

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 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 CHRISTIAN CHURCH
other names/site number FIRST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH; 5LA6551

2. Location

street & number 200 SOUTH WALNUT STREET N/A not for publication
city or town TRINIDAD N/A vicinity
state COLORADO code CO county LAS ANIMAS code 071 zip code 81082

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] September 26, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
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 certifying 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.) _____

[Signature] 11.7.95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

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	
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.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Mediterranean

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE; CERAMIC TILE; METAL

Narrative Description

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

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.
[X] 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:

- [X] 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

RAPP, ISAAC HAMILTON

RAPP, WILLIAM MORRIS

HENDRICKSON, ARTHUR C.

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
[X] Other

Name of repository:

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Name of Property

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, COLORADO

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid 1: Zone 13, Easting 544330, Northing 4113530

UTM grid 3: Zone, Easting, Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharin L. Barnes (member) Holly Wilson (OHP)

organization First Christian Church date 5/16/95

street & number 215 Glen Street telephone (719)846-7371

city or town Trinidad state CO zip code 81082

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.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name James N. Mangino, President, Board of Directors of First Christian Church

street & number 200 South Walnut Street telephone

city or town Trinidad state CO zip code 81082

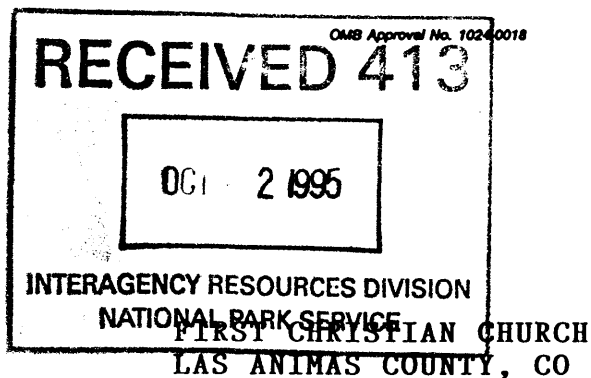
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

The Christian Church is located on the southeast corner of 1st and Walnut Streets in Trinidad, one block away from the Corazon de Trinidad National Register Historic District. The building occupies most of the land that slopes to the north. Concrete sidewalks run on the north and west sides of the building. There is a grassy area with two cedar trees out in front of the building and a gravel parking lot adjacent to the south elevation. The two-story building has a full basement which takes advantage of the sloping contour of the site to provide windows on three elevations and doors on the 1st Street elevation. The walls are red brick in a common bond. A concrete water table separates the upper stories from the raised basement walls which are comprised of four courses of stretcher bond with a recessed header course. The rectangular plan building has a flat roof; a parapet wall with concrete coping is evident on two elevations. A Mediterranean-inspired design with classical detailing, the building's ornamentation is confined to the two street (north and west) elevations. The restrained ornamentation includes green ceramic roof tile, concrete coping, metal cornices, round arched window openings with concrete keystones, and the Roman Doric Order used in the main entry and in an entablature. A subtle asymmetry permeates the building.

The main elevation faces west onto Walnut Street. It is comprised of five bays including two hipped-roof corner sections and a gabled-roof projecting entrance. Flanked by brick walls, a series of concrete steps with a pipe railing leads to the off-center, projecting entrance bay. A concrete ramp with wrought iron railings also winds from the driveway of the parking lot to this bay. The recessed entry is framed by two columns and a decorative entablature of the Roman Doric order. Each column with its fluted shaft supports the entablature comprised of a cornice with block modillions and a wide frieze consisting of triglyphs and metopes. Resting on the entablature above each column is a swag-decorated urn. Near the apex of the gable is a scroll-topped, concrete plaque containing "1922" underscored with garlands. Two sets of double doors with a multi-light transom of clear glass provide access to the building. Each door is wood frame with five vertical clear glass panels.

The bays on each side of the projecting, off-center entrance contain round-arched, double hung, windows, three on one side and two on the other. A brick header course outlines the semi-circular arch of the windows and is highlighted with concrete keystones. Above these windows, a shed roof rises up to irregularly-spaced pairs of straight-headed, casement windows framed in brick and separated by stucco panels.

