

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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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 First Presbyterian Church of Ramah  
other names/site number Ramah Town Hall

2. Location

street & number 113 South Commercial Street n/a not for publication  
city, town Ramah n/a vicinity  
state Colorado code CO county El Paso code 041 zip code 80832

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ 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.

Barbara Sudler 6-1-88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
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:)

Arlene Byrum 7-7-88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion--Religious structure

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government--City Hall

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Social--meeting hall

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

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other: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

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walls stucco

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roof asphalt

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The First Presbyterian Church of Ramah is the only building in the town of Ramah built in the Mission Style. Ramah is a small agricultural community of approximately 200 people located in eastern El Paso County. The church faces west on the southwestern corner of Commercial and Third Street. The landscaping is informal. Mature trees grow near the church. Two large spruce trees are growing at the front of the church; one is at the northwest corner and the other is next to the center front of the building. Deciduous trees grow along the south side of the property.

The church is a one story, rectangular shaped stucco building with an ell-containing an entry, vestibule and a bell tower on the northwest corner of the front. It is one bay wide and three bays deep with a raised basement and raised foundation water table. The building was constructed with a frame superstructure with brick outside which was stuccoed.

A large curvilinear parapet outlined with coping dominates the building front. Behind the parapet the roof is gabled, steep, and has wide slightly flared eaves and exposed rafter ends. The roof is presently asphalt shingle. Originally the roof may have been of red tiles similar to those on the bell tower. A large quatrefoil panel is centered in the front gable. All corners of the building are marked by pilaster masses on each side of the corner.

Three evenly spaced, tall and narrow arched windows of three lights are placed in the middle of a facade panel. The arches of the windows are outlined by thin plaster beading which ends at the impost of pilasters set on each side of the panel. A belt-course runs between the windows at the level of the imposts. The lower portion of the panel, between the water table and window sills, is accentuated by three rows of raised horizontal courses. A pair of rectangular windows is set into the raised basement directly below the window panel.

The entrance bay has a side gable roof with exposed rafters and an asphalt shingle roof with wide, slightly flared eaves. The parapet is curvilinear and is outlined by coping. A set of concrete stairs with a low wall leads to a large, arched entry with an original double door. A door canopy evident in historic photographs no longer exists. (The entry door is constructed of wood.)

The bell tower is located at the roof junction of the front and side gables. It is oriented with its side facing the street. The base is one bay wide and angles to

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Continuation Sheet**

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First Presbyterian Church of Ramah

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become approximately one-half bay wide. A tall narrow arch is cut through the width of the tower at the top. The tower is topped by a small, front gable, red tile roof with exposed rafters and rafter ends.

On the west elevation are three evenly spaced panels which rest on the building's water table. Each panel consists of a pair of double-hung, tall, narrow windows above a plain rectangular area. Five evenly spaced, rectangular windows are set at the base of the building below the water table. The east side of the building exhibits two panels which are similar to those on the west elevation and three evenly spaced square windows set into the base of the building below the water table. At the rear of the building are two small rectangular stained glass windows placed horizontally into the chancel area. The chancel has a shed roof with exposed rafter ends. A small rear entrance with shed roof and exposed rafter ends is located next to the chancel at the southwest corner. A cornerstone with the construction date and names of the building committee is located at the northwest corner.

The church has 1,500 square feet in the basement and 1,500 square feet upstairs. The floors are hardwood and the walls and ceiling are stucco. Some of the original furnishings have been retained. The pews were removed to be put in an active church in a nearby community. The original podium, chairs and railing are retained in the chancel area. The building is heated by a floor furnace.

**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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1916  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder

G. M. Bryson, Architect  
F. R. Russell, Builder

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

The First Presbyterian Church of Ramah meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as the only Mission Revival Style building in Ramah, Colorado. The Mission Revival Style is unusual in the area and is rarely seen in the small agricultural communities of eastern Colorado. Churches in adjacent communities are mostly wood frame structures with a steeple. Because it is a religious property which derives its primary significance from its architecture, Criterion consideration A applies to the Ramah Church.

The Ramah church is architecturally significant as an example of the Mission Revival style in a small agricultural community. The Mission Revival style is rarely seen in agricultural communities on the eastern Plains of Colorado. The style was begun by architects in California in the late 1880s and early 1890s who turned to the area's Hispanic heritage and the historic Spanish missions for inspiration. It was popularized by the California Building designed by A. Page Brown for the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893. Its use in the West received further impetus when the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railroad adopted the style for its stations and resort hotels.

Little is known of the architect and builder of the Ramah Church. George M. Bryson is known to be the architect. An article in the clippings file for Ramah in the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs states that Bryson was a popular local architect in 1910 and that he drew up plans for a three room Arensdale School west of Colorado City, Colorado. Frank R. Russell, the builder is listed in the 1916 City Directory as living at 425 East Boulder in Colorado Springs.

