**National Register of Historic Places
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Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
Weld County, Colorado

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DESCRIPTION**CHURCH**

The Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (also known as the Eaton United Methodist Church) is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Third Street and Maple Avenue in Eaton, Colorado. The property is comprised of four lots that were donated to the church by Benjamin Eaton in 1901. The church and parsonage are situated on the southern portion of the property. The church is on the western side while the ca. 1903-1907 parsonage is to the east of the church, adjacent to the alley which runs north to south. A 1974 garage sits north of the parsonage.

Constructed in 1925, the exterior of the church is almost the same today as when it was originally built. The building consists of a partial basement, the main floor and a second story. The rectangular building is comprised of red brick with a poured concrete foundation and wood-framed windows and doors. Composition shingles cover the roof; a severe hail storm in August 2004 resulted in the roof needing to be replaced. This work was done in late 2004/early 2005. The main entrance on the west is on Maple Avenue. The south side of the building runs parallel to Third Street and has an entry door at the end of a concrete ramp. A hard dirt-packed parking lot is located to the north, the parsonage to the east, and the garage slightly northeast.

The landscaping around the church is simple in design. There is grass, a few bushes and mulch to keep the water from settling next to the foundation. In the late 1990s, the spacious elm trees located on the parkways were removed due to disease and replaced with younger, healthier trees. The church monument sign and two memorial benches are located on the southwest corner of the church as is the Peace Pole. On the northeast side of the church is a small fenced playground installed in 2003.

The exterior of the west facade of the church is dominated by the steeply pitched front gabled roof. There are two pilasters, one on each side of the gabled roof, that are adorned with small gable styled peaks on top. These pilasters are also seen on the westernmost part of the south wall, wrapping the southwest corner of the building (see photo 1). Six brick pilasters are evenly spaced across the wall in addition to the two capped with gable peaks. A crenellated parapet tops the northern end of the façade and the gable. There are ten 4/4 double-hung windows on the main floor and twelve 4/4 double-hung windows on the second floor. The main level of the church is approximately two and a half feet above grade. The main entry on the west side of the building has two large metal and wooden glazed doors at the top of concrete stairs flanked by low brick walls and a metal pipe railing. The doors are covered on the exterior with metal panels; however, from the interior it can be seen that these are the original doors. South of the entry doors is a two-story tall triple stained glass window; this is the west wall of the choir loft and parlor. Each of the windows is topped with a round arch and tracery and the entire triple window is inset into a larger raised arched stone and brick surround. The upper and lower portions of the stained glass windows are separated by a band of three rectangular wood panels, seen in the historic photo and original to the building. A quatrefoil vent is located in the gable face.

On the north side of the church are four large triple 1/1 double-hung windows. They are located in the Fellowship Hall, which was also used as a gymnasium. Between each of these windows is an engaged brick pilaster that rises three-quarters of the wall height. The crenellated parapet from the west façade wraps around to a small portion of the north wall. Set in the center of the crenellated section is a wide brick pilaster that is equal in height to the triple windows to the east. The east end of the wall contains two 1/1 double-hung windows on the main floor (kitchen) and two of the same windows on the second story (Sunday school room) with a corbelled chimney placed between the windows.

