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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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 First Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number First United Methodist Church / 5LA.10365

2. Location

street & number 216 Broom Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Trinidad [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Las Animas code 071 zip code 81082

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: Margarita Cortezuglia, State Historic Preservation Officer, Date: 5/16/05
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: Edson Beall, Date of Action: 5/2/05

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Las Animas County, 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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|--|

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| 2 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 2 | 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)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: Sandstone
walls Brick

roof Metal
Synthetic
other _____

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

Periods of Significance

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barber, Thomas P.

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

First Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Las Animas County, CO
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 13 | 543450 | 4114040 | (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 Rev. Nancy Mead w/ Constance La Lena (edited and additional material by OAHF staff)
organization First United Methodist Church date November 2004
street & number 216 Broom Street telephone 719-846-6824
city or town Trinidad state Colorado zip code 81082

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 First United Methodist Church
street & number 216 Broom Street telephone 719-846-6824
city or town Trinidad state Colorado zip code 81082

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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First Methodist Episcopal Church
Las Animas County, CO

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DESCRIPTION

Construction began in 1911 on the First Methodist Episcopal Church, which occupies a commanding hilltop location on the north side of Trinidad overlooking the city. Occupying the southeast corner of State and Broom streets, the church is east of the Trinidad State Junior College campus. To the north are grassy playing fields. The site slopes downward from the north where it drops off onto a concrete and native sandstone retaining wall, varying in height from 3' to 12', which forms the southern boundary of the property. Wide concrete sidewalks follow the perimeter of the building on the north, west and east sides. An expanse of grassy lawn on the east side (where a parsonage once stood) is landscaped with trees, shrubs and flowers. Beyond the sidewalk on the west side is a grassy strip that extends to the curb and contains a few small deciduous trees and one tall, mature evergreen. On the north side, a strip of asphalt between the sidewalk and street provides parking adjacent the front entrance. At the northwest corner facing the intersection is a freestanding buff brick signboard. The nominated parcel includes the brick Romanesque Revival church and a small, wood-frame historic garage.

The church has an irregular plan and is two stories with a raised basement. Due to the slope of the site, more of the basement level is revealed as the building proceeds southward. A central, metal-clad dome sits atop a complex roofline and three short square towers with crenellated parapets anchor the northeast, northwest and southwest corners of the building. The foundation of the building is native sandstone quarried near Trinidad and the walls are buff colored brick laid in a running bond. Darker brick forms the basement level walls with slightly projecting courses forming a banded pattern. Cut Bedford (Indiana) limestone trims the building, used as windowsills, dripstone coursing on the towers, and coping that caps the parapets and crenellations. A small unobtrusive ADA ramp at the northwest tower entrance and a neon sign atop the rear (south) wall are the only exterior changes to the building. The church retains its integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

The three corner towers set the tone for the massing of the church and its Akron Plan interior. The towers have a stone beltcourse and a sloped stone dripstone course under the slightly stepped-back crenellated parapet. Each tower contains an entrance—double leaf, vertical paneled wooden doors with a semicircular arched transom. The northwest tower entrance is accessed via a series of concrete steps with a metal pipe railing; a small concrete ramp precedes the northeast tower entrance; and the at-grade southwest tower entrance has a sloped concrete stoop. The northwest tower contains a cornerstone that reads “First Methodist Episcopal Church 1911” near the entry. An historical marker of Colorado rose granite is set in the wall above the cornerstone.

While the windows vary in size and shape, all are wood frame and most are double hung, one-over-one. Rectangular jack arch windows punctuate the basement level, the east side, the south end, and the beveled projection on the north façade. Semi-circular arched window openings capped with raised brick arches are found on the towers and on the west side. A large round window with a raised brick surround is centered high on the gable of the east side. A niche (a small, semi-circular blind arch) punctuates the apex of the north and west gables. The windows on the north and west elevations are all stained glass of secular design, except for the basement windows, and are covered with wood framed protective glass panels.

