

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 6 1976
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 1976

**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

Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

First United Methodist Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Fort and North Adams

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Wyoming

— VICINITY OF

CODE

56

COUNTY

Johnson

CODE

019

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

First United Methodist Church

STREET & NUMBER

Fort and North Adams

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo,

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

76 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Comm. Survey of Historic Sites, markers & monuments

DATE

1967 (1973 revised)

— FEDERAL     STATE    — COUNTY    — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

WY 82002

# 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		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to the Buffalo Bulletin of July 14, 1898, published at the time work was begun on the Methodist Episcopal Church, the building was to be of frame with the main room 22' by 36', the lecture room 14' by 12', and topped with a 40' bell tower. The cornerstone was laid August 17, 1898, and placed within the stone were a Bible, a hymnal, a copy of the Church Discipline, several church papers, and some coins. The stone was made and presented to the church by Z. T. Stocks, stonemason, and was described as a fine one, well shaped and chiseled.

The pews were obtained from the Methodist Church in Sheridan, Wyoming, and are still in use. The pulpit was given by Dave Muir and "the Scotch boys." Stained glass windows were installed in 1916, being donated by: Edwin Burrett, Joe Gray, Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Watt, J. O. Jorstad, The Canterburys, Mr. and Mrs. Tharington, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Anderson, D. A. Muir, Mrs. Cullen Watt, and The Flints. An electric organ was later given by members of the church in memory of relatives.

On December 19, 1923, a fire occurred at the rear of the building, and when the damaged section of the church was restored the building was lengthened by 16 feet added to the north. A basement had been provided in 1906 for installation of a heating plant. A small choir room was later added. However, the main part of the building has undergone little change since its original construction, and has been in continuous use all that time.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Pastor E. J. Robinson

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On June 15, 1898, the Methodist people bought the easterly 100 feet of Lots 6, 7, and 8, Block 28, Burlington Addition to the City of Buffalo, from the American Baptist Home Mission Society, at a price of \$75.00. The property had been purchased by the Society from the City in 1892. The Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated on May 28, 1899, having been built by Pastor E. J. Robinson and members of the congregation. A statement by Pastor Robinson gave the cost of the building as \$2,075.

This relatively small structure is a lovely example of excellent planning and good design in architecture by a clergyman and his congregation. The ornamental features and details of the exterior combine with an especially functional plan of the interior to provide beauty, comfort, and convenience for the worshipper. It is likely that in this small town, at some distance from architects specializing in religious buildings, assistance was obtained through numerous books on church architecture published and available at the time. Written by clergymen or architects, these books contained plans and elevations often prepared by talented designers, and were usually intended to serve as guides to promote economy, good planning, and good taste. However, builders invariably innovated on the details and dimensions. Especially noteworthy in the exterior design of the First Methodist Church are these details:

The quatrefoil motif (an abstraction of the cross) as well as the trefoil (the three-lobed decorative motif)

Pointed arches formed from straight as well as curved wooden segments

The triangular opening (symbolic of the Trinity) which relieves what would otherwise be an expanse of wall that would be too great, esthetically

Shingles on the tower that add interest of texture and pattern (This was fashionable at the time.)

Framework of the steeple accented by spindles, which adds charm  
The tower announces the entrance to the church

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A history of the First Methodist Church compiled by A. Anspaugh

Robinson, Willard B. and Todd Webb. Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1974.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1/4

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	3 6 4 4 8 1 0	4 9 1 1 7 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James F. Dillinger, President

ORGANIZATION

Johnson County Historical Society

DATE

July 29, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

385 South Main

TELEPHONE

(307) 684-7309

CITY OR TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Wyoming

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL  X

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

June 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

DATE

9/13/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Handwritten signature of Charles H. ...

DATE

8/13/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE ONE

The interior of the First Methodist Church follows the Akron plan, which typifies many Methodist churches in the West. The emphasis in this plan, developed in Akron, Ohio, is on good acoustics, sight lines, and flexibility, along with the focus on the pulpit and communion table. The elevated platform for preaching is placed in the corner of the audience room, with the seating in circular pattern. The plan was originated and developed between 1879 and 1885 by George Washington Kramer, upon the suggestion of the father-in-law of Thomas A. Edison. Methodists believed that the church design should reflect the object of the worship, preaching the Gospel, and seating concentric to the pulpit was consistent with their objective.

While Methodists frequently erected places of worship in large cities, they often excluded any embellishment from rural churches. Circuit riders of remote areas attempted to integrate religion and everyday activities, and Methodists had become accustomed to practicing their religion with little aid in the way of architecture and with minimum ritualistic requirements. Late in the century a plain tower often comprised the chief ecclesiastical feature. However, they generally believed that the house of worship ought to reflect the wealth of the parishioners. Although any architectural style was permissible as long as the ecclesiastical nature was proclaimed, Gothic Revival details began to appear on church buildings at this time.