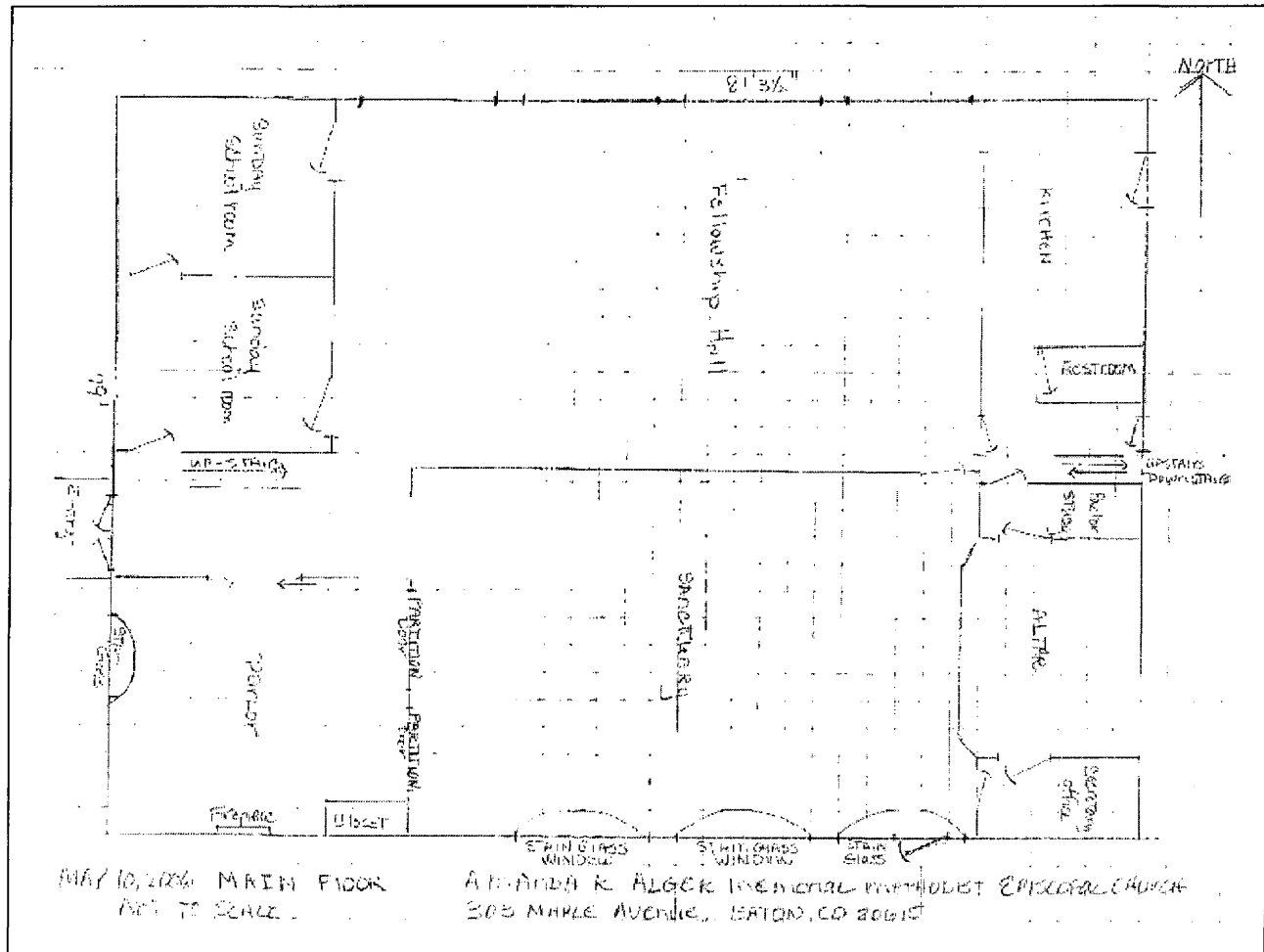
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Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
Weld County, Colorado

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Footprint- Main Floor



The east side of the building contains a rear entrance towards the north end that provides access to the kitchen. A second entrance leads in near the pastor's study and is approximately in the middle of the east wall. There are seven 1/1 double-hung windows on the main floor and seven 1/1 double-hung windows on the second floor. A Gothic arched stained glass window is located between the smaller windows on the upper floor, towards the south end. The crenellation seen on the façade in the front gable is repeated on this end of the building as well. There are three unevenly placed brick pilasters on this wall.

The south side of the church has a concrete ramp that provides ADA access to the sanctuary. Three sets of triple stained glass windows illustrate the Late Gothic Revival influence of the period. Each of the windows is topped with a round arch and tracery and each triple panel is inset into a larger raised arched stone and brick surround (see photo 3). An added entrance at the top of the ramp has been placed in the center of the easternmost window, impacting the lower half of the center window panel. The door is the same metal that is on the main entry doors. There are buttress-like brick pilasters evenly spaced on the south wall.

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Upon entering the church there is a parlor on the right (south), the sanctuary straight ahead to the east, Sunday school rooms and the fellowship hall to the left (north) and a staircase that goes up to the choir loft and two additional Sunday school rooms.

Interior

A partial basement is located on the east side of the building. A staircase descends to the hallway below. There is a men's restroom on the east side of the hallway. The hallway leads north to the area where the heating system and hot water heater are located. The original heating system was replaced in 1950 and a new furnace was installed in 1966-67. A storage room is located south of the furnace area. There is a small window on the north wall of the basement and another small window in the men's restroom.

The main floor is comprised of the sanctuary, pastor's study, secretary's office, restroom, kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Sunday school rooms, parlor and several closets. The Gothic motif is repeated in the sanctuary with the graceful arch of the ceiling over the altar area and the wooden pews with scrolled ends placed in a curved arch pattern. Looking to the west from the altar, the choir loft is accentuated by the top of the arched stained glass triple window. Immediately west of the sanctuary is the parlor with a fireplace and the lower half of the triple stained glass window panel. Original wood overhead folding partition panels separate the sanctuary from the parlor. These panels, or doors, can be opened to enlarge the seating in the sanctuary. Flanking the altar is the pastor's study on the north and the secretary's office on the south. Both of these spaces are accessed by doors off the altar.