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The north façade fronts Broom Street. Two towers flank a recessed central gable that contains a small niche above a large semicircular arched stained glass window. Below this window, a one-story, flat-roofed, beveled projection with four stained glass windows spans the distance between the two towers. Centered on the parapet of the projection is a white sign, topped with a cross, containing "First United Methodist Church" painted in black letters.

The west side faces State Street. Framed by two pilasters, the central gable contains a niche in the apex and a large arched stained glass window that illuminates both the main floor and balcony. Two tall, narrow arched stained glass windows flank the large window. The southwest tower, projecting out further than its northern counterpart, delineates the nave from the classroom and administrative area to the south.

On the south side, the polygonal section has a large neon sign on the parapet wall. Topped with a cross, the sign's neon letters spell out "Methodist Church." Four rectangular, double-hung windows punctuate each of the three floors. The windows are Venetian glass, except for the center two windows on the upper floor, which are stained glass of contemporary design, and are covered with aluminum-framed combination storm and screen windows.

Only the east side contains an unbroken expanse of wall surface. The large round window high on the gabled wall that depicts Christ in the Garden of Gethemane is painted on glass and kiln fired. The windows near the northeast tower are stained glass. Venetian glass fills the remaining windows at all three levels with the basement windows covered with wire glass. A door provides access to the basement service area and furnace room.

The main roof structure consists of timber trusses and a rafter/joist system. The roof includes a central octagonal dome portion set on a square base that delineates the area above the nave. The shingled walls of the base are gray asphalt. The dome is covered with overlapping metal panels, painted with aluminum roofing paint, and topped with a large stained glass skylight and a small circular vent. Four ridges forming a cross extend from the domed portion of the roof. The east, north, and west slopes culminate in parapeted gable ends with shoulders. One brick chimney pierces the roof on the east side. The south ridge intersects with the hipped roof that covers the portion of the building that houses the administrative and classroom areas. The hipped roof has a parapet pierced by scuppers and rain leaders; scuppers and rain leaders also pierce parapets on the east, north, and west sides. Except for the domed portion, the roof covering is membrane.

Interior

The two-story building with its full basement contains approximately 14,000 square feet of floor area. It was built according to the physical arrangements of the Akron Plan. Despite some interior alterations, Akron Plan elements are still visible. These include the sloping floor, curved pews set on the diagonal in a square open nave, the corner elevated chancel, folding doors that enlarge the nave, and a large undulating balcony supported by six cast iron columns extending over the rear pews on the north and west sides.

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The main north doors of the church lead to a vestibule within the northwest tower. From the vestibule and directly through two sets of glazed and paneled accordion doors is the sanctuary. To the left of the vestibule through a single door is the ladies' cloakroom. A single door leads east from the ladies' cloakroom to the back hall and east entry (in the northeast tower) where a modern elevator is concealed within an historic closet. Original light fixtures are in place in all of these locations. The back hall also gives access to stairs running from balcony to basement, the choir room, and the choir loft.

Above the nave is an octagonal dome sitting on elliptical ceiling vaults. Eight pilasters with Composite capitals accent the vault intersections. Plasterwork accents the ribs of the dome, the ceiling vaults, and corner projections. The decorative plasterwork is painted gray and white; the walls are pink; and the woodwork is stained dark wood. The wall behind the altar at the southeast corner is a rounded. Two steps on each side of a communion rail access the curved altar/pulpit platform. Organ pipes are positioned on the curved wall above this platform. Adjoining the pulpit platform at the same height (along the east wall under the round window) is the choir. A small balcony holds more organ pipes which are arranged around the round window. The organ is in front of the choir on the sanctuary floor.

The west door (in the southwest tower) enters the building midway between the first floor and basement. On the first floor, a door to the north leads directly to the sanctuary, and to the south is the church office. Beyond this is a wide hallway with an open doorway flanked by two modern stained glass panels that give access to the parlor. Between the back hall and the choir is a small room, originally the pastor's study behind the altar, which now serves as a library. Across the hall is another room used for office equipment. A short stairway leads down to the east exit.

