



United States Department of the Interior


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

February 22, 2011

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall 
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Phone: 202-354-2255
E-mail: Edson_Beall@nps.gov
Web: www.nps.gov/history/nr

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

032

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

JAN 05 2011

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Immanuel Presbyterian Church

other names/site number SR-1868 (New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties Nomination)

2. Location

street & number 114 Carlisle Boulevard SE

city or town Albuquerque

state NM code NM county Bernalillo code 001 zip code 87106

not for publication

vicinity

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Jan Biella Interim SHPO & Deputy SHPO
Signature of certifying official/Title

October 15, 2010
Date

New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

For Edison H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2.22.11
Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Buildings Designed by John Gaw Meem

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

8

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival

Territorial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: concrete

walls: Hollow tile

roof: concrete

other:

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Immanuel Presbyterian Church (photos 1, 3, and 12) occupies a prominent site at the intersection of Carlisle and Silver streets in the Nob Hill neighborhood of southeast Albuquerque. The two and three story building ascends the property in a series of massed building blocks; its crisp neoclassical lines are dominated by the large, square bell tower at the top. Built in three phases (photo 3) between 1949 and 1956, it was designed as an integrated whole by noted Southwest architect John Gaw Meem. Tan stucco, white trim and brick coping are used to unify the discrete sections. The building reflects Meem's mastery of the Territorial Revival style toward the end of his long and distinguished career. It is in excellent condition and retains considerable integrity despite some remodeling and interior alterations, including several envisioned by the architect.

Narrative Description

Original Building

Exterior

The original two-story, 10,000 square foot structure, forms the northern portion of the building we see today (photos 1 and 3). Facing west onto Carlisle, it features flat roofs, white trim, and brick coping. It also features a set of double doors (photo 2) on each story. The doors have triple lites surmounted by six lite transoms and are flanked by Doric wood pilasters. The second story has a small balcony and a low, triangular pediment with a dentil course above the doors. An arched parapet with brick coping is centered above the doors. The central section of the building is stepped forward. Recessed, steel windows appear on both stories; the sills of the ground floor windows have brick coping. The wooden cross that once stood on top of the parapet has disintegrated, but the other exterior features of the original building remain intact. Figure B shows the west façade before the new sanctuary was added juxtaposed with a recent photograph of the same area. Tan stucco covers the original building as well as the later additions.

Interior

The interior of the original building, built as designed in the 1948 study, may be compared to contemporary plans of the church included here as Figure C. The lower story remains almost exactly as it was originally delineated. A small lobby opens into Fellowship Hall – a large, open area with a kitchen and a small stage. Several changes have been made on the second story, however. The area that served as the temporary sanctuary in the original building was converted into a large parlor and a small chapel when the permanent sanctuary was added in 1956. Octagonal support pillars indicate where walls were added to create classrooms at that time. Octagonal windows on either side of the chancel area now serve as part of the sound system in the chapel, but the clerestory windows Meem employed to achieve the “churchly atmosphere” remain intact.¹ The altar, designed by Meem remains intact, but the pulpit was removed in a 1990s remodel.

The original building was completed in less than a year. In a letter inviting Meem to the dedication of the building, Broome wrote “Your generous and kind assistance has made it possible for us to complete the educational unit of our church. After you have inspected this fine building, I believe you will be glad you had a

¹ John Gaw Meem and Hugo Zehner and Associates, “The Immanuel Presbyterian Church,” Sheets 5, 6 and 9.

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part in its realization."² Dedicated on April 23, 1950, the building and all its furnishings cost \$125,000. The congregation, which had begun with 276 charter members, had grown to 505. Reverend J. Elbert Nash was the senior pastor. Reverend J. Denton Simms, the associate pastor for the next twenty-eight years, was rumored to have memorized the whole Bible because he recited rather than read Scripture every Sunday. Reverend Simms was greatly loved by the congregation, who named the chapel in his honor.

1951 Classroom Addition

Plans for the first addition were initiated within months of the dedication of the original building. During a congregational meeting on November 13, 1950, Broome and Mossman reported that more Sunday school classrooms were needed and that Meem's 1948 study had included an expansion of the educational unit on the east side. They estimated that the addition would cost \$12,000 to \$15,000, and the project was approved with a budget of \$15,000.³ A preliminary study proposed that the addition include two bowling lanes, but they were eliminated in the final plans. Instead, the 3,000 square foot addition provided classrooms, restrooms, and a multi-purpose recreational area on the lower story and classrooms and bathrooms on the upper story. It was completed in 1951, when an average of 300 children attended Sunday School each week.⁴

1956 Sanctuary Addition

Exterior

Ground was broken for the final flowering of Meem's design, the sanctuary addition, in October of 1954. It is here that his attention to detail and the singularity of his design are most apparent. Earlier in his professional life, he had established a revivalist aesthetic by incorporating elements from historical structures. By the mid 1950s he was delegating more work to qualified employees within his firm.⁵ He would remain active in civic and preservation affairs for many years to come, but he was in the final stage of his career. His Immanuel correspondence suggests that he kept an active hand in the final phase of the project, however. The continuity of his presence on site and the overall scheme envisioned in the 1948 drawings contribute to the unity of feeling the church retains despite its gradual evolution. The sanctuary addition (photo 3) was constructed on the highest portion of the property, south of the original building. As proposed in the original study, it includes the present sanctuary, the third story, and the bell tower. It also includes the ten foot wide, wood portal along the west side of the building. Six pairs of square, Doric columns support the plain architrave, frieze and cornice above the portal. Broad curves between the arches repeat the motif of the parapet above the entrance to the original building. A series of wide steps leads up to an entrance on the north side of the portal. A balustrade with members forming Xs pierced by a vertical rail encloses the west side of the portal south of the steps. The portal entrance (photo 5) consists of a three leaf door with triple lites. It is flanked by wood surrounds with four panels and surmounted by a wood transom with nine panels. Doric pilasters like those on either side of the main entrance to the original building support a wood entablature with dentils. The sanctuary addition (photo 4) includes another formal entrance on the south side of the building. It consists of double doors with triple lites. Flanked by wood surrounds with four panels, it is surmounted by a wood transom with seven panels. Doric pilasters support a pedimented lintel with dentils. The windows repeat the classical elements of those in the original building. A stucco-covered cross is centered in the building block east of the south entrance.

