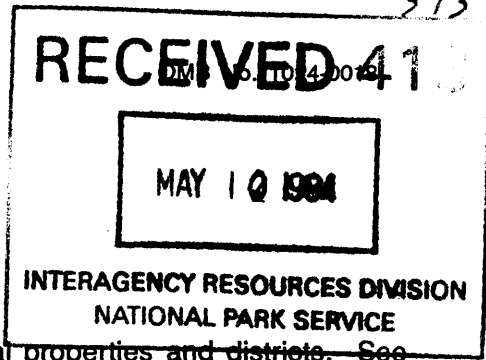


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name First Presbyterian Church of Florence, Arizona
other names/site number _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 225 East Butte Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Florence vicinity _____
state Arizona code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85232

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination 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 the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant x local level.

James Garvin AZSHP March 15, 1994
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Office/Arizona State Parks
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Church Sub: _____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Church Sub: _____

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Spanish Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Mission style tile

walls Common brick, fired

other _____

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3 First Presbyterian Church of Florence
name of property
Pinal
county and State

=====

A hallway bisects the main floor from east to west, separating the nave on the north from the single-story wing on the south. That wing contains a children's nursery, choir room, communion room, a small storage area and restroom.

The full basement is accessed either from the outside stairway on the northeast corner of the building or from the interior stairway leading down from the west end of the intersecting hallway on the ground floor. The basement has been partitioned to provide for a kitchen in the southwest corner and a restroom and storage area successively north of it. The fireplace is built in the center of the wall at the south end. At the north end, framed partitions provide space for a classroom and a storage room. The walls of the basement are painted, unfinished concrete.

The entire building is sound. No significant alterations, additions or structural flaws detract from the original construction.

=====

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. a birthplace or a grave.
- D. a cemetery.
- E. a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F. a commemorative property.
- G. less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

church

Period of Significance 1931-1943

Significant Dates 1931

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Wallingford & Bell, Architects

Section 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

The First Presbyterian Church of Florence, Pinal County, Arizona, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a significant example of Spanish Colonial Revival style which has retained its original integrity with minimal alteration since completion in 1931. The church is located at 225 E. Butte Avenue, on the southeast corner of the intersection of Butte Avenue and Orlando Street. This is within the Florence Townsite Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

The Florence Presbyterian Church is the second oldest continuously used Presbyterian church building in the former Arizona Synod. A group of town mothers first obtained permission to conduct a Sunday school in the original adobe county court house which had been completed in 1878 at the corner of 5th and Main Streets in Florence. Rev. Isaac T. Whitmore presided over the first midday service there on April 1, 1888. A formal organizational ceremony was conducted on November 4, 1888. In the early 1890s, a parcel of land on Pinal Street was purchased and a small building, about 30 feet by 45 feet was erected. That church was used until construction of the present building was completed in 1931.

The first proposal to build the present church was made in 1929 when the members planned to sell their building on 8th Street, the manse on Central Street, and the "Spanish Chapel" on Park Street. The "Spanish Chapel" had originally served the Spanish-speaking members of the church but at the time was being used as a meeting place for the Sunday school classes. Proceeds from the sale of these properties could be used to finance the proposed new construction. That particular plan did not materialize--ten years later, none of the properties had been sold.

However, other means to build were pursued. The congregation began to raise money by subscriptions, which together with a \$2,000 gift and a \$2,000 loan from the National Board of Missions combined to provide the sum of \$13,000, enough to begin construction on land which had been purchased at a reduced price (\$900) from Dr. George M. Brockway, M.D., a member of the church. The well-known Phoenix architectural firm of Wallingford and Bell provided plans for the building and estimated that it could be completed for \$25,000.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Gressinger, A. W. A History of Florence. Pinal County Historical Society, n.d.
 Nichols, Roger L. "A Miniature Venice, Florence, Arizona, 1866-1910," Journal of Arizona History, vol. 16 (Winter 1975): 335-356.
 Sobin, Harris J. "From Vigas to Rafters, Architectural Evolution in Florence, Arizona," Journal of Arizona History, vol. 16 (Winter 1975): 357-382.
 _____, Florence Townsite, A.T.: Final Report of Florence Townsite Historic District Study. Tucson: Harris Sobin and Associates, 1977.
 Records of First Presbyterian Church, Florence, Arizona.
 Florence Newspapers.

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
- Name of repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
12	<u>464090</u>	<u>3654590</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 8, 9, and 10, Block 2, Douglas Addition to the Town of Florence, Arizona, recorded in the Office of the Recorder, Pinal County, Florence, Arizona.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original church site which has historically been associated with the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 First Presbyterian Church of Florence
name of property
Pinal
county and State

=====
This building is significant under Criterion C for its Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture, retained since completion in 1931 in its original integrity with minimal alteration. In a community initially dominated almost exclusively by adobe construction (plain, without adornment or embellishment), this church exemplifies the final phase in the transition in Florence from adobe to brick construction. The Florence Townsite Historic District lies to the north and west of the church and contains the bulk of the town's extant adobe structures, together with transitional mixed styles used since the first buildings were erected in the 1860s. The Presbyterian Church, along with the high school, a Catholic church, and the Pinal County Court House were all built of locally fired red brick with lime mortar which began before the turn of the century to replace raw adobe as a favored building material.