The second floor of the south end now contains a chapel and two Sunday school rooms. There is another small classroom in the northwest tower above the main vestibule, and a small storage room is at the east end of the balcony. The full basement holds the social hall, rest rooms, kitchen and service pantry, furnace room, a large children's room, three small Sunday school rooms, a nursery, and storage.

Alterations

A large overhead door once separated the nave from the southern section of the building that contained the Sunday school area with its series of small classrooms along the outer wall and above on a balcony. Originally, there were twelve of these rooms. In response to changing styles of worship, the congregation first enclosed the rooms on the first floor, walled in the rolling door, and extended the floor of the balcony to meet the south wall of the sanctuary. A more recent change re-opened the individual Sunday school rooms on the first floor to make a large parlor. On the second floor, the outline of the original Sunday school balcony is still visible in the flooring of the rooms. On the first floor the five balcony support pillars are visible in the parlor.

In March 1949, a Denver organ builder rebuilt and improved the pipe organ. The entire ensemble in the pipe chamber was rearranged and 17 additional pipes were added.

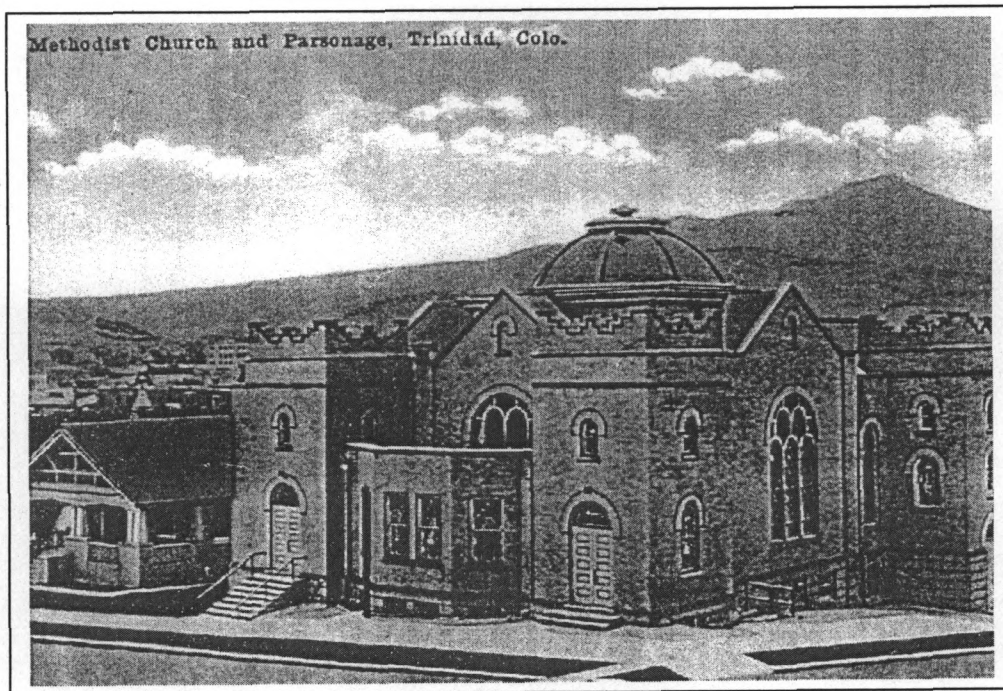
In November 1949 during the 80th anniversary celebration, a historical marker of Colorado rose granite was set in the wall of the church above the cornerstone. The large neon sign manufactured by the Trinidad Sign & Neon Company was placed on the south side roof in October 1951.

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This artist rendering showing the north and west facades of the church includes the parsonage, which was destroyed in a fire.