A large, square tower rises above the other building blocks (photo 4). With 24 lite windows centered in each facade and capped with brick coping, it supports a wood balustrade around a low platform. A small, wooden bell tower with a metal cross at its top and a balustrade around its base rests on the platform. Pairs of

² C.C. Broome, April 5, 1950 Letter to John Gaw Meem. Unless otherwise noted, all correspondence is in Meem Correspondence Box 56 in the John Gaw Meem Archives.

³ Minutes of the Session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Nov. 13, 1950.

⁴ Minutes of the Session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Sept. 2, 1952.

⁵ David Kammer, "Buildings Designed by John Gaw Meem, Multiple Property Listing, National Register of Historic Places."

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broad curves between the pilasters repeat those in the cornices of the square tower windows. They, in turn, echo the curved motif of the parapet above the entrance to the original building. When the south entrance was redesigned to accommodate an elevator, the original was preserved inside the new doors. The other exterior features of the sanctuary addition remain intact. Recent photographs of the west portal and the bell tower are included as Figure D.

Interior

Classrooms and music and recreation areas are located on the lower story of the sanctuary addition. The original upper floor lobby was expanded to form an entrance from the portal, and another lobby was added inside the south entrance. Brayden Parlor (photo 5), a long room adjacent to the sanctuary, overlooks the portal. Connected to the sanctuary by folding doors, it can provide additional seating for large services. The original sanctuary has been converted into Immanuel Parlor and Simms Chapel (photo 11). An office and library are located on the third story. The sanctuary (photos 6 and 7) accommodates 576 people on the main floor and another 125 in the balcony. Distinguished by its spaciousness, light and grace of design, it displays several architectural elements characteristic of Meem's work. The walls of the long, relatively narrow, two-story nave soar to a height of 29 feet, displaying proportions reminiscent of the mission churches that he loved. The light that pours in from several directions is also characteristic of Meem's work. Natural light originally entered through octagonal clerestory windows above the nave and through six foot high rectangular windows on the east side of the room. Stained glass has been added to the clerestory windows, and those on the east wall have been etched to reduce glare. In addition, light from hidden windows above the chancel illuminates the choir loft and the reredos on the south wall.

Seating in the sanctuary is arranged between a central and two peripheral aisles. The dark pews contrast with the light shade of the walls and the creamy color of the paneling. The walls are painted a dusky hue similar to the "wood rose" in Meem's original specifications. The ceiling, a soft cerulean blue, is set with recessed lights and eight fixtures (photo 8) designed by Meem and specially manufactured in a material that "will not rust and has the natural color and finish of the older native New Mexico tin work on which the design of these fixtures is based."⁶ The intensity of the light can be adjusted from an electrical panel in the rear of the nave, adding to their "starry night" quality. International Nickel, which manufactured them, was sufficiently impressed that an article about them appeared in a trade magazine, *Nickelsworth*, in December 1957.⁷ The choir and chancel railings, elders' seats, pulpit, lectern, communion table, and other furnishings (photo 9) were designed by Meem using characteristic features such as dentil trim and square cross motifs that can be seen in 19th century Navajo weavings as well as in Spanish mission churches.⁸ The woodwork designs were executed by George Weidner, a member of the Immanuel congregation.

Dedicated on November 28, 1956, the last 25,000 square foot addition was completed at a cost of \$355,246. At the project's final accounting, Meem complimented Mossman for his "splendid cooperation, your precise and beautiful workmanship – in fact and deed, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed."⁹

Significant Changes after 1956

Several changes have been made since the sanctuary addition was dedicated. The reredos, which consist of oiled walnut panels with a bas-relief carved cross, were added in the next few years. Meem worked with noted Santa Fe artist Eugenie Shonnard on their design, having her execute six plaster sculptures for a total of \$500 "to be used as a guide for wood carvings to be made from them."¹⁰ Shonnard, a native New

⁶ John Gaw Meem, Aug. 19, 1957 Letter to Larry von Hake, International Nickel Co.

⁷ Larry von Hake, Dec. 13, 1957 Letter to John Gaw Meem.

⁸ John Gaw Meem et al., "1955 Additions and Alteration to the Immanuel Presbyterian Church," sheets A-3 and A-5.

⁹ John Gaw Meem, Feb. 15, 1957 Letter to Fred Mossman.

¹⁰ John Gaw Meem, Jan. 21, 1957 Letter to John Calhoun.

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Yorker, had studied with Rodin in Paris and at the New York Art Students League before moving to Santa Fe in 1926. Her impressionist sculptures in cedar and stone were shown in Paris and gained a following in both the United States and Europe. Meem worked with her on his earliest project in the Spanish pueblo style, the Taylor Memorial Chapel north of Colorado Springs, and he regarded her as "one of the greatest sculptors in the country."¹¹

Shonnard's designs were also executed by George Weidner. According to Mr. Weidner, "Each of the five panels of the Cross (photo 10) was built as a separate unit in accordance with the architect's drawings ... from a two inch thick walnut wood slab two feet square. Except for the outline and cut-outs of each medallion, the relief carving was done with a few carving tools and a wood mallet. Working a few hours a day, it required about three months to make and install the panels."¹² Four of the panels represent the apostles Matthew, Mark, Luke and John as winged creatures. Each is holding an open Bible imprinted with an alpha and an omega. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolize the beginning and the end of Creation. The center panel depicts a crown of thorns around the letters IHS, a Greek monogram for Jesus. The lily represented at the bottom of the cross appears to wither and die, but returns to blossom every spring. It therefore symbolizes Christ's resurrection and immortality. The walnut panels were continued on the east and west walls of the choir loft.

