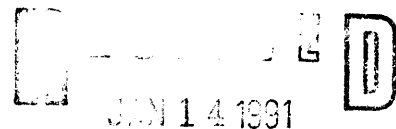


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8/86)  
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format  
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**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. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: First Methodist Episcopal Church of Delta  
other names/site number: First Methodist Church of Delta  
Delta United Methodist Church

**2. Location**

street & number: 199 East Fifth Street (N/A)not for publication  
city, town: Delta (N/A)vicinity  
state: Colorado code: CO county: Delta code: 029 zip code: 81416

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
(x) private	(x) building(s)		
( ) public-local	( ) district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
( ) public-State	( ) site		<u>0</u> sites
( ) public-Federal	( ) structure		<u>0</u> structures
	( ) object		<u>0</u> objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing: <u>N/A</u>		No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  
( ) See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 1-7-91  
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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**

- 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

William Byers 2/20/91

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Functions or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Religion/Church related residence

---

**Current Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Healthcare: Medical office

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival - church

Bungalow - parsonage

---

**Materials**

(enter categories from instructions)

foundations Concrete

walls Brick

Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Delta United Methodist Church (First Methodist Episcopal Church of Delta) was built in 1910 by the Pastor J. A. Johnson, who served as general contractor. The building was designed by Samuel A. Bullard of Bullard and Bullard, Architects, 208 South Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois. Plans were purchased from Robert A. Bullard of the same architectural firm. The original cost of the building was \$30,000.

The church is located on the southwest corner of E. 5th Street and Meeker Avenue with a 1926 Bungalow style parsonage to the north. The church interior is constructed on the "Akron plan" with a Tudor Revival exterior. Thus the design is a combination of a functional church plan and architectural styling. The "Akron plan", named for the city of Akron, Ohio where it was supposedly first used is functional and utilitarian. It allows the audience to be closer to the corner chancel by its semi-circular seating arrangement which is placed diagonally across the building. The sloping floor allows for better viewing from the rear of the sanctuary.

The church is constructed of a light colored brick made by Delta Brick and Tile Company of clay obtained from the side of a mesa on the west edge of Delta, and Windgate sandstone quarried from Escalante Canyon fifteen miles north of Delta. The brick is laid in stretcher course. A five foot high foundation all around the building, the lower one third of the bell tower, decorative molding and edging; coping, lintels, and sills are all made of rock faced sandstone.

The sanctuary portion of the church is rectangular with three towers on three corners (SW, SE and NE). The roof has four ridges extending in four directions

(x) See continuation sheet

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Delta United Methodist Church

forming cross gables extending out of a pyramid roof with a white louvered cupola on top. Three of the four ridges end in steep gables on the north, east and south, while the ridge extending to the west forms a low hipped roof over the apse at the back of the church.

There are Tudor arch entrances in the three towers. At the northeast and southwest towers the two doorways are below pediments with sandstone raking cornices. Each entrance arch has brick voussoirs, topped with brick molding. The towers have stepped parapets on all four sides with sandstone coping.

The southeast tower is the bell tower, housing the narthex. It is taller than the other towers and is constructed of rock faced sandstone to one-third its height. The Tudor doorway is cut into the sandstone and has plain double doors with a small stained glass transom above. The voussoirs and molding over the doorway are of sandstone. The bell tower has corner buttresses of rock faced coursed ashlar on the three exposed corners. The cornerstone of the first church building, which was on the same site, was placed in the wall to the right of the southeast buttress. It is marked "1891". Extending upward from the top of the buttresses to the top of the belfry, is a two foot wide brick facing, blunting the corners of the bell tower edged with a vertical row of dog-tooth brick. On the south wall of the bell tower are three stair-stepped narrow rectangular windows. The cornerstone of this building, marked "First M. E. Church A.D. 1910", is set within the southeast buttress.

A pair of rectangular windows are on each wall of the bell tower midway up. Each window has a rusticated sandstone keystone. Three unglazed Tudor arch openings are high on each wall of the belfry. Each contains white tracery and has brick voussoirs and molding.

The ground level entrance into the southwest tower leads into the overflow room and sanctuary. The northeast tower, housing the vestry entrance, has a small stained glass transom. The doors of the bell tower and vestry tower both face east and constitute the front of the church. Both entrances have small landings and a flight of nine steps to street level. On the east wall, between the towers, is a crenelated, semi-circular bay one story in height. Set in the bay are five rectangular stained glass windows. Set in each of the three exposed faces of the large sanctuary gables is a large Tudor arch stained glass window covering most of the wall. Above each of the windows are brick voussoirs and brick molding. The slope of each gable is capped with sandstone.

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The church has a full basement with a kitchen, a large meeting and social room, a play area, several small rooms, and storage and utility areas. On the first floor the chancel is in one corner (NW) while the narthex and bell tower entry is in the opposite corner (SE). A choir loft is along one wall (N) and there is an opening into an overflow room along the other wall (W). A gallery extends along two walls (E and S).