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SIGNIFICANCE

The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Trinidad meets National Register criterion C for its architectural significance as it represents a good local example of an ecclesiastical interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style. Its metal-clad, central dome roof is a distinctive feature within Trinidad's architectural heritage, as is its yellow brick construction. Dome roofs are not often seen in Romanesque Revival churches in Colorado and red brick was the material of choice for the majority of Trinidad's buildings. The church also reflects important elements of the Akron Plan, a Protestant church design utilized during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, criteria consideration A applies.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church possesses the distinctive characteristics of the Romanesque Revival style. "Church design saw the most frequent application of this style, which, like the Gothic Revival, also based on medieval building, was ideally suited to the purpose" (Blumensen 1981:43). The building reflects elements of the style as seen in its overall massing, the use of the semi-circular arch for window and door openings, monochromatic brick walls, various roof shapes, crenellated parapets, and square towers flanking the façade. Typically the towers are of differing heights, however the towers of this church are the same size.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church reflects important elements of the Akron Plan. Lewis Miller, superintendent of the Akron, Ohio school system and Jacob Snyder, a local [Ohio] architect, are credited with the development of the Akron Plan, which promoted efficient movement between the sanctuary and Sunday school classes by the congregation. The plan reflected a religious philosophy that often stressed the importance of Sunday school attendance over church attendance. In 1869 they collaborated on an innovative plan for Akron's First Methodist Episcopal Church. The church featured a semicircular auditorium-like sanctuary with curved seating and a series of classroom around the perimeter that could be opened up to the sanctuary. Their idea was perfected by architect George Kramer and came to be known as the Akron Plan.

Based on a desire for separateness with togetherness, the Akron Plan resulted in large, open, high-ceiling interiors typically incorporating 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. The design also had the congregation seated in a semi-circular fashion in order to be closer to the pulpit and preacher. The plan evolved into an arrangement where the elevated pulpit moved to one corner and the radial setting was oriented towards this corner. The Akron Plan offered flexibility, comfort and good sight lines. From the exterior, the building possessed a massing that was very different from the more rectangular Basilica plan churches that typically included a center aisle to accommodate the processions of more formal religious services. The Akron Plan was utilized by Protestant denominations into the early 1920s. By the 1890s, it became the standard for Methodist churches. More than 2,500 churches were built across the country using the basic plan.

Numerous architects throughout the country adapted the basic Akron plan, and their designs were executed in popular ecclesiastical architectural styles of the time. For example, two other Akron Plan churches, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose [5MN.4493] and the First United Presbyterian

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Church in Loveland [5LR.4413], were designed in a Romanesque Revival style with crenellated square towers. (Both of these churches are listed in the National Register.)

Many of the Akron Plan interiors were modified over time, particularly with the installation of more permanent partitions in the balcony/classroom area. Such was the case with the church in Trinidad. Despite these alterations, characteristics of the Akron Plan are still visible in the First Methodist Episcopal Church. These include the sloping floor, the curved pews set on the diagonal in a square open nave, a large undulating balcony, the corner elevated chancel, and folding doors that enlarge the nave.

Colorado Springs architect Thomas P. Barber (1862–c.1933) is credited with the design of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. Thomas and Laurie Simmons (2004:2) compiled the majority of the following biographical information. Barber was born in England and came to the United States with his family as a young boy. First settling in Illinois, the family moved to Colorado Springs. The 1888 city directory included a listing for Pease & Barber. This affiliation with L. A. Pease continued into the 1890s. (Pease had been listed alone in the 1886 city directory.) Barber and Pease were the supervising architects for the First Baptist Church (1890) in Colorado Springs. Barber was also affiliated with Frederick R. Hastings. Other Colorado Springs buildings attributed to Barber and Hasting included a residence at 315 North Weber (1889), the Alamo Hotel (1890), the redesign of the El Paso Club (1891), a residence at 615 North Corona (1891), and the De Graff Building (1897). His younger brother, William subsequently joined Barber, and together they designed several public buildings.

Other works attributed to Barber include the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park (1909), the University Memorial Chapel in Denver (1910), St. Mary's Cathedral (1903) with James Murdock and L.A. Pease, Hibbard's Department Store (1914), and the Colorado Springs City Hall (1904) with Thomas MacLaren. Barber designed several school buildings in Greeley and Boulder during the later part of his career in Colorado. Moving to Los Angeles in the late 1920s, Barber continued to design a number of churches in southern California, including the Methodist Church in Hollywood.