A 2,333 pipe Casavant organ was installed in 1965 to replace the organ previously donated by First Presbyterian Church. The installation altered the sleek lines of Meem's original design on the east and west walls of the chancel, but enhanced the sound in a space with acoustics that were already superb. Vocal performing groups including Quintessence and De Profundis perform there regularly. Stained glass by Arthur Tatkoski was added to the clerestory windows in 1988, and the elevator block was built in 2001 to make all three stories of the building more accessible. Sensitively designed by Richard Schalk as another building mass with brick coping, the elevator addition is located immediately west of the south entrance (Photo 4). A new entrance was designed to accommodate the addition, but, as noted above, the original is preserved inside the new doors. Aside from these modifications, Immanuel's sanctuary and other formal interior spaces have been carefully preserved. Recent photographs of the sanctuary and the chancel cross are included here as Figure E.

¹¹ Gibson, "The Santa Fe and Taos Colonies," 1981.

¹² George E. Weidner, "The Chancel Cross," p. 1.

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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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1948 - 1960

Significant Dates

1949, 1951, 1956

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

John Gaw Meem, Architect

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

John Gaw Meem, Architect

Fred Mossman, Builder

Period of Significance (justification) The period of significance relates to the dates of construction and reflects a period of time following World War II when Albuquerque was experiencing a rapid period of growth with many neighborhoods, in particular in the University and Nob Hill area, were being developed. Immanuel Presbyterian Church is still a vital and highly recognized building in the community.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) Immanuel Presbyterian Church, is a significant cornerstone building with outstanding architectural character-defining features, built for use as a religious facility to serve the social, cultural, and spiritual needs of community that had quickly developed in the post-World War II period of the Nation's and the state of New Mexico's history.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Immanuel Presbyterian Church is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Buildings of John Gaw Meem." It is also significant under Criteria A and C. It is an architectural expression of the postwar boom in Albuquerque during which the city's population expanded beyond the valley and downtown, and edged up past the sand hills and onto the East Mesa closer to the mountains and the high-tech institutions that were to become its economic mainstay. It continues a long tradition of the Presbyterian Church in New Mexico, which began with American occupation in 1848, put down roots soon after the Civil War and extended its reach with mission schools throughout the state during the territorial period and beyond. It is the third Presbyterian church built in Albuquerque. Immanuel is also a distinguished institutional example of the later works of preeminent Southwest architect John Gaw Meem, a preservationist and regionalist who revived and refined vernacular traditions and wrote persuasively about their richness and adaptability. During Meem's long career in New Mexico, he brought Santa Fe style to maturity and created his own brand of regional classicism, Territorial Revival style, of which Immanuel Presbyterian Church is an outstanding example. Meem's early years in New Mexico included work in church restoration at San Esteban Church at Acoma Pueblo, and the details gleaned from that and later works are incorporated into the design of Immanuel. The church features clerestory windows and massing characteristic of Spanish Pueblo missions and the brick coping and classical details seen in Territorial style buildings.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical and Cultural Background

Early Presbyterian Churches in New Mexico

Immanuel Presbyterian Church not only calls up images of early Spanish missions in its architecture, it is also situated in a cultural geography where missionary work holds an important place. The Presbyterian Missionary Union sent an emissary to New Mexico in 1849, the year after American occupation, but he quickly abandoned preaching to souls to preach instead about the evils of slavery as editor of the Santa Fe Gazette. In 1866, the Rev. David F. McFarland was commissioned by the Domestic Missions and sent to Santa Fe; his wife Amanda arrived that spring by stagecoach after 13 days of continuous travel. Together, they started the first permanent mission in New Mexico, and so began what would become a widespread presence of the Presbyterian Church in New Mexico, working initially in public education and later in medical missions in some of the most remote reaches of a wild territory. First Presbyterian Church was founded in Albuquerque in 1880, the year the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway reached the city. Less than a decade later, in 1889, First Presbyterian helped organize a church in Martineztown (now part of Albuquerque) for Spanish speaking members, the Second Presbyterian Church.¹³

Settlement and Growth of Albuquerque

In aiding and fostering the establishment of Immanuel Presbyterian Church some 60 years later, First Presbyterian fitted itself neatly into the missionary expansionism that had led to the creation of Albuquerque in 1706. The city was created following the Spanish Law of the Indies plan with a plaza and a church, San Felipe de Neri, occupying the most prominent location. Albuquerque's growth took off with the arrival of the railroad more than a century later. Early growth was concentrated in the New Town by the tracks and along what was then called Railroad Avenue. Construction of the electric trolley line in 1904 sent the next wave of growth uphill

¹³ Ruth K. Barber and Edith Agnew, "Sowers Went Forth," Menaul Historical Society, 1981.

