

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAY 10 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC First Methodist Episcopal Church

AND/OR COMMON

Friendship Hall

## LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Third Street and Lead Avenue

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#1

STATE

New Mexico

\_\_ VICINITY OF  
CODE 35

COUNTY

Bernalillo

CODE

001

## CLASSIFICATION

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

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

The First United Methodist Church, Inc.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

314 Lead Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

New Mexico

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bernalillo County Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Albuquerque

STATE

New Mexico

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties

DATE

June 20, 1975

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

New Mexico State Planning Office, 200 West de Vargas St.

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico, 87503

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Albuquerque, now known as Friendship Hall, is a handsome building of Folk-Gothic style, built in 1904 from plans drawn by Charles F. Whittlsey.

With its tall steeple and arched doors and windows it resembles many churches erected during the 19th century, particularly in the mid-West in a style familiar to Anglo settlers from that region. At the time this style contrasted markedly with the traditional Spanish-Pueblo adobe houses of worship in Albuquerque. However, it remained in vogue only a relatively short time and was superceded by a variety of modifications of other styles. This church, thus, represents the advent of Anglo culture into New Mexico in both an architectural and religious sense.

The walls of the church, constructed of 16" x 32" cement blocks designed to imitate cut stone, are brownish grey and contrast with the red slate shingles covering the cross gabled roof. The spire, rising majestically from the northeast corner, is composed of a bell tower with two narrow arched stained glass windows on each of the outer faces under large wooden louvered panels capped by a steep shingled roof painted silver with a cross on the top. The 80' x 54' structure was erected under the supervision of A. W. Hayden, contractor and builder.

Just inside the entrance on the north is a small vestibule which contains the cornerstone of the little adobe church built on the same site in 1880, all that remains of the first home of the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church. This room opens into the sanctuary divided by a sliding wall used formerly to separate adult and children's Sunday School groups. The most striking aspect of the interior is the high dark wood ceiling which rises in a triangular fashion from all four sides to an apex thirty feet above the floor. It is supported by heavy oak beams each made of four 2" x 10" boards.

Particularly significant are the stained glass windows located on all four sides containing various iconographic motifs and dedicatory remarks typical of church windows of the period. Maurice Loriaux, director of the American Stained Glass Institute of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in a report to the trustees in 1974, speculated that the windows were probably done between 1907 and 1914 by a master student of Louis Tiffany, founder of the American stained glass style. Pictures made at the time of the church dedication in 1905 indicate, however, that the windows were already in place at that time. Hence, the date of their manufacture has not been definitely established. Loriaux goes on to say:

A major portion of the glass (approximately 90%) is the product of the Kokomo Opalescent Glass Company in Kokomo, Indiana. Kokomo was the original supplier of glass for Louis Tiffany's many projects... The artisan has employed three styles of glass, the streaky opalescent translucents, the opalescent transparencies, the granite textured opalescents and a minor quantity of some other glasses of lesser distinctions.

The most interesting window, a combination of three arched panels under a round segment placed in the west end of the north wall has a patriotic theme memorializing the Grand Army of the Republic and its auxiliaries.

(See Continuation Sheet Page 1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

A. W. Hayden

Charles F. Whittlsey

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The growth of the First Methodist Episcopal Church exemplifies the history and development of the Protestant denominations in New Mexico in the late 19th century. The building is also an important Victorian architectural landmark in Albuquerque and was a significant element in the expansion and subsequent decline of the section of the city known as New Town. One of the first Protestant groups to organize in Albuquerque, it has remained at the same downtown location throughout the many changes in that neighborhood. Urban Renewal has demolished most of the older structures in New Town but the church building remains from this early period.

With United States occupation of New Mexico in 1846, separation of church and state replaced the old policy of the establishment of the Roman Catholic Church which previous to that time had forbidden the entrance of Protestant sects into New Mexico. Soon Protestant denominations viewed New Mexico as a promising missionary field and newly arriving Anglo settlers brought their religious affiliations with them. Growth was slow, however, until after the Civil War and especially until after the arrival of the railroads.

During the 1850's the Rev. E. G. Nicholson initiated Methodist missionary work among the Spanish people in an area extending from Santa Fe to Socorro. Despite the aid of two Spanish-speaking assistants, he found this labor so discouraging that he soon left the Territory. One of the assistants, Benigno Cardenas, a converted Roman Catholic priest, remained and tried to help the Rev. G. B. Durbin of New York who formed a preaching circuit in 1855. Little was accomplished and, after a year, Durbin returned east and Cardenas rejoined the Roman Catholic Church. Methodist proselytizing ceased until 1873 when the Rev. John Stub established a circuit in the lower Rio Grande Valley and delivered an occasional sermon in Albuquerque. In November, 1879 the Rev. Nathaniel Gale, who had previously served at Silver City, in southwestern New Mexico, received a call to take charge of Methodist work in Albuquerque. His arrival marked the organization of the First Methodist Episcopal Church congregation.