Barber was also the architect for the National Register-listed Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose [5MN.4493]. The 1909 designed building, completed in 1920, is very similar to the Trinidad church. Both buildings possess yellow brick walls, semicircular arched windows and doors, a roof with a central dome, and square corner towers with crenellated parapets. There is one notable distinction between the two designs—the towers of the Montrose church are of different heights. The Montrose church also has a 1991 Post-Modern addition.

Methodist Episcopal Church of Montrose
South elevation before addition



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Historical Background

Established in 1869, the congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Trinidad first attended services in the adobe residence of Reverend E. J. Rice on Maple Street. Later property was acquired across the street from Rev. Rice's home (where the Las Animas County Courthouse now stands) and the erection of the first Protestant church in Trinidad began. Rev. Rice died in 1872 before the church was completed, although he did conduct services in the building. This first church, erected on what is now Courthouse Square facing Maple Street, was a small adobe structure that with subsequent improvements and additions served the congregation until 1911. A two-story parsonage, whose design was attributed to the architectural firm of Rapp and Rapp, was built just south of the first church in 1892.

The congregation was forced to look for another location when Las Animas County planned to build a new courthouse and jail encompassing almost the entire block on which the church and parsonage stood. Steps to secure a new church were taken soon after the arrival of Reverend W. F. Pitner, the new pastor. In May 1910, Rev. Pitner started out to raise the sum of \$12,500 toward the new church. "Tramping the burning pavements for 31 days," Pitner reported subscriptions pledging \$13,000 (*Chronicle-News* 17 August 1910). In August the building committee announced consummation of a deal with J. M. John for the purchase of six lots at the corner of State and Broom streets for \$2,500. This was the site selected for the new house of worship. Colorado Springs architect Thomas Barber was chosen as the architect. The contract was let in May the following year to the firm of Harlan and Schlesinger of Colorado Springs. Ground was broken shortly after and the corner stone was laid July 30, 1911. Sub-contracts were let to local firms and local labor was employed throughout the project. Stained glass windows were ordered from St. Louis. Other developments on the church property were to include a parsonage—a six-room bungalow, retaining walls, and an eight-foot wide "cement" walkway around the entire property.

The new structure was dedicated January 14, 1912. A large front-page article appeared in the Trinidad *Chronicle-News* the day before the dedication ceremonies. With a headline that read "Handsome New Methodist Episcopal Church Fulfills Members' Cherished Dream" the article reported that the cost for the site and the two buildings was \$36,000 (of which \$4,500 was for the parsonage). The church of "cream pressed brick with Bedford stone trimmings" was described as a "triumph of architectural beauty." During the time that the church was under construction, the Las Animas County Court House was also being built. After much deliberation and public controversy, the builders chose to face the Court House building with buff Bedford limestone, which matches the local sandstone in appearance, but is more durable; this decision may have influenced the church trustees' choice of stone trim material. Citing the building's location on high ground with a fine view of the city, the article mentioned the two main entrances on the Broom Street side with side entrances on State Street and at the rear. The article noted that the church had a seating capacity of 800, of which 450 could be seated in the main auditorium and balcony and 350 in the Sunday School room and balcony. The article continued with a lengthy description of the interior floor plan (which aptly illustrated the Akron Plan):

Separating the main auditorium and the Sunday section is a huge disappearing partition that can be raised. At the rear large folding doors separate the auditorium from the ladies cloak room. When the doors are thrown open practically the entire main floor is converted into one room.... A novel provision has been made for

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separate rooms for the different Sunday School classes.... In order that each Sunday school teacher may have a separate room, iron pipes parallel the ceiling on both the first floor and the balcony. Portieres will hang from these rails and during the Sunday School hours the portieres will be drawn. In this manner twelve rooms are made and they are immediately thrown together by withdrawing the curtains. Two other rooms opening off the balcony will [be] used by Sunday School classes, making fourteen in all.