The sanctuary opens along the full length of the west wall into the overflow room, which may also be used for meetings and social gatherings. The overflow room is of about equal size to the sanctuary and is surrounded by class and office rooms on two levels on all three sides. The back of the overflow room is in the form of an apse to resemble the choir of the cathedral churches. A mezzanine curves around the three sides on the second level. There is also a vestry and entrance on the northeast corner of the sanctuary.

The interior ceiling and roof of the sanctuary are four large gables extending north, south, east and west out of a steep pyramid roof. The curved pews are of oak with decoratively carved ends made by American Seating Company. The seating in the gallery is the older pews taken from the original church building. The bell in the belfry, made in 1895 by McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, was also from the original building. Rich oak woodwork with consistent geometric design covers the front of the sanctuary, the communion rail, organ housing, pulpit, baptismal font, and choir baluster.

In the front corner of the sanctuary is an eighteen stop, eighteen rank Hinners Pipe organ made by Hinners Organ Company of Pekin, Illinois in 1910. The organ of 1024 pipes has 57 speaker and 11 ornamental pipes exposed. A Reuter console, installed in 1956, is at the opposite end of the choir loft.

The design and craftsmanship of the stained glass windows are of special significance. They were manufactured by Midland Glass Company of Omaha, Nebraska and were installed when the building was constructed. The three large stained glass arched windows in the sanctuary are divided into sections by mullions. At the top middle are illustrations from famous paintings. The north window illustration is a stylized representation of the central portion of "The Transfiguration" by Raphael (Vatican Gallery). On the east window is a copy of

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"Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane" by Heinrich Hoffman (Riverside Church, New York), and on the south window is a copy of "The Good Shepherd" by Bernhard Plockhorst (Syracuse Museum of Fine Art). The lower section of the windows contain stained glass with geometric and foliate designs except for four windows on the north side. These also depict a cross and crown, an anchor, an open bible, and a crown. Similar windows on the east have depictions of an alpha and an omega, and of wheat and grape clusters on the south. The five windows in the bay below the east window are dedicated to the W.F.M.S. (Women's Foreign Mission Society) with a picture of grapes, the Epworth League (an historic youth group) with an Epworth League symbol, the Sunday School with a picture of a sower, the Junior League (an historic youth group) with a Junior League symbol, and W.H.M.S. (Women's Home Missionary Society) with a picture of wheat. Below the image on the large north window, in a small white square, is the name "J.A. Johnson, pastor 1901-1912."

In 1926 a parsonage was constructed to the north of the church building with a narrow driveway between. The one story parsonage was constructed of light colored Delta brick on a rectangular floor plan with three bedrooms and full basement. It was constructed by local contractors in the Bungalow style with a side gable roof. In the center of the front of the house is a set of concrete steps leading to the narrow front porch which runs from the center of the house to the north corner and is within the rectangular floor plan. The front and side of the porch is bounded by a low brick parapet with a concrete capstone. At the entrance and on the corner are piers which support square wooden columns supporting the roof.

The ridge of the roof runs the full width of the house from south to north. Extending from the central ridge is another ridge running east to west from the center of the house to the back, forming a gable at the back of the house. A smaller gable is at the front of the house over the front entrance and part of the porch.

The house interior was converted to a medical office in 1983 at which time the porch was enclosed in glass and the living room was divided by removable partitions and a counter. There is a handicapped ramp leading to an entrance on the north side of the porch, In spite of these alterations, the exterior of the house retains the basic Bungalow styling and is considered contributing.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      ( ) nationally      ( ) statewide      (x) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria      ( ) A      ( ) B      (x) C      ( ) D  
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      (x) A      ( ) B      ( ) C      ( ) D      ( ) E      ( ) F      ( ) G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

**Period of Significance**

**Significant Dates**

Architecture

1910, 1926

1910, 1926

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Samuel A. Bullard

Bullard and Bullard

---

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

Delta United Methodist Church meets criterion C under criterion exception A for its architectural significance. The church building embodies the characteristics of ecclesiastical Tudor style. The building is a classical example of the "Akron plan", which was a very popular plan for churches for a short period of time in the early 1900s and reflects the popular style of protestant worship during the turn of the century. The Tudor style is rare for the area around Delta, but the building materials are indigenous. The way in which the church was constructed, by a pastor acting as general contractor, reflects a common early practice. Although the organ and stained glass are not of the highest quality by modern standards, they were the finest available at the time and reflect the fine craftsmanship of the period and values of worshipers in protestant churches at that time.

The architect of the plans for First Methodist Episcopal Church of Delta, Samuel A. Bullard, was the senior partner of Bullard and Bullard, Architects of Springfield, Illinois, which also had an office in Bloomington, Illinois before 1910. Another partner in the firm at one time was a brother, Robert A Bullard, who managed an office in Tacoma, Washington from 1888 until 1906. Samuel Bullard was mayor of Springfield, Illinois at the time of his death in January 1924.