Establishing a church was slow and difficult work but the Rev. Mr. Gale persevered and founded a permanent nucleus. Together with Rev. J. M. Ashley, a Congregational minister, he arranged for services to be held jointly in the Bernalillo County Court House in Old Town, as the original location of the city is now known. On April 18, 1880 the First Methodist Episcopal Church organized as a separate congregation of five members with the Rev. Mr. Gale as pastor. In the same year foundations were laid for the first church building, an adobe structure, 34' x 54', at the intersection of Third

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At the top of the middle panel an eagle is perched over crossed cannons and piled cannon balls with a replica of a medal below, showing a star surrounded by a wreath. Emblems representing various armed service branches are in each point of the star which is suspended from a section of the flag. An inscription at the bottom reads "In Memoriam G. A. R." The two side panels contain less elaborate medals dedicated to The Women's Relief Corps and Ladies of the G.A.R. In the round section is a thirty three star flag which flew over Fort Sumter when it surrendered in 1860 to Confederate forces. Church members believe that the window was a gift to their congregation and are seeking more evidence.

Within the last few years the windows have suffered great damage from vandals and need extensive repairs. A restoration program is underway which will rehabilitate the broken glass and provide protection with unbreakable plastic called Lex-an on the outside and plexiglass on the inside.

The west end of the church contains service areas - a kitchen, bathrooms and storage space. Access is provided by 8' square doors which slide up and down. Since construction of the new church next door some interior remodeling has taken place. The altar, altar rails and pews were removed, the floor which sloped from north to south was leveled, the moveable wall was taken out of its frame and a stage was built to refit the old structure for its new role as an auxiliary building.

ITEM #8

Street and Lead Avenue near the recently constructed Atlantic and Pacific Railroad depot, in the growing neighborhood called New Town. This structure was completed in 1881. Railroad employees, whose families augmented the growing congregation, contributed funds which made the construction possible.

By 1904 the congregation had outgrown its original building and plans were made for an enlarged and impressive new house of worship. Members of the building committee carefully listed on official church stationery the reasons for a new church and the financial condition of the building fund. This interesting document reads as follows:

Some Solid Reasons Why You Should Help the First Methodist Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico to Erect a New Church Building.

1. Rail-road shops employ 700 men.  
Plans for church parlors, gymnasium, baths  
Subscriptions of \$1200 from Railroad men inspired  
Methodist to plan building campaign.

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PAGE #2

2. Consumptives coming to Albuquerque for health, must have church home for them.

Church employs a Deaconess to work among strangers.

3. Many families coming to Albuquerque to start new life and new homes. Need church for them.

4. Growing town, church must build to the city.

5. Large missionary field

Students here for High School and University  
Large missionary field for sons and daughters of Spanish speaking families.

6. Present church inadequate for needs

Sunday School has to be turned out to accommodate fathers and mothers for church service.

7. Need \$14,000, Church members had raised \$5,000, women of the church pledged \$2,000.

The building committee: B.H. Ives, President, J.B. Fish, Secretary, R.M. Ball, Treasurer, F.G. Pratt, H.S. Grant, George Dent, J.W. Anderson, J.W. Edwards, Thomas Hall.

The new church, completed on the same site as the original adobe one, was dedicated January 5, 1905, by Bishop Henry W. Warren. The Rev. Wilbur Fisk was pastor at this time. The adobe material from the old building was given to the Rev. Thomas Harwood, prominent Methodist missionary and church historian, to be used in erecting a chapel for a Spanish-American congregation in Barelitas, an Hispano community south of Albuquerque's downtown area.

The construction and dedication of this building was symbolic of the growing strength and importance of the Methodist Church in the Territory of New Mexico. This congregation together with the faculty and administrators from The Harwood Biblical and Industrial School for Boys in 1893, the Harwood School for Girls in 1887 and a tuberculosis sanatorium in 1912 witnessed the position of importance of the Methodist Church in New Mexico.

In 1955, the congregation decided once again that a more modern building was needed and a new church was built on adjoining property at the corner of Fourth Street and Lead Avenue and the old church, renamed Friendship Hall, was converted into an auxiliary building. The structure is now used for musical productions, Boy Scout meetings and other community activities. Plans are presently underway by the congregation for its rehabilitation.