The article mentioned that "the entire structure is beautifully and scientifically lighted. Special attention has been paid to the placing of the windows to secure an even distribution." The lengthy article noted that the basement floor "is to be devoted largely to the social demands of the church" with a large room to be used as a banquet hall, another room to be a reading and lounging area, and a spacious, completely furnished kitchen. The newspaper also described the parsonage as "an elegant six room bungalow" with its wood paneled ceilings and built-in bookcases and buffet. The article noted that cold weather and a delay in the arrival of the windows had prevented completion of some of the final work before the dedication. The erection of the retaining walls, grading the grounds, and laying the concrete walk around the entire property would be accomplished as soon as the weather permitted.

Prominent early members of the church included Frank Bloom, who opened the first commercial coal mine in 1867, and his wife, Sara Thatcher. John Hough, builder of the (National Register-listed) Baca House and owner of Trinidad's first brick kiln, was also a member. Oliver and Otis Aultman, well-known local photographers who had their studio across the street from the church, took several photos during the building's construction.

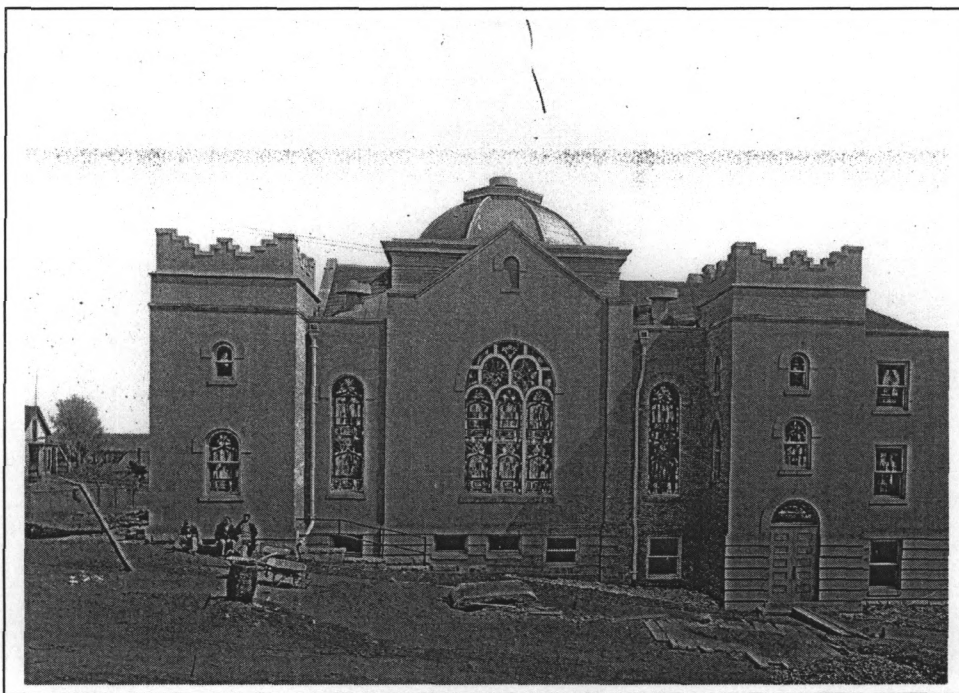
In its early history, Trinidad had three Methodist churches. A congregation of the Methodist Episcopal South Church was organized in 1872 to become the second church of the Protestant faith in the community. The Methodist Episcopal South Church was built on Arizona Street in 1881. The African Methodist Episcopal Church met in the early 1900s. Following the Methodist Unification in 1939, these two congregations merged with First Methodist and their buildings were eventually torn down.

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This copy of an original Aultman Brothers Studios photograph was taken during the construction of the church in 1912.



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“Site for New M.E. Church Purchased.” *The Chronicle-News* (Trinidad), 17 August 1910.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