North of the entry area are two Sunday school classrooms. Immediately to the east of these classrooms is the Fellowship Hall, which can be entered through either classroom or off the entry area. The Fellowship Hall is a large open room with four sets of triple windows and original wood floors. Wood paneling is used as a wainscot approximately halfway up the walls. Light bulbs placed on the ceiling are covered with metal cages to protect them from breakage. A kitchen off the east end of the Hall is original to the building and provides outside access to the rear of the building.

Ascending the stairs in the entry area leads to the second floor. On the west side are two Sunday school rooms, the choir loft and a closet. The classrooms used to be open to the Fellowship Hall below, with only a half wall. These were closed off at an unknown date, though it is likely that it occurred when the Fellowship Hall was actively used for basketball games. The east side of the second floor above the kitchen is a large room that can be divided into two smaller rooms. This area is currently being used by the church youth group. There are several closets and storage rooms on the second floor on the east side of the church.

Alterations

There have been no major architectural changes made to the exterior of the church since it was built. The only notable changes are the metal panels placed over original wood glazed doors and a door being added at the top of the ADA ramp in the eastern stained glass window panel on the south wall. The roof was replaced in 2004/2005 due to hail damage. The interior has been minimally remodeled. The kitchen has been updated with new appliances and the installation of a commercial dishwasher. The heating system was replaced and the wiring and lighting in parts of the church has been replaced and updated.

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PARSONAGE

Located immediately east of the church is the ca. 1903-1907 parsonage (sources conflict on the actual date of construction), constructed slightly later than the first church on the site. The residence is landscaped with shrubs and grass and faces south onto Third Street.

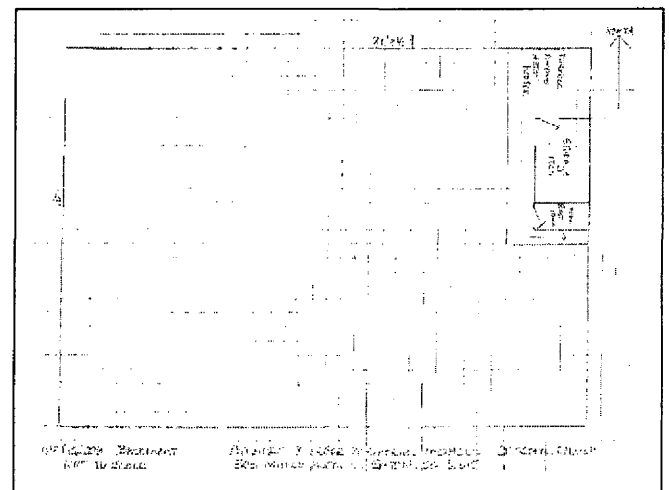
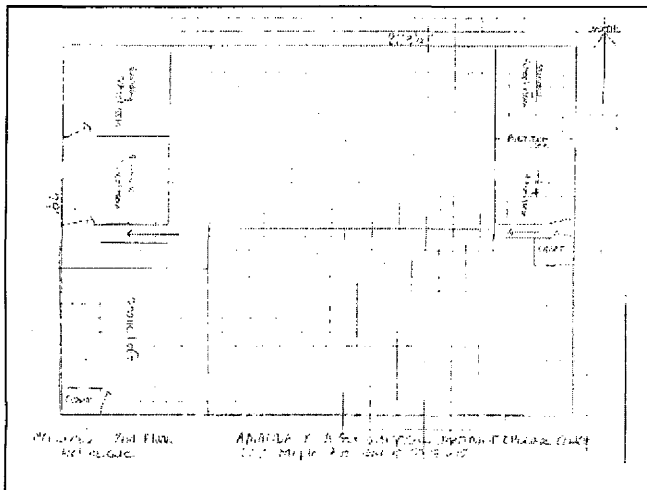
The 1.5 story Late Victorian house consists of red brick walls and a cross gabled asphalt covered roof. Decorative wood shingles of various cuts and shapes adorn the four gable faces. Gable returns and flared eaves further accentuate the roof. A brick chimney protrudes from the ridgeline on the rear gable. The front (south) and rear (north) gables contain paired 1/1 double-hung windows with architrave surrounds while the east and west sides contain only one window each. A distinctive hipped roof bay window stands on the western side of the façade. Segmental arches highlight 1/1 double-hung windows on the bay. The eastern portion of the façade contains an inset porch supported by simple square posts and a wide paneled frieze. A historic photo of the parsonage indicates the bay window and porch materials are original. Entrance to the house is through a segmental arched doorway protected by the porch. Windows on the remainder of the first floor are 1/1 double-hung covered by segmental arches. Most are single windows though there is a paired segmental arched window on both the east and west walls. One segmental arched window on the north (rear) wall has been bricked in at an unknown date and a second window has had only the upper portion bricked in. A gabled one-story addition on the rear provides a second access into the house and was constructed in 1972. It is covered with vinyl siding. The parsonage is a contributing building.