Located at the southern end of Main Street, the brick high school building was completed in 1915 and is another fine example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in Florence. The other two significant brick structures are visible from the church location. They are the 1891 two-story Pinal County Court House, topped with an ornate timber and sheet metal cupola and standing two blocks to the north, and directly north of the court house, the 1911 Third Catholic Church of the Assumption. This church is adjacent on the west to the adobe First Catholic Church of the Assumption which was built in the early 1870s, the first Roman Catholic Church in central Arizona.

The First Presbyterian Church is located in the central portion of the town of Florence, county seat of Pinal County. The building sits on the southeast corner of the intersection of Butte Avenue and Orlando Street. The main entry faces north toward Butte Avenue, which is also the alternate business route for U.S. Highway 79. There are full set-backs from both streets on the north and east.

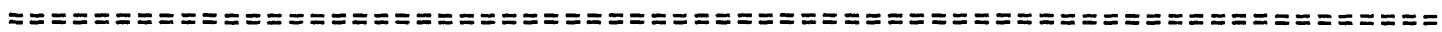
From the outside, the church presents an imposing presence, sitting high above the street level to the north. All exterior walls are red brick. The church is a rectangular single-hall type, with surrounding wings on the south end. North to south the building is approximately 80 feet long. The main north portion containing the sanctuary (nave) is 32 feet wide. On the south the surrounding single story wings make that end of the building 60 feet wide. A bell tower stands centrally on the west side. Its base is approximately 12 feet square with walls 31 feet high. At the top is an open belfrey with wood balusters and a tile roof. The side walls of the sanctuary are buttressed by brick pilasters which extend through the walls inside and out, leaving 8-foot bays in between. Foundation and basement walls are of poured concrete.

The main portion of the building on the north is covered with a medium-sloped, open eaves gable roof with red mission style tile. This tile also covers a pent roof over the parapets of the wings on the east, west, and south. A flat, built-up roof extends from the parapets to the walls of the taller central section of the building. Ornamentation of the exterior walls is limited and simple.

Two chimneys still stand, one centrally located at the rear of the south wing and the other on the west side of the west wing. Neither are operational. The chimney on the south served the fireplace in the basement. The second serviced wood-fired stoves in the basement kitchen.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 First Presbyterian Church of Florence
name of property
Pinal
county and State



There are five points of entry into the building. On the north, concrete steps with pipe rails and concrete cheeks provide elevation from the sidewalk to the main entry. On the east, a concrete ramp with pipe rails allows handicapped entry into a central east-west hallway. On the west, a set of concrete steps leads to the door into the same hallway from that side; also, concrete steps lead to a doorway into the bell tower. Access to the basement from the outside is by way of concrete steps with pipe rails at the northeast corner of the building.

The primary entry is through a semicircular arch recessed into the front of the church. Above the doors and inside the archway (tympantum), a cross of white detailed tile is inset into the brick face. The bell tower has simple brick reliefs, 6 inches wide x 21 feet high, set into the side walls. At each corner of the north end of the building are brick piers with concrete caps. Window bays at each side of the main entry have steel lintels and flared sills.

Doors at the front entry are of carved wood, eight panels, 2-leaf, ca. 1950. Two doors open from the outside into the bell tower. That on the north is 8-lite, wood-framed; that on the west is standard wood framed. All other exterior doors are wood of recent date.

Fenestration is varied throughout the church. In the wall above the archway of the front entry is a circular stained glass rose window. This is protected by a steel grill of four bars, two vertical and two horizontal. The east and west walls of the north taller portion of the building, which contains the nave, originally had multi-paned windows, 3' x 6' with transoms, set between the successive buttresses. Glazing was of frosted, opaque glass. In 1985, nine sanctuary windows were replaced with stained glass memorial windows given in tribute to the loved ones of the donors. Two smaller stained glass windows are inset in the bays at each side of the main entry. Original windows in the wings were 3 over 1 lites containing frosted, opaque glass of a rather coarse random scatter pattern. Some of this has been replaced, but much still remains.