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to the east in small subdivisions annexed to the city, followed by another spurt downtown and to the east, with the increasing availability of automobiles and Albuquerque's growing reputation as a health center in the 1920s.¹⁴

After World War II, soldiers who had been stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base returned looking to settle down, and new residents were drawn by the burgeoning weapons industry. Albuquerque's population more than doubled from 1940 to 1950, and its geographic boundaries tripled in size between 1946 and 1950, when a Saturday Evening Post reporter wrote of the city that "New houses go up in batches of 50 to 300 at a time and transform barren mesa before you get back from lunch."¹⁵ Between 1946 and 1950, enrollment at the University of New Mexico jumped from 924 to 4,795 as returning veterans took advantage of the GI Bill and enrolled in government sponsored educational programs.¹⁶ City building permits valued at \$2.35 million in 1940 had skyrocketed to \$33.2 million a decade later. The city was moving aggressively to expand its borders and incorporate even reluctant neighborhoods, such as San Jose and Barelas, with the aid of an annexation law pushed through the legislature in the wake of unfavorable court rulings.¹⁷

Development of Nob Hill Area

Adjacent to the University of New Mexico, investors with an eye firmly focused on development of the Eastern suburbs had purchased land as early as 1890, often in increments of a quarter-section or a half-section at a time. Longtime New Mexico politico Clyde Tingley, successively mayor in the 1920s, governor from 1934-38 and city commissioner/ex-officio mayor into the 1950s, had become increasingly frustrated by the rapid pace and checkerboard nature of development. By 1947, he was publicly critical of far-flung subdivisions, largely because of the burden they placed on city coffers to extend services out to the East Mesa.¹⁸ His call for infill development was not heeded, and automobile-driven suburbs got a new boost in 1950 with an automobile safety report that resulted in Lead and Coal Avenues just south of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church site to be designated for one-way traffic.

The area surrounding the future Immanuel Presbyterian Church site had been mushrooming. Monte Vista Fire Station had been constructed as a Works Progress Administration project, and Monte Vista School had been expanded in 1936. Bandelier Elementary School had been built in 1939. The Jones Motor Company had opened for business in 1939. The city's first retail complex, the Nob Hill Shopping Center, was built at Carlisle and Central in 1947, across the street from where Immanuel Presbyterian Church would go up a year later.¹⁹ As empty lots in existing subdivisions filled up, new subdivisions sprang up adjacent to the university and its nascent law school. Churches, commercial strips, community centers and recreational facilities such as the university golf course were built to meet the needs of the growing population.

Purchase of Land and Establishment of Immanuel

¹⁴ David Kammer, "The Twentieth Century Suburban Growth of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1904-1959," Multiple Property Listing.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ William E. Davis, "Miracle on the Mesa," University of New Mexico Press, 2005, Appendix 2.

¹⁷ Kammer, "The Twentieth Century Suburban Growth of Albuquerque."

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The Monte Vista Fire Station was placed on the National Register in 1987. The Jones Motor Company and the Nob Hill Business Center were added in 1993 and 1994, respectively. Large portions of the Monte Vista and College View additions were placed on the National Register as a single historic district in 2001.

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In this atmosphere of constant growth, the Men's Bible Class at First Presbyterian Church bought two lots at Carlisle and Silver in 1943. The lots ascend the steep slope of Old Tijeras Arroyo – nearly 15 feet from alley to future curbside.²⁰ Uncertainties and shortages surrounding the war precluded their immediate development, but the lots were deeded to the Presbytery to be used for a new church when the time was right. Under the auspices of First Presbyterian, more than sixty families met in a variety of locations – Bandelier Elementary School, the 7 Up Bottling Factory, and two other churches – near the Carlisle and Silver site over the next few years. Then, in 1947, the Presbytery appointed a committee to help the young congregation. In addition, the governing body at First Presbyterian Church encouraged its members "... to affiliate with the new Church if they so desire, and that every aid and assistance be given ... to the end that God's Kingdom may be extended and a greater work done in the Master's name."²¹ The new congregation chose the name Immanuel, meaning "God with us." They also formed a building committee with C.C. Broome as its chairman.

Other suburban churches were going up at a rapid rate. By 1949, Albuquerque had an estimated 80 churches, almost double the number listed in the previous city directory, and many more were in planning stages. On the East Mesa, the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, the Episcopal St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa, Monte Vista Christian Church, First Congregational Church and Immanuel Presbyterian Church were under construction.²² Ultimately, as Albuquerque continued its eastward expansion, Immanuel Presbyterian's congregation would assist in starting at least one more church, New Life Presbyterian, in another new subdivision.²³

Selection of Architect John Gaw Meem

Few congregations undertook the effort or expense of engaging architects to design their buildings, and those that did often hired architects with religious affiliations such as the Church Architectural Guild of America.²⁴ Significantly, Immanuel Presbyterian Church took that step, selecting the Territorial Revival style that had by then become popular in homes in the new subdivisions and one that the architect John Gaw Meem had been instrumental in defining. (Another congregation, St. Mark's-on-the-Mesa Episcopal Church, organized in 1948 a few blocks from Immanuel Presbyterian, hired fellow Episcopalian Meem to draw up plans and specifications for the parish house in the "Adobe Mission" style. Not all of the vestrymen wanted Meem as architect or the Pueblo style of his design, however, and a new architect was selected for the expansion.)²⁵ Members of the Immanuel Presbyterian congregation may have been familiar with Meem's work at nearby UNM, where his stamp is everywhere, from dormitories and the administration building to the Alumni Chapel. Meem designed 40 buildings on the campus before his retirement in 1959.²⁶ He also had a longstanding relationship with Presbyterians in Santa Fe. Meem had been commissioned in 1927 by the First Presbyterian Church in Santa Fe, one of the oldest Protestant congregations in New Mexico, for the design of a manse and later for the rebuilding of the church. That congregation "has been a patron and enthusiastic supporter of the regional Spanish Pueblo style," he told friends many years later, noting the church had hired him just three years after he'd started practicing architecture.

²⁰ Topographic Map of Lots 16-19, Mankato Place by Ross-Breyer Engineering, Nov. 22, 1948.

²¹ Gertrude Hogg et al., "35 Forward in Faith – History of Immanuel Presbyterian Church."

²² Albuquerque Progress, October 1949.

²³ Oral Communication with IPC Member Jean Adams, 2006.