GARAGE

Replacing an early 1900s garage, the current garage sits along the alley and was constructed in the 1974. The front gabled building is one story and covered in what appears to be masonite siding. Roofing material consists of asphalt shingles. Double overhead doors are located on the north side; it is thought that the doors were originally located on the east wall, directly onto the alley. If they were indeed moved, it is unknown when this change occurred. A pedestrian door and slider window are placed on the south wall. The garage is non-contributing due to its date of construction.

Footprint- Second Floor

Footprint- Basement



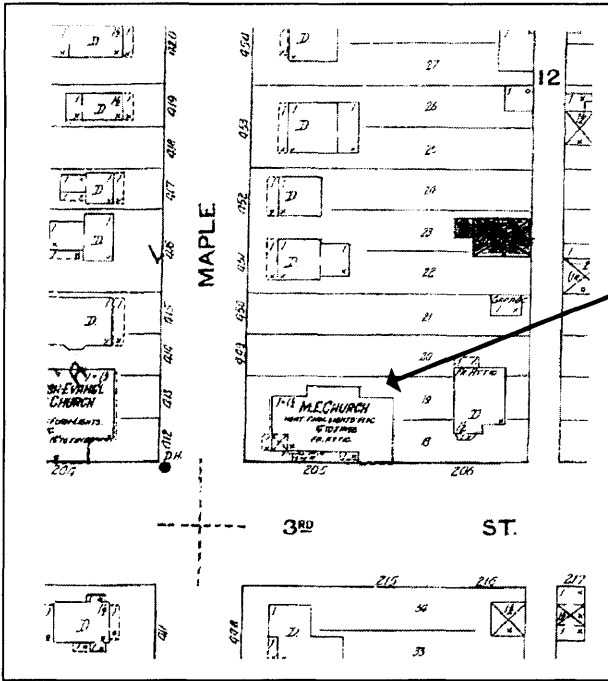
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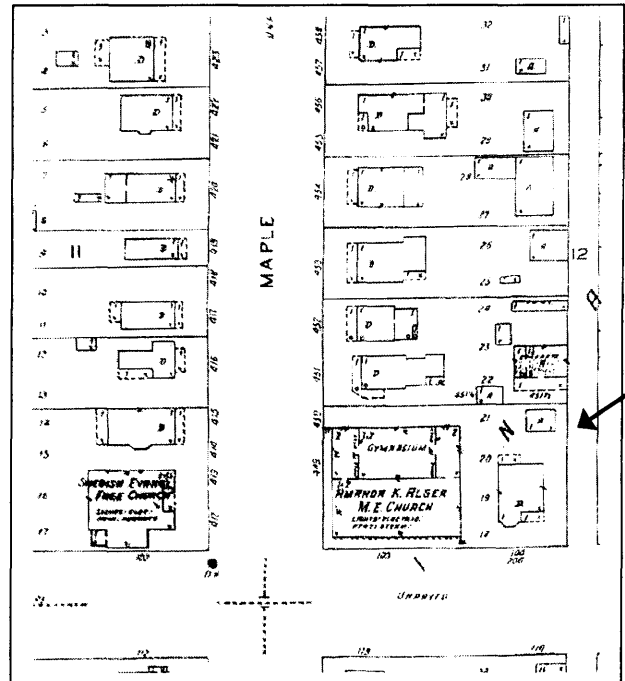
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1921 Sanborn Map