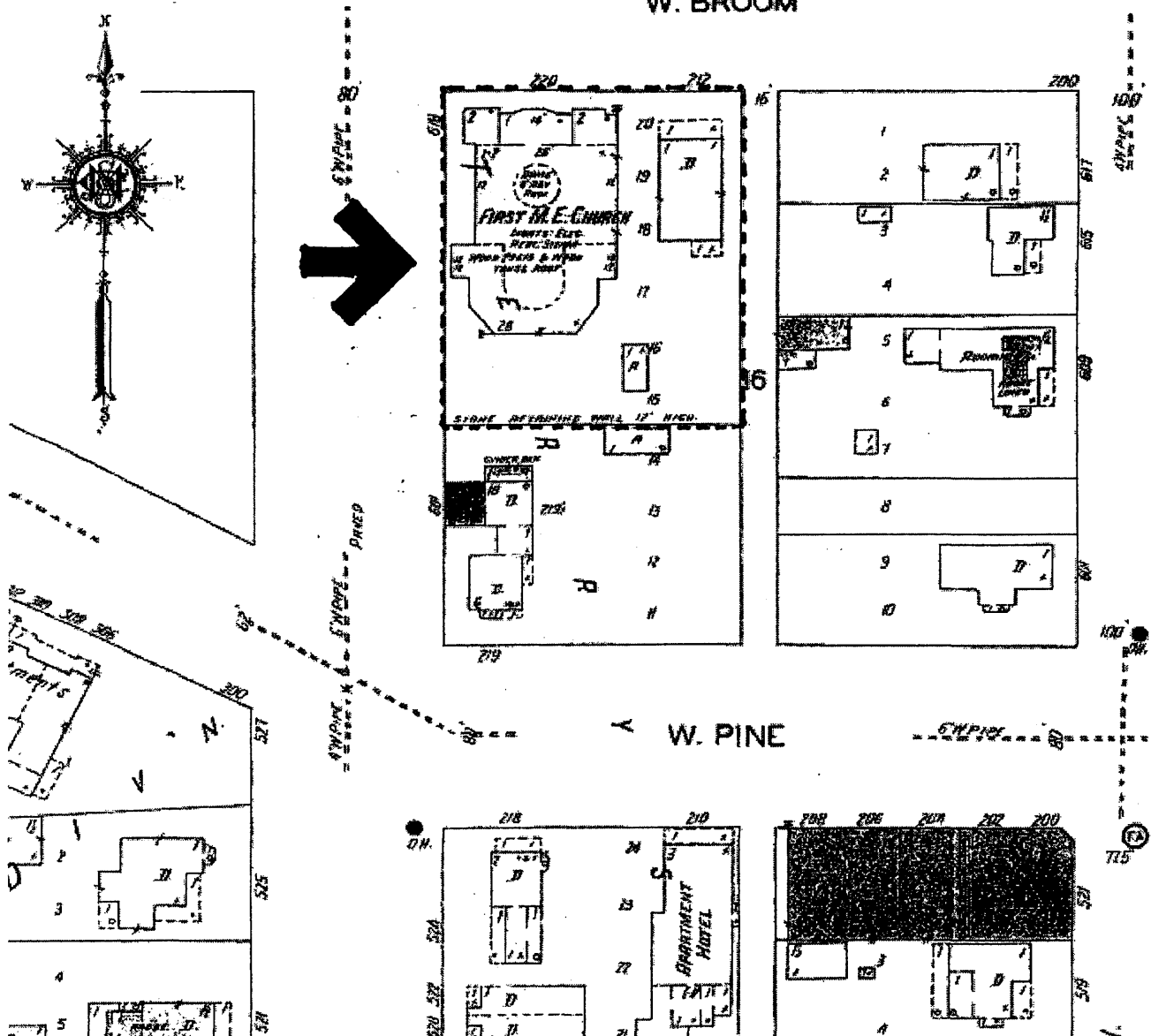
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 15 through 20, Block 16, Terrys West Subdivision, City of Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

1930 Sanborn Map



United States Department of the Interior
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First Methodist Episcopal Church
Las Animas County, CO

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs, except where noted:

Name of Property: First Methodist Episcopal Church
Location: Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado
Photographer: Ena M. Sroat
Date of Photographs: October 2004
Negatives: in possession of photographer