²⁴ David Kammer, "Suburban Growth of Albuquerque."

²⁵ Stanford Lehmberg, Churches for the Southwest.

²⁶ Ibid.

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C.C. Broome, Immanuel Presbyterian's building committee chair, introduced himself in a letter to Meem dated April 5, 1948. "Our members are interested in the Territorial Colonial type of building, and it has been pointed out that your experience in this type of building is such that we would like to discuss the possibilities of you undertaking the commission."²⁷ Meem responded, "We are quite familiar with the Territorial type of architecture and have several examples of it in Albuquerque – including LaQuinta and several residences."²⁸

Design Criteria

A meeting took place on May 4 at Broome's Furniture Store in Nob Hill, and plans for a multi-phased building were quickly initiated. In an internal memo dated May 7, 1948, Meem noted that the first unit should include no more than 7,000 square feet because, at \$10.00 a square foot, "... \$65,000 to \$70,000 is the maximum they dare try to raise on [their] first drive" of a projected \$200,000 to \$250,000 total cost. He noted that the fellowship room and kitchen should be on the first floor. The Sunday school and a temporary sanctuary for 400 on the second should accommodate future expansion. Meem also reminded himself to "...try to get churchly atmosphere in spite of low ceilings and many windows."²⁹

They knew from the outset that construction would of necessity be phased. Pastor J. Elbert Nash encouraged Meem to "think in terms of future expansion.... We are anxious to build so that 50 years from now they will not have to undo what we have done ... or in 25 years."³⁰ Meem responded accordingly, and "A Study for the Immediate Development of the Immanuel Presbyterian Church of Albuquerque" was completed two months later. Included here as Figure A, it delineated areas proposed for immediate development with bold lines and future expansions with broken lines. The congregation unanimously approved the plan and chose Fred Mossman as the contractor. A prominent businessman and member of the congregation, Mossman built all three phases of the building.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church is an impressive example of a Territorial style church in a suburban setting, and its sleek lines befit its postwar origins. It has undergone some alterations that detract from Meem's original design. Those changes include the addition of stained glass and the alterations required to accommodate a much larger organ. However, the sanctuary in particular and the overall configuration of the stepped building masses retain the essential integrity of the architectural conception. Immanuel Presbyterian Church is the work of an architect whose name has become synonymous with Santa Fe style, who was building on a historic legacy and his own considerable body of work. It is a worthy space for contemplation and spiritual renewal. It is also worthy of inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

²⁷ C.C. Broome, April 5, 1948 Letter to John Gaw Meem. Unless otherwise noted, all correspondence is in Meem Correspondence Box 56 in the John Gaw Meem Archives.

²⁸ John Gaw Meem, April 19, 1948 Letter to C.C. Broome.

²⁹ John Gaw Meem, May 7, 1948 Memorandum of Conference with Building Committee.

³⁰ J. Elbert Nash, May 4, 1948 Letter to John Gaw Meem.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM

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Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

NOTE: All of the Meem drawings and correspondence were found in the John Gaw Meem Archives of Southwestern Architecture in the Center for Southwest Research at Zimmerman Library, University of New Mexico.

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church

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Bernalillo, NM

County and State

Meem, Zehner, Holien and Associates. "Development Study for Immanuel Presbyterian Church," Sheet No. 557-A. Santa Fe, NM, January 8, 1950.

Meem, John Gaw and Hugo Zehner and Associates. "The Immanuel Presbyterian Church – Albuquerque, New Mexico." Santa Fe, NM, 1949.

Meem, Zemner, Holien and Associates. "1955 Additions and Alteration to the Immanuel Presbyterian Church -Albuquerque, New Mexico." Santa Fe, NM, 1955.

Meem, John Gaw. Correspondence box 56, job file 557.

Minutes of the Session of Immanuel Presbyterian Church, March, 1948 to December, 1962.

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Morgan, Roy. Electronic communication with the applicants. Albuquerque, December 1, 2009.

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Simms, Betty Lou. Oral communication with the applicants. Albuquerque, NM, 2003.

Weidner, George E. "The Chancel Cross," Unpublished manuscript. Albuquerque, NM, 1966.

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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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

SR-1868, State Register nomination for Immanuel Presbyterian Church; SR-1825 National Register multiple property nomination
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): "Buildings Designed by John Gaw Meem."

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.619 acre

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13 353000 3883000
Zone Easting Northing

2 Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing

4 Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Township 10N Range 3E Lot 16-19 Block One Mankato Place; Location is at the intersection of Carlisle and Silver Streets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundary represents the legal boundary of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Scott Sandlin / Eleanor Mitchell

organization

date February 8, 2010

street & number 1520 Columbia Dr., NE / 1304 Arboles NW

telephone

city or town Albuquerque

state NM

zip code 87106-8710

e-mail

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Immanuel Presbyterian Church