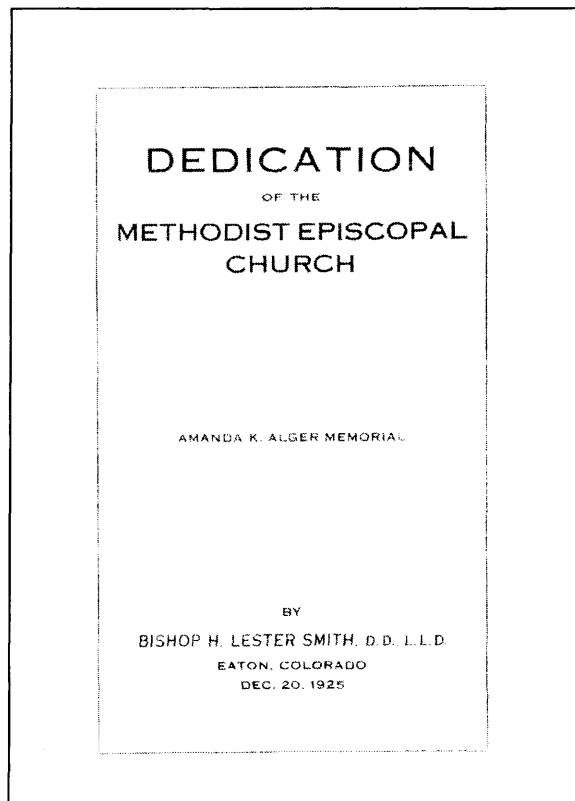
1902 church

1930 Sanborn Map



1925 church (nominated property)

1925 Dedication Program
Image courtesy of the Eaton United
Methodist Church



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SIGNIFICANCE

The Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Late Gothic Revival style. The church exhibits many of the characteristic elements of this early twentieth century style including the steeply pitched roof, arched windows with tracery, vaulted ceilings, quatrefoil elements, crenellated parapet, and simpler detailing. The church has undergone almost no alterations since its construction in 1925. Fine craftsmanship is evident in the detail found in the stained glass windows and woodwork throughout the building. All have remained intact over the past eighty years. The building retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, and location.

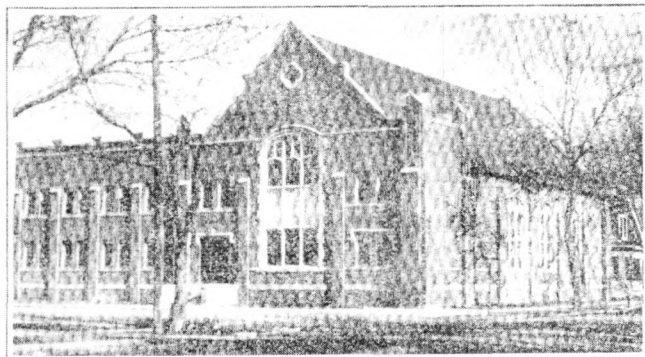
The picturesque effect associated with the Late Gothic Revival style is evident in the materials used and the craftsmanship exhibited. Late Gothic Revival is much simpler and typically larger in scale and more substantial than earlier Gothic Revival style buildings. The use of ornament on the church is present but restrained, indicating a more serene, modern sensibility. Many Late Gothic Revival buildings use brick or smooth stone on exterior wall surfaces highlighted by large lancet windows with stone tracery. The Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church exhibits many of the elements attributed to the Late Gothic Revival style (Gordon 1992).

The church is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of Social History for the role it played in hosting numerous community dinners and basketball games over the decades. The Fellowship Hall served as a gathering place for the annual Ladies Aid Bazaar, a fundraiser for this active women's group. In addition, the Ladies Aid prepared many dinners in the on-site kitchen and served meals at farm auctions, Rotary Club dinners and many other organizations. Proceeds from these dinners went towards paying off the mortgage of the church in 1942 and continued well into the 1950s. Intramural and adult league basketball games also took place in the Fellowship Hall and metal cages were installed in 1949 around the lights to protect them from breaking. Those cages are still in place and visible in the Hall today. Badminton and volleyball games were also a regular occurrence in the Hall.

Historical Background

The Town of Eaton (originally called "Eatonton") was laid out in 1878 in the territory irrigated by the Larimer and Weld Canal. Benjamin Eaton, the town's founder and later Colorado governor, referred to it optimistically as "The Hub of the Universe." While Benjamin Eaton lived in Greeley, his son A.J. moved to the newly developing area in 1880, and the emerging town became his base of operations. The vision of Benjamin Eaton, his sons, and the other founders was to convert the Great American Desert into a flourishing community that would encompass family, religion, a strong work ethic and commitment to one's fellow man. This spirit of commitment is found within the walls of the Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dedication Booklet- 1925



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(AMANDA K. ALGER MEMORIAL)
EATON, COLO.