Built in 1916, the First Presbyterian Church was the first church building in Ramah. (A mission church administered by the Calhan Diocese of the Catholic Church was built in Ramah in 1921-22.) This church is typical of most other churches built on Colorado's plains at the time. It is a rectangular, wood frame building with clapboard siding and a steeple, but has not been used since 1974 and is presently for sale.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Pioneer Museum - Colorado Springs, Colorado - Gammon family possessions.

Church records, church abstract and incorporation papers.

Mrs. Lulu Winters, longtime resident of Ramah; her mother was original secretary to the church board.

Ranchland News, Simla, Colorado

Ed Simonich, Pueblo, Colorado

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:**

State Historical Society (OAHF)

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

1	3
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5	7	2	0	0	0
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4	3	3	0	2	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The church is located on Lots 8 and 9, Block 9 of refile of Ramah.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is historically associated with the Ramah Church.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Angie Wingard, Secretary and John Valentine, RC&D Coordinator  
 organization East Central Colorado RC&D date \_\_\_\_\_  
 street & number 821 Desert Flower Blvd. telephone 543-8385  
 city or town Pueblo, state Colorado zip code 81001

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

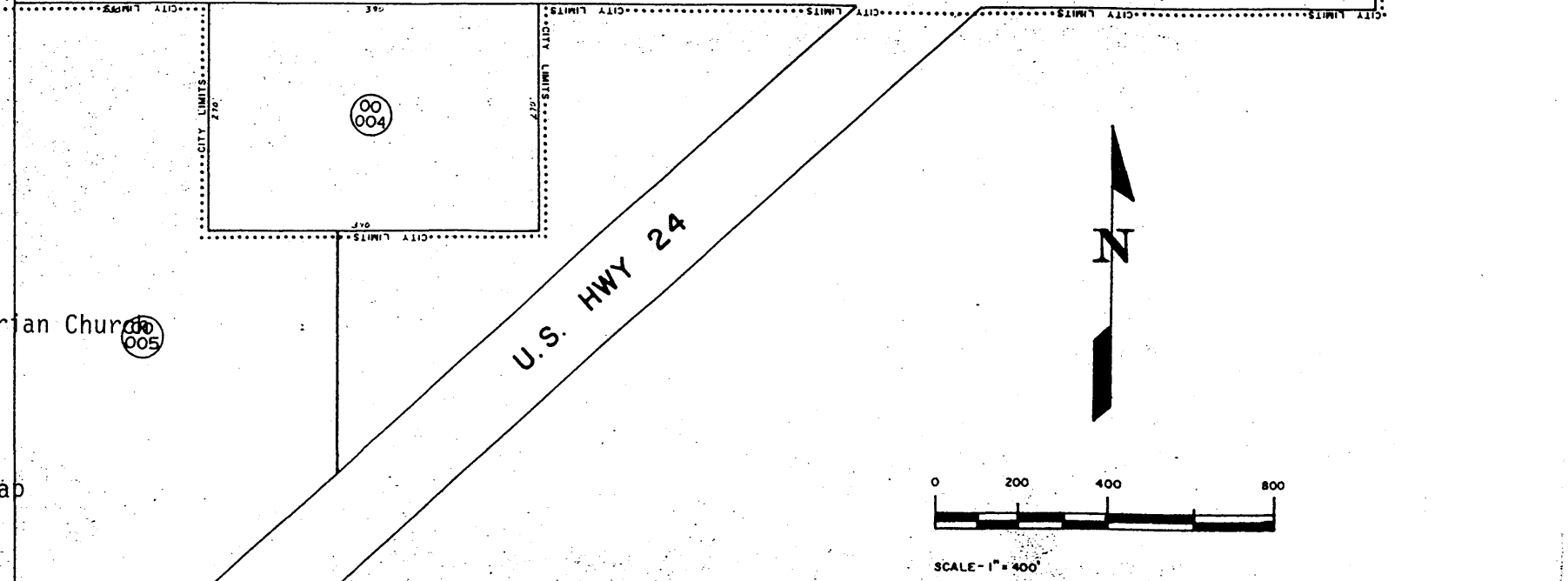
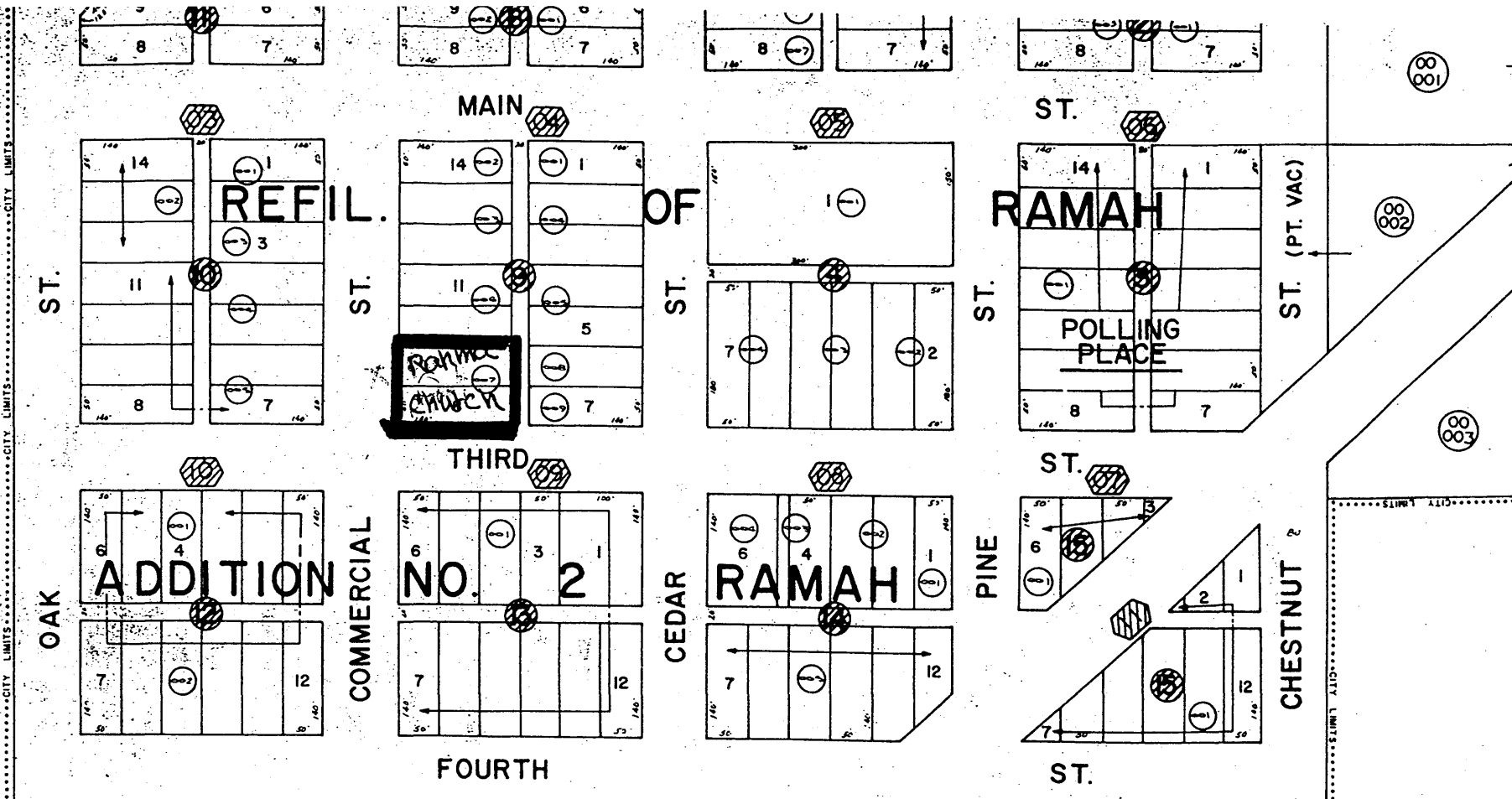
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First Presbyterian Church of Ramah

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Ramah is situated along the Chicago and Rock Island Railway in northeastern El Paso County. It is a small agricultural community which has never had a population larger than 200, the majority of whom were European, Czechoslovakian and Russian Slovak. The area is known for its ranches and pinto bean production. The town was established in 1888 on a quarter section of land preempted by Lemuel Gammon. Gammon built the first store and hotel in town and became a prominent businessman, landowner, farmer and rancher. He served as president of the Board of Trustees for the First Presbyterian Church and was a member of the building committee. Gammon deeded the building site to the First Presbyterian Church of Ramah, Colorado for \$1.00 on April 7, 1916. The Ramah congregation was organized when a petition was presented to the presbytery of Pueblo at its meeting on February 27, 1914. Formal organization took place on March 16, 1914, when thirteen members were enrolled.

Under the leadership of Reverends John M. Wylie and M. H. Macleod the congregation responded enthusiastically to the task of constructing a place of worship. The building was dedicated on April 1, 1917. The building presently functions as the Ramah Town Hall.



First Presbyterian Church  
 (Rayma Church)  
 El Paso County  
 Tax Assessor Map  
 Map 1 of 2