street & number 114 Carlisle Boulevard SE

telephone 505-265-7628

city or town Albuquerque

state NM

zip code 87106

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Figures

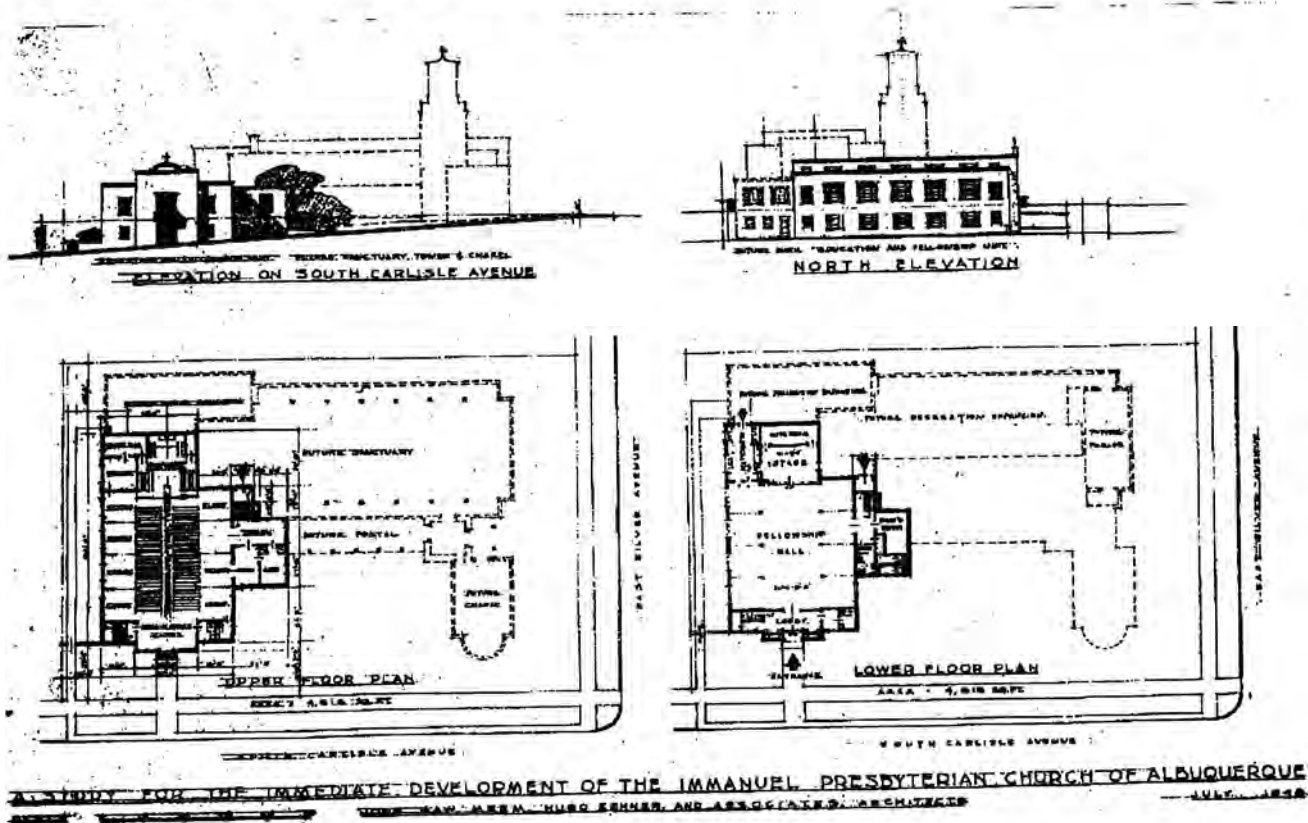
Figure A: 1948 Study Showing Areas Proposed for Immediate Development and Future Expansions

Figure B: The West or Carlisle Façade with the Main Entrance to the Original building

Figure C: Contemporary Plans of the First and Second Stories

Figure D: The West Portal and the Bell Tower

Figure E: The Sanctuary and the Chancel Cross



1948 Study Showing Areas Proposed for Immediate Development and Future Expansions

Figure A

Immanuel Presbyterian Church

Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM

County and State

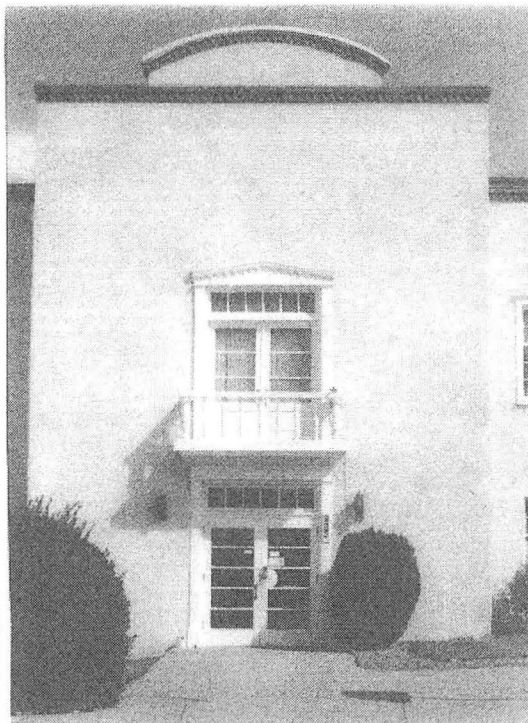
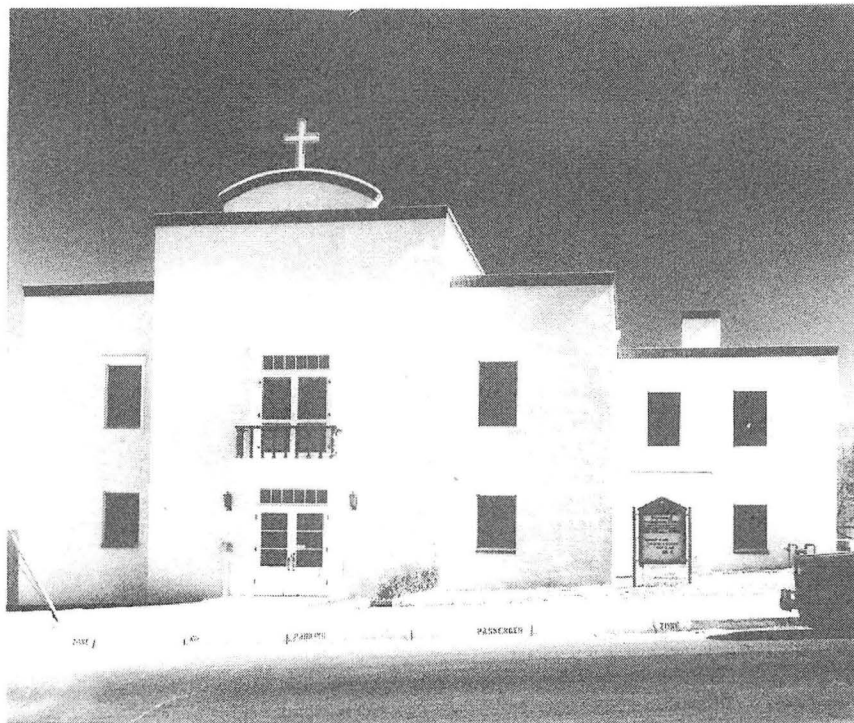