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In 1882 A.J. and his uncle, James Hill, built the first store in Eaton; the 16-by-24-foot structure was the third building on the townsite. A post office was established in September 1882 and Hill became the first postmaster. These developments were welcomed by nearby residents who previously had to travel to Greeley for groceries and mail. In 1883 Benjamin Eaton erected a wheat elevator and flour mill in Eaton and financed construction of a two-story brick building into which A.J. and Hill moved their store. The partners' expanded business carried an extensive line of groceries, hardware, and some farm implements. The so-called "Big Store" became "the center of business life in Eaton." A.J. bought out his uncle's interest in the business in December 1884 and subsequently served as the town's second postmaster, a position he held for eight years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Eaton by O.L. Orton in 1901. The first services were held in the old Woodmen Hall on First Street. In September 1901 the church was formally organized with sixteen members. The congregation continued to grow and soon they had thirty-two members. At that time they decided to take steps to secure a location to build a church. Reverend Orton went to Greeley to meet with Benjamin Eaton who supported the establishment of many of the churches in the Eaton area by deeding the land on which to build to the congregations. Eaton generously donated four lots to the Methodist Episcopal Church. By the end of May 1902, a new church was finished and the church congregation had grown to sixty-seven members. In either 1903 or 1907, depending on the source, the parsonage was erected to the east of the church. It became the residence for the pastor and his family and is still used for the same purpose today.

The church continued to grow over the years. By the fall of 1924, the congregation had over 200 members and the church building was not adequate to meet the needs of its members. Due to the generosity and vision of dedicated members James I. and Amanda K. Alger, who at their death left \$11,000 to the Board of Trustees to be used for the building of a new church, the church building fund had grown to \$17,500. In January 1925 Reverend Hugh Neville, along with Dr. C. A. Wright, the superintendent of the Greeley district, met with the Board of Trustees to discuss the design and construction of a new building. Dr. C.A. Wright was quoted in the *Eaton Herald* as stating that,

the church needed to provide for the threefold nature of man.
The church should care for the spiritual and moral values of
its members, but also for their mental and physical needs.
The old style church with only one or two rooms could not
adequately meet the educational, social or recreational needs
of the children and young people as well as the adults.

The Board enthusiastically responded to the charge given to them by Rev. Neville and Dr. Wright and decided to raise the equivalent amount by subscription and to design plans for the new church with adequate facilities, not to exceed \$35,000. In February 1925 the church membership met and \$12,000 was subscribed, giving them a total of \$29,500 in cash and pledges in the building fund.

In March 1925 the plans, designed by architects Wilson and Wilson of Denver, were put out to bid to contractors in Denver, Greeley and Eaton. Joseph Wilson and Arthur S. Wilson are found in the State Business Directories from 1916-1932, mostly in the Commonwealth Building in Denver, but also show up in Sterling in 1919, 1920 and 1921. Other buildings in Colorado credited to these architects include the 1920s Elyria School in Denver and the 1920s Farmers State Bank and high school in Sedgwick, Colorado. Though they show up for two decades in the directories, little else is known about this father and son architect team. In April the contract was awarded to C. H. Young and Sons of Greeley. Mr. Young had built several public buildings in Weld County including a recently constructed school

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After Church Service- 1950s



Church Choir- 1950s



Church Service- 1950s



All historic images courtesy of the
Eaton United Methodist Church

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building in Ault as well as the 1929 Eaton High School. The plumbing and heating contract was awarded to W. A. Roy of Eaton. The contracts totaled \$33,000 exclusive of the interior fixtures. The last service in the original church was held on April 12, 1925. Demolition took place and the construction of the new church began shortly thereafter.

The *Eaton Herald* of October 30, 1925, reported that the new Methodist Church would soon be completed. The church was built in the Late Gothic Revival style with red rug surface brick and Del Norte stone trimming. The two-unit plan was comprised of an auditorium (sanctuary) to the south and a social hall to the north. The two units were joined with a spacious vestibule and access to the upstairs balconies. The paper described the interior of the church as follows:

The south part of the building extending practically full length is the auditorium with the pulpit at the east end. The pulpit is arranged like a stage for plays and pageants. The floor of the auditorium is slanted for visibility. The sanctuary is a place of uplifting architectural beauty. Three fine art glass windows are framed in the south wall, and over the pulpit is a memorial window, representing Hoffman's picture of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, dedicated to the memory of charter members of the church, Mr. and Mrs. Otis J. White.

The west part of the auditorium can be closed off for a parlor – it contains a fireplace to warm the rooms during the week when the heating plant is turned off. Above the west end is a balcony.

The north part is devoted to banquets, recreation and parties. The large hall will be for dinners and general recreational purposes such as basketball and other games. The east end of the north side has a fully equipped kitchen. The west end has a long room with folding doors, permitting two rooms when needed. Above the class rooms is a balcony overlooking the recreation hall. On the east side above the kitchen are two rooms for classes.

The building doesn't have a basement except for the furnace room which holds the state of the art steam vapor furnace. The designers felt if a larger facility was needed a second story could be added as the supports were made heavy enough to permit that to be done.