The nave of the church is 58 feet long by 32 feet wide. This section is two-equals-one-story in height. The roof inside is open structure design, supported by built-up trusses of dimensioned timber with tension rods. At the juncture of the wall and base of the trusses are decorative wooden brackets. Six by six purlins run at right angles to 2 x 6 rafters set on 24" centers, covered by 1 x 6 sheeting. Interior walls are plastered. The chancel is raised above the floor level approximately 20" at the south end of the nave with the pulpit on the east and the choir loft on the west, all at the same elevation. Above the chancel is an oil painting, approximately 6' x 15' depicting some of the significant events in the life of Jesus. This painting is recessed in a paneled wall which forms a frame. The paneling is of modern design, placed over the entire south wall of the chancel. Folding, wood-framed doors separate the sanctuary from the study/library alcove on the east adjacent to the pulpit and also from the seating alcove opposite on the west. Doorways also lead from the chancel to each of the coves. The base of the bell tower is accessible through doors from the west seating alcove and from the sanctuary. The main entry structure at the north end extends into the sanctuary approximately four feet.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2 First Presbyterian Church of Florence
name of property
Pinal
county and State

=====
Architect Vere Wallingford came highly recommended. He lived in Phoenix from 1914 to 1945 and provided architectural services for many public and private structures in Phoenix, including Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Grace Lutheran Church, Good Samaritan Hospital, Kenilworth, Lowell, and Monroe Schools and many others. Ernest W. McFarland who later served as majority leader of the U.S. Senate, governor of the state, and chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona, was chairman of the building committee and had been pushing for work to begin for some years.

On April 10, 1930, a ground-breaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction. Excavation for the basement was done by a member of the congregation, W. G. (Billy) Knight. He used teams of mules and scrapers furnished by the Arizona State Prison which is located adjacent to the town. Mr. Knight had worked for several years as farm superintendent at the prison and was allowed to do the work on his days off. The Rev. Samuel B. Hannah had been pastor of the church since the previous year and was also serving as chaplain for the state prison. He had received permission to use prison trustees who volunteered to work on the project. This group, known as "The Preacher's Gang," labored diligently in the construction of the building. George Smith, owner of a local brick yard, provided the bricks at a price of approximately twelve cents each. He and his sons, Willard and Ray, assisted by numerous volunteers built the walls of the church. This group also poured the concrete walls and floor of the basement, as well as the steps. Jack Smith, brother of George, did the carpenter work. A man, name unknown, offered to plaster one of the interior rooms as a small compensation for the kindness which had been shown he and his ailing wife by Rev. Hannah. This man's work was so expert that he was engaged, with pay, to do all the interior plastering. Skilled tradesmen, volunteers, and prison trustees completed the church a short time after the first service was celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 5, 1931.

Two significant cosmetic additions have been made since completion of the building. A large oil painting above the chancel was completed in 1948. Rev. Hannah is given credit for inspiring the work of art. In his position as chaplain of the prison, he ministered to the needs of a prisoner who offered to donate his talents as an artist to paint a mural for the church. Permission was secured from the authorities at the prison and the prisoner, Robert Monet, conceived the format for the picture and completed the work a short time later. Rev. Hannah provided religious books, a Bible and pictures for reference, then left the entire project in the artist's hands. The final painting, 6 feet x 15 feet, depicts many of the singular events in the life of Jesus. This painting now adds significantly to the spiritual presence within the church and is as much a part of the whole as are the architectural components of the building. In 1985, stained glass windows were designed, completed and installed in the side windows of the nave, creations of Mary Beth Goree, a local artisan.

In addition to Governor McFarland, who chaired the building committee from its beginning, two other Arizona governors have been members of the church: Joseph H. Kibbey, governor from 1905 to 1909 and Richard E. Sloan, governor from 1909 to 1912.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title John A. Swearingin / edited by SHPO staff

organization First Presbyterian Church of Florence date October 22, 1993

street & number P. O. Box 264 telephone 602/868-4413

city or town Florence state AZ zip code 85232

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

1. Current photograph (1994), looking south,taken by John Swearingin
2. Historic photograph (1931), looking south, photographer unknown

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name First Presbyterian Church of Florence

street & number 225 East Butte Street telephone 868-5634

city or town Florence, state AZ zip code 85232

Gila River



Ruggles Avenue

Florence, Arizona
Business District

U. S. Hwy 79

Prison
Employee
Housing

Main St.

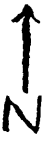
Orlando St.



First Presbyterian Church
of Florence, Arizona

Butte Street

Arizona
State
Prison



Legend:
Broken lines indicate
windows
Spaces indicate doors

First Presbyterian Church
Florence, Arizona
(Ground Floor)

NAVE

BELL
TOWER

STUDY

CHANCEL

(Choir)

(Pulpit)

STORAGE

REST ROOM

CHOIR ROOM

NURSERY





CLASS ROOM

STORAGE

First Presbyterian Church
Florence, Arizona

(Basement)

SOCIAL HALL

STORAGE

REST ROOM

KITCHEN

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000573 Date Listed: 6/10/94

First Presbyterian Church of Florence
Property Name

Pinal County AZ State
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Robert Lee
Signature of the Keeper

6/10/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Criteria Considerations A is added because the property is used for religious purposes.

The Area of Significance is amended to read "Architecture."

This information was confirmed with Reba Grandrud of the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

"Replacement Sheet"

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name First Presbyterian Church of Florence, Arizona

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 225 East Butte Avenue not for publication

city or town Florence vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Pinal code 021 zip code 85232

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Autumneth Lee

6/10/94

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)