Buildings in Springfield, Illinois which he designed or assisted in designing include the Young Men's Christian Association building, Second Methodist Episcopal Church, Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Christ Church, Grace Lutheran Church, State Arsenal, City Hall, Enos School, Lincoln Tomb, and Sangamon County Courthouse as well as many smaller business and residences. He also designed Methodist Episcopal Churches in Lewistown, Alton, Carrollton and Fairbury Illinois.

(x) See continuation sheet

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The major qualification of the pastor for construction of the church from 1909 to 1910 was his skill as a general contractor. James A. Johnson supervised all of the work and hired sub contractors for the various tasks. In addition to the church at Delta, Johnson also built Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist) Churches in Fairbury, Illinois and Cheyenne, Wyoming. The church in Delta was built upon Bullard plans identical to the church in Fairbury.

The building has architectural significance because it is an excellent example of the "Akron plan" for church buildings which was very popular in the United States for a brief time (about a quarter of a century) beginning late in the 19th century. The plan, named after the city where it supposedly was first used, was strictly protestant and utilitarian. It permitted everyone in the audience to be near the pulpit. Although the plan had practical advantages, it was never regarded as particularly attractive or worshipful. The church at Delta is typical of that plan, with sloping floor, biased seating arrangement, narthex and vestry entrances in two corners, gallery on two sides, chancel with pulpit and organ pipes central, and overflow room. Yet in the Delta church the Tudor style adds a measure of beauty to an otherwise strictly utilitarian structure.

The Delta brick manufactured by Delta Brick and Tile, which is no longer in operation, has a characteristic light color. The unique bricks from the demolished Lincoln School have become collectors items in Delta. The bricks were used in many private residences and buildings in Delta including the Middle School, the Hellman Building, the Post Office and the Armory.

Windgate sandstone for the building was quarried from Escalante Canyon about 15 miles north of Delta and loaded on box cars for transport into Delta. The stone was also used in building the old Lincoln School and the Delta County Bank building (now the Chamber of Commerce).

The church has additional significance for the artistic merit of the stained glass windows made by the Midland Glass Company of Omaha, Nebraska. Around the turn of the century the company manufactured stained glass windows for many churches including the First United Methodist Church of Cheyenne, Wyoming. The style of stained glass in Delta United Methodist Church is typical of the kind of glass used in protestant churches of that period. Especially popular were the depictions of Hofman and Plockhorst.



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Four of the windows in the front bay have special significance in that they represent historic and influential organizations within the Methodist Episcopal Church which no longer exist, viz. Women's Foreign Missionary Society, Women's Home Missionary Society, Epworth League, and Junior League. The two windows of the Epworth and Junior League have depictions of the similar symbols of the two youth groups with a cross and motto "Look up, lift up."

The Hinners Pipe organ was installed at the time of the building of the church. It is an 18 stop, 18 rank organ with 1024 pipes. The Hinners Organ Company of Pekin, Illinois manufactured 3097 organs from 1879 to 1936. The Hinners Company was one of the first to manufacture theater organs and produced organs for churches across the country. Their organs were widely recognized as exceptional values. When the organ was purchased for the Delta church, metal pipes were being manufactured in Gottfried, Germany for the company. Cost of the organ was \$3,000, half of which was paid for with a Carnegie grant. The organ is in excellent condition and the only change which has been made is the addition of a Reuter console and electric blower in 1956.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(x) 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**

---

Acreeage of property: under one

**UTM References**

A 1|2 7|5|4|7|5|0| 4|2|9|1|8|5|0|  
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary encompasses five city lots on the northwest corner of Fifth and Meeker Streets in Delta, Colorado. Legal Description: Block 9 original, lots 12-16 inclusive; T 15S, R 96W, Section 24 NE 1/4.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Methodist Church in Delta.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Donald C. Malone, pastor

Organization: Delta United Methodist Church

Street & Number: 199 E. Fifth Street

City or Town: Delta

Date: September 28, 1990

Telephone: (303) 874-9523

State: CO Zip Code: 81416

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First Methodist Church of Delta

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First Methodist Church of Delta

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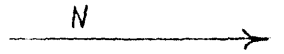
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Correspondence with Greg Koos, Executive Director, McClean County Historical Society, Bloomington, IL. In the archives of Delta United Methodist Church.

Interview with Evelyn Farmer, former owner of Delta Brick and Tile Co., November 12, 1990. In the archives of Delta United Methodist Church.

Telephone conversation with Malcolm Cook, Church Historian for First United Methodist Church of Cheyenne, Wyoming. In the archives of Delta United Methodist Church.

SKETCH MAP  
DELTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DELTA, COLORADO



Scale: 1" = 20'