Photo No. Photographic Information

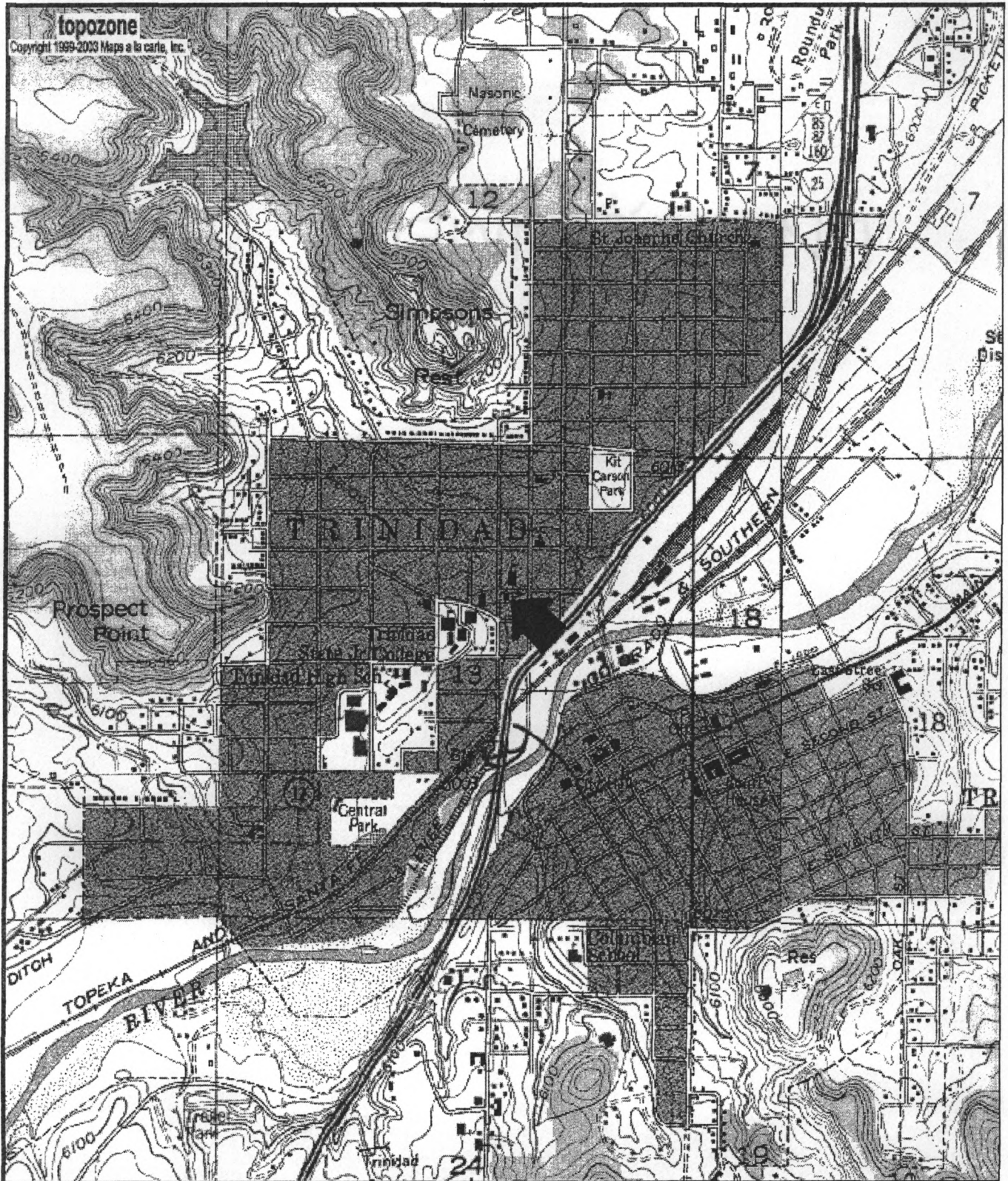
- 1 North façade of church; camera facing South
- 2 East side of church; camera facing Southwest
- 3 West side of church; camera facing East
- 4 West side of church; camera facing East
- 5 South end of church; camera facing Northeast
- 6 North façade of garage; camera facing South

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National Park Service
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Trinidad West Quadrangle, Colorado



0 0.3 0.6 0.9 1.2 1.5 km