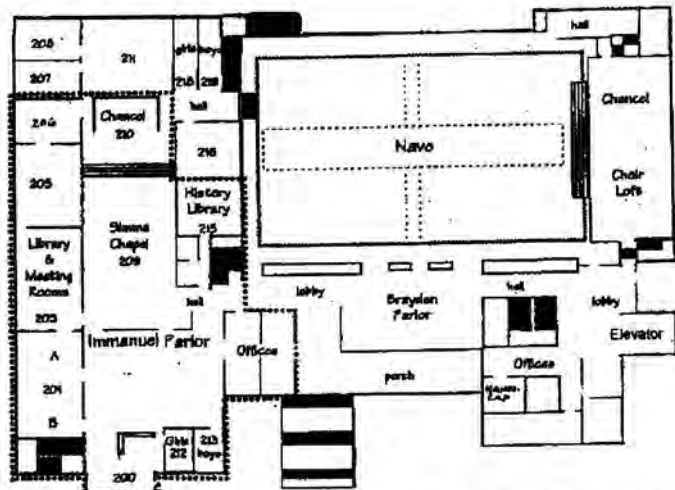
Figure B

West or Carlisle Façade with Main Entrance (c. 1949) before the sanctuary was added in 1956 (left), juxtaposed with a recent photograph showing the same façade after the sanctuary addition (right)

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
County and State

UPPER FLOOR PLAN

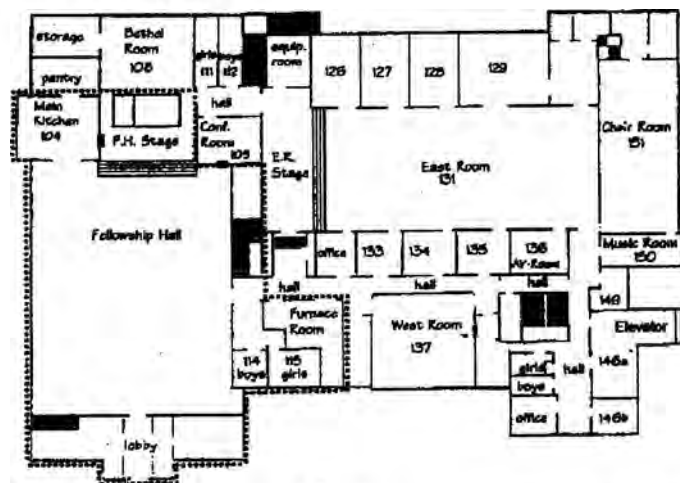


CARLISLE BOULEVARD, SE



----- Perimeter of Original Building

LOWER FLOOR PLAN



CARLISLE BOULEVARD, SE

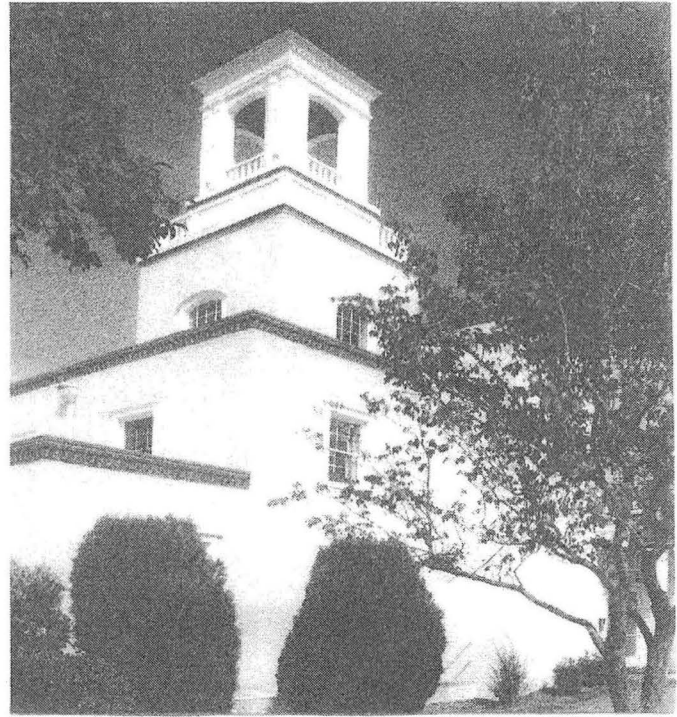
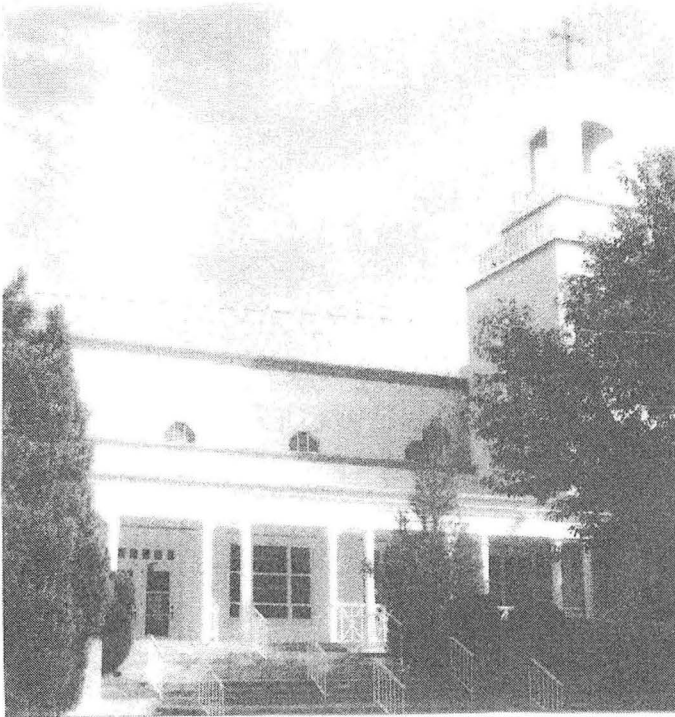