Services were held in the social hall at the end of November and the Ladies Aid Bazaar was held on December 5. The church was dedicated on December 20, 1925, and officially called "The Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church" per J. I. Alger's will, which stated that he was carrying out the expressed wish of his departed wife when he left \$11,000 to the church. He insisted, therefore, that when the money should be used for a church building, the organization should thereafter be called "The Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church", in order that appropriate credit might be given to her memory. The cornerstone, which acknowledged this request, was laid at the southwest corner of the church during the construction period. The Algers were quiet but dedicated members who spent their entire lives in service to the Methodist Church. Their monetary gift earmarked for building expansion or construction showed continued dedication to the church, even after their deaths.

Even though most of the monies for the construction of the church had been raised prior to construction the congregation had trouble paying off the balance of the mortgage. With the onset of the Great Depression, times were difficult. The members of the congregation pitched in to help raise the funds to pay off the mortgage. The Ladies Aid cooked and served meals at farm auctions, for the Rotary Club, for the Pioneer Society and many other organizations. The Ladies Aid were known as "the best cooks in town" and were often requested to cook for various functions in addition to their dinners

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at the church. Proceeds from the annual bazaars were applied to the repayment of the mortgage. According to a letter from Marguerite Gies, a long-time church member and Eaton resident, "For twenty-nine years we had large dinners for large groups such as FFA [Future Farmers of America], Pioneers, Eaton Free Church Birthday, Legion, Mason, Rotary, DEO, Church Smorgasboard, and Rainbow. All money went to the bank and all church bills were paid off." The men of the church maintained the building and kept the physical structure in excellent condition. Finally in 1942 the mortgage was paid off and on December 22, 1942, ceremonies were held to burn the mortgage. The ashes of the mortgage are still displayed in the church as a reminder of the struggle of the church.

Through it all the building has stood fast and exemplifies the character and strength of its congregation and the ability to withstand the hardships of life. It also exhibits the ability to flourish and blossom under pressure. When the light shines through the stained glass windows the faith, hope and the pioneer spirit of the community comes alive and resounds within the church.

With the changes that are occurring in northern Colorado it is extremely important for us to preserve the buildings that exemplify our past. The church has been a landmark in Eaton and exhibits the skill and craftsmanship of a time gone by. Without the benefit of cranes and heavy duty construction equipment the church was built brick by brick in only nine months. The building has withstood the forces of nature and is the same today as it was when it was built in 1925 and is an important link to Eaton's past and the people who settled the town.

1955 Church Membership Class



Note original doors on main entrance- windows remain, though the doors have been covered with large metal panels. Wood panels on lower portion are visible on inside. Image courtesy of the Eaton United Methodist Church

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Weld County, ColoradoSection number 9 Page 11**BIBLIOGRAPHY**Books & PamphletsAllison, Pauline. *History of Eaton, Colorado*. Eaton, Colorado: n.p., 1997.Gordon, Stephen C. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*. Columbus, OH: Ohio Historical Society, 1992.Hartberg, Henry. *Seventy-fifth Anniversary Bulletin – December 12, 1976*.Methodist Episcopal Church (Amanda K. Alger Memorial) Bulletin
Dedicated December 20, 1925 by Bishop H. Lester Smith, D.D., L.L.D.Millsap, John Wesley. *Fiftieth Anniversary Bulletin – November 11, 1951*.Newspapers"One of the Pioneer Women of the Eaton Country Passed Away Last Week," *Eaton Herald*, 2 April 1915."One of Eaton's Honored Citizens Passes Away." *Eaton Herald*, Friday, 24 December 1915."Methodist To Build New Church in Eaton," *Eaton Herald*, 23 January 1925, p.1."Methodist Raise Twelve Thousand," *Eaton Herald*, 13 February 1925, p.1."Plans For The Church Completed," *Eaton Herald*, 20 March 1925, p.7."Contract Awarded For New Methodist Church," *Eaton Herald*, 24 April 1925, p.1."Community Happenings," *Eaton Herald*, 23 October 1925, p.3."The New Methodist Church Will Soon Be Completed," *Eaton Herald*, 30 October 1925, p.1."New Methodist Church Dedicated," *Eaton Herald*, 25 December 1925, pp.1,10.Other

