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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 3 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The First Methodist Church of Clovis

other names/site number The Faith Christian Fellowship

2. Location

street & number 622 Main St.

N/A not for publication

city, town Clovis

N/A vicinity

state New Mexico

code NM

county Curry

code NM 009

zip code 88101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Ann W. Hill State Historic Preservation Officer

5-28-87
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Alvora Byars

Entered in the
National Register

7/2/87

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion- Religious Structure- Church

Religion- Church School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion- Religious Structure- Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphaltic Built-Up

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Faith Christian Fellowship building expresses a simple, yet monumental architectural presence. The two-story tan brick church and school stands one-half story above street level with concrete stairs rising to a pedimented portico with Tuscan Order columns framing the central entry. Bold, white-painted metal and concrete horizontals unify the three major masses. Half of the windows have been boarded up and the stained glass windows have been removed, but the stately solidity of the massing and the detailing convey its historic design intent (see continuation sheet).

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Faith Christian Fellowship- Description Continuation

Section number 7 Page 1

The Faith Christian Fellowship was erected between 1924 and 1930 as the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Designed by W. B. Cramer of Clovis, it was constructed by church members for \$100,000. Its name was changed to the First Methodist Church of Clovis in the early 1930's. Located at the north end of the central business district and across the street from the Curry County Courthouse, the two-story structure of running-bond tan brick stands above a raised basement on a narrow, white painted, smooth surfaced concrete foundation. Set high off the ground on a small corner lot, the structure creates an imposing architectural presence unusual in Clovis.

The building is massed as two large, adjoining, irregular rectilinear forms accessed by low steps rising to a pedimented portico with four Tuscan Order columns setting off the central entry. The gable-roofed portico leads to the first flat-roofed rectilinear mass which houses the lobby and the nave. The rear flat-roofed mass functions as the church school and contains administrative offices. The dentilated tympanum of the pediment exhibits embossed metal, bas-relief ornamentation. A simple, bold white entablature with dentils creates a strong horizontal unifying element which connects the pediment and rectilinear masses. This horizontal unity is reinforced by the white painted concrete foundation, first floor sill line, lug window sills and lintels, and parapet cap. A secondary entry on the north served by stairs, three chimneys at the rear, and an added galvanized metal fire escape chute at the rear complete the major formal elements of the structure.

The main entry facade behind the columns is composed of three bays each with a pair of aluminum framed glass doors with closed transom and square windows above. The brick facades are punctured by many window openings with concrete sills and lintels. All of the windows on the nave side of the building have been boarded up. The original stained-glass windows and the cornerstone were removed by the congregation of the First Methodist Church and installed in their new church when they relocated in 1980. The three-over-one wood double hung windows exist behind plywood panels. At the school portion of the building, the three-over-one windows are still exposed.

Inside, behind the portico, a one-story lobby with a choir loft above leads to the nave. The short, wide nave holds a large audience in close proximity to the pulpit to encourage congregational responsiveness and hymn-singing. The simple, unadorned nave, now dark with boarded up windows, would have been an inviting, light-filled space with its tall windows.

Unlike most buildings in Clovis, this building has not suffered major renovation or modernization. Although many of the building's windows have been boarded up and removed, the building retains its original and bold architectural presence.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1929 - 1930

Significant Dates

1929-1930

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. B. Cramer

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Faith Christian Fellowship is significant as the only remaining church and school in downtown Clovis; it is the only Neo-Classic Style building in the area. Its distinctive form and prominence in the streetscape is due to its stylistic strength and integrity which is unusual in this city of utilitarian and remodeled buildings. The building expresses a bold presence which is most often reserved for important public buildings, but otherwise does not exist in Clovis. As a religious building, it is larger and grander than the others in the city. Within New Mexico it is significant as one of the only religious facilities built in the Neo-Classic Style (see continuation sheet).

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clovis City Directory. High Plains Historical Society. 1932, 1936, 1938, 1941.

McAlavay, Don, and Harold Kilmer. Curry County, New Mexico. Dallas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1978.

McAlavay, Don. High Plains History of East-Central New Mexico. n.c.: High Plains Historical Press, 1980.

Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Insurance Maps of Clovis, New Mexico. 1909, 1912, 1919, 1929, 1951, 1962.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Under one acre.

UTM References

A

1	3
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6	6	4	9	6	0
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3	8	0	8	2	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

City of Clovis, New Mexico Original Townsite Block 8 Lots 1-4.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lots that have historically been associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gregory T. Hicks, President

organization Gregory T. Hicks and Associates, P.C. date February 27, 1987

street & number 112 Second St. S.W. telephone (505) 243-7492

city or town Albuquerque state New Mexico zip code 87102

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

The Faith Christian Fellowship- Significance Continuation

Section number 8 Page 1

Founded in 1906, Clovis grew rapidly as a railroad, commercial, agricultural, and governmental center. The buildings which were constructed to meet these needs were, for the most part, pragmatic, functional, and utilitarian; few buildings exhibited grand design intentions. The people who came to serve and prosper from these economic forces also pursued social, cultural, entertainment, and religious interests which resulted in buildings to house these functions. Most of these buildings were constructed outside of downtown on less commercially valuable property. Of the few which were constructed in downtown, most later succumbed to the march of commercial interests. The Faith Christian Fellowship, originally built as the First Methodist Church, is the only remaining religious building in downtown Clovis.

Sitting one-half story above street level on a raised basement and built close to the street on a small lot, the substantial massing of this Neo-Classical Revival church and school creates a monumental presence most often reserved for public buildings. In New Mexico, the majority of Neo-Classical Style buildings were built for governmental, institutional, or commercial purposes. This public building ambiance is supported by the building's relationship to the Curry County Courthouse across the street and its use of building materials common to public buildings.

As a religious facility, this building is unusual in Clovis for its size and style. For many years with its attached school, this was the largest church-related facility in the region. Stylistically, it is a simple yet bold and grand building which exhibits a strong adherence to a design concept which is unusual in this city of pragmatic and eclectic designs. As religious architecture, it is exemplary for this part of New Mexico; other churches were generally smaller in scalar elements, more linear in plan, and more Gothic in design. The church structure stands out in its siting, monumentality, scale, boldness, and use of classical style.

The solid and weighty massing of this structure results from a nave which is almost square in plan. Unlike many churches which set the pulpit at the end of a long narrow nave, the pulpit sits at the front of a short wide nave surrounded by seating which brings more of the congregation into close proximity with the minister. This arrangement was designed to increase participation of the members of the congregation in the services. This was a standard plan in the Greek Revival Style churches of the mid-nineteenth century which this building emulates. Since this space is two stories in height, the form almost becomes a cube, form following function. The cube is repeated in the form of the school portion of the building for design continuity creating the structure's massive presence.

Always used as a church and school, the building changed ownership only once. When the property was sold by the First Methodist Church, members of the congregation removed the stained glass windows and the cornerstone. Other than this, the building retains its original design elements and expresses its bold, massive monumentality.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Faith Christian Fellowship- Photographs

Section number Photo. Page 1

Items 1 through 5 are the same for each photograph.

Photograph #1

1. Faith Christian Fellowship
2. Clovis, New Mexico
3. Gregory T. Hicks
4. December 12, 1986
5. State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
6. View looking southwest at northeast corner of building.

Photograph #2

6. View looking west at east facade.

Photograph #3

6. View looking south at north facade.

Photograph #4

6. View looking southeast at northwest corner of building.

Photograph #5

6. View looking up and northwest to southeast corner of portico on east facade.