----- Perimeter of Original Building

Contemporary Plans of the First and Second Stories
Figure C

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
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**The West Portal and the Bell Tower
Figure D**

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
County and State



The Sanctuary and the Chancel Cross
Figure E

Photographs: Photo Log

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600 x 1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Immanuel Presbyterian Church

City or Vicinity: Albuquerque,

County: Bernalillo County **State:** NM

Photographer: Edgar Boles

Date Photographed: February 25, 2004

Location of negatives: City of Albuquerque Planning Department

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 1 of 12

Photo Log

Photo 1 of 12

Façade of Original Building (North Wing)
Facing Southeast

Photo 2 of 12

Detail of Entry of Original Building (North Wing)
Facing East

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Name of Property

Bernalillo, NM
County and State

Photographs: Photo Log Continued

Photo 3 of 12
West Elevation Representing all Three Building Phases
Facing East

Photo 4 of 12
South Elevation of 1956 Addition
Facing North

Photo 5 of 12
Entry of West Lobby and Brayden Parlor
Facing Southwest

Photo 6 of 12
Sanctuary
Facing North

Photo 7 of 12
Sanctuary and Upper Seating Area
Facing South

Photo 8 of 12
Sanctuary, Decorative Sheet Metal Light Fixture
Facing Up

Photo 9 of 12
Altar, Chancel Cross and Pulpits
Facing Southeast

Photo 10 of 12
Chancel Cross
Facing Up

Photo 11 of 12
Simms Chapel
Facing East

Photo 12 of 12
Setting, Nob Hill
Facing Southeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Immanuel Presbyterian Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE Buildings Designed by John Gaw Meem MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW MEXICO, Bernalillo

DATE RECEIVED: 1/05/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/14/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/01/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/20/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000032

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2.22.11 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

1 of 12



Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

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Immanuel Presbyterian Church,
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

11 of 12



Immanuel Presbyterian Church (in background),
Bernalillo Co., New Mexico

12 of 12



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



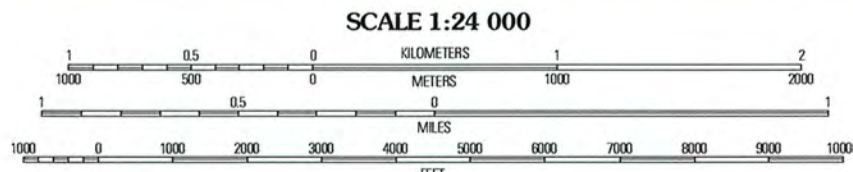
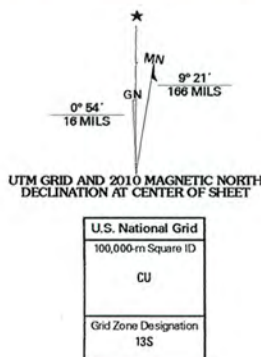
ALBUQUERQUE EAST QUADRANGLE
NEW MEXICO
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



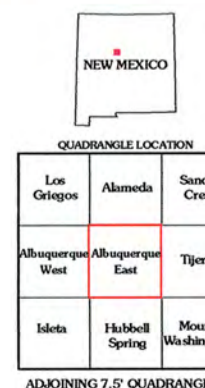
Immanuel
Presbyterian
Church
NAD 1983
UTM Zone 13N (in meters)
EAST (x) 353754.432207
NORTH (y) 3882939.41149

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 13S
10 000-foot ticks: New Mexico Coordinate System of 1983
(central zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, May 2009
Roads.....©2006-2010 Tele Atlas
Names.....GNIS, 2008
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2009
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1999



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988
This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the
draft USGS Standards for 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.5.11



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Interstate Route: State Route:
US Route: Local Road:
Ramp: 4WD:

ALBUQUERQUE EAST, NM
2010



BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

BATAAN MEMORIAL BUILDING
407 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 236
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501
PHONE (505) 827-6320 FAX (505) 827-6338

JAN 05 2011

29 December 2010

Paul R. Lusignan, Historian
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" [Eye] Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, NM

Dear Mr. Lusignan:

Please find enclosed nomination for the Immanuel Presbyterian Church, along with accompanying USGS map, Black & White photographs and a CD-R with digital files of complete nomination packet.

The New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee (CPRC) voted unanimously at their October 15, 2010 meeting to forward the nomination of this building to the Keeper of the Register for consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Immanuel Presbyterian Church was listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties in 2004 and is nominated under the *Buildings Designed by John Gaw Meem* Multiple Property Documentation Form (listed 2003 in the National Register).

Thank you for your assistance to the Keeper in reviewing this nomination. As this is my first submittal of a nomination, please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. I can be reached by phone at (505) 476-0444 or e-mail at Terry.Moody@state.nm.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry Moody".

Terry Moody
State and National Register Coordinator

Enclosures: One National Register nomination, Black & White photographs, one USGS map, and a CD-R.