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

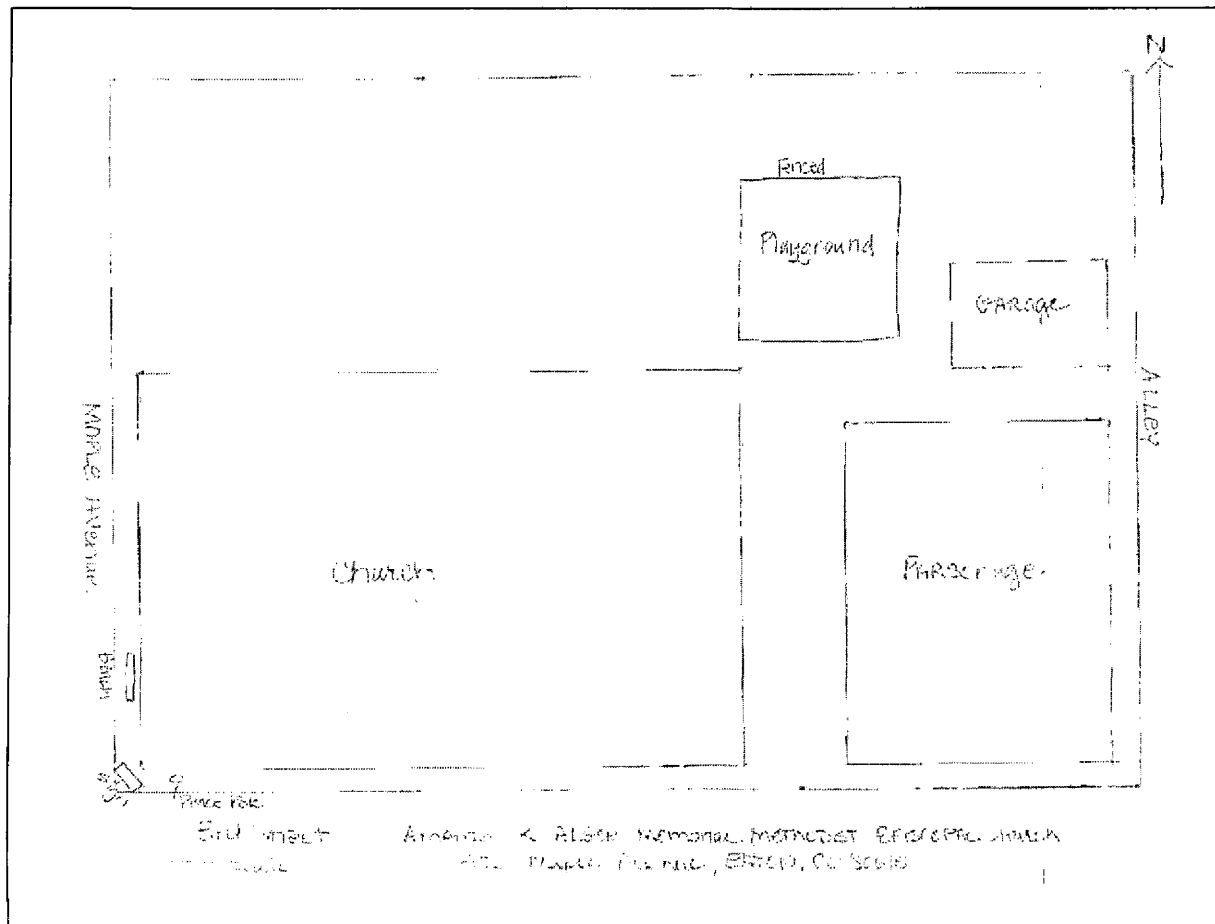
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 18, 19, 20, 21; Block 12, Town of Eaton, First Filing, Weld County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

Site Plan



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Weld County, ColoradoSection number ___ Page 13**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-15 except as noted:

Name of Property: Amanda K. Alger Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
Location: Weld County, Colorado
Photographer: Frances V. Thomas
Date of Photographs: May 10, 2006
Negatives: With photographer

Photo No. Photographic Information

- 1 West facade of church, camera facing northeast.
- 2 West façade of church, camera facing east.
- 3 South side of church, camera facing north.
- 4 East and north walls of church, camera facing southwest.
- 5 East end of south wall, camera facing north.
- 6 North side of church, camera facing southeast.
- 7 Interior- view from balcony towards altar, camera facing east.
- 8 Interior- view of choir loft taken from sanctuary, camera facing west.
- 9 Interior- view of stained glass windows on south side of sanctuary, camera facing southwest.
- 10 Interior- view of northwest corner of sanctuary, camera facing northwest.
- 11 Interior- view of parlor, camera facing south.
- 12 Interior- view of Fellowship Hall north wall, camera facing northeast.
- 13 Interior- view of metal cage around light in Fellowship Hall.
- 14 South façade of Parsonage, camera facing north; garage seen in background.
- 15 North and west walls of Parsonage, camera facing southeast.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Eaton Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 524268E / 4486307N
PLSS: 6th PM, T7N, R65W, Sec. 31
SE¹/₄, SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄, SW¹/₄
Elevation: 4835 feet