All the windows are wood frame with concrete lugsills; some have aluminum storm windows. Unless otherwise noted as round-arched, all windows are straight-headed. The arched windows are double hung sash, while the others are either double hung sash or casement. All the windows contain colored glass; the casement sashes have twelve lights and the double hung sashes have six over six light.

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LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

DESCRIPTION (continued)

At each end of the main facade is a projecting, square section covered with a hipped roof. The asymmetrical quality of the building is continued in the fenestration pattern of these end sections. The section to the north has a round arched window above a straight-headed window; while at the southern end a round-arched window is below a straight-headed window. Above and behind these block-like projections is the peaked parapet wall of brick capped with concrete.

The gabled projection and the shed roof into which it merges is covered with green ceramic Spanish tile. The hipped roofs of the corner sections and the shed roof of the parapet wall are also covered with the green tile.

The 1st Street (north) elevation appears to be three stories due to the slope of the site that reveals the entire basement level. Below the stringcourse that serves as a water table is the basement level that contains a central bay comprised of three evenly spaced windows flanked by slightly recessed double-door entrances. The central bay of the upper level consists of a metal entablature supported by four brick pilasters. Like the Roman Doric entablature at the main entry, this one also has a cornice with block modillions and a frieze with triglyphs and metopes. Filling the three spaces between the pilasters are paired casement windows below a semi-circular panel of stucco on which a cross with shield is centered. Above the entablature, and below a metal cornice, are three pairs of casement windows centered on an expanse of stucco trimmed in brick. In the apex of the peaked parapet wall is a small round window trimmed with brick and concrete keystones. The symmetry of this facade is limited to the central bay as four windows punctuate one side of the central bay and two diagonally-spaced windows punctuate the other.

The south elevation, which faces the parking lot, is thoroughly punctuated by double-hung sash windows. The lower level is predominantly single windows with only a wooden door and two pairs of windows breaking up the pattern. Four pairs of windows followed by three single, long, narrow windows fill the upper level. The fenestration pattern of double hung sash windows on the east (rear) elevation is sparse and random.

The interior of the church reflects the fact that there was a very large congregation at the time of construction as there are full balconies in the main sanctuary and in the adjacent "Grand Canyon" room. The sanctuary and its balcony, that extends on three sides, contain original oak pews and has a seating capacity of 750. There is also an area for the choir, organist, and an area for an orchestra in the balcony. The pulpit is raised above the main floor and has a built in baptistery behind it that holds about 200 gallons of water for indoor baptisms. There is a dressing room behind the baptistery for those who are being baptized. The church has many class rooms for Sunday School and a full basement with kitchen, rest rooms, showers

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

DESCRIPTION (continued)

and living quarters. The basement has an area large enough for playing basketball, volleyball or serving dinner for large numbers of people. Original woodwork, such as moldings and panelling, remain. The floors on all three levels are hardwood, tongue and groove.

The property has undergone very little alteration since its construction. Re-roofing of the flat section occurred in 1981. Converting from coal to gas heat, a new furnace was installed in 1984. Two rest rooms were added on the main level and storm windows were installed in the 1980s. The ramp was constructed in 1988 as a memorial to one of the parishioners. These alterations have had little impact on the integrity of the property.

SIGNIFICANCE

The First Christian Church in Trinidad is eligible under criterion C for its architectural significance. The building is an interesting interpretation of the Mediterranean style by the prominent architectural firm of Rapp, Rapp & Hendrickson. It is one of the last buildings designed by the firm and illustrates the firm's breadth of architectural styles. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, the building also meets criteria consideration A.

One of nine children, Isaac Hamilton Rapp was born in 1854 in New York City. His family moved to Carbondale, Illinois in 1856 where his father occasionally worked as an architect but made his reputation as a contractor and superintendent. Five of the seven sons would become architects. It is believed that Isaac Hamilton learned his trade from his father, serving as an apprentice and assistant.

Isaac Hamilton moved to Trinidad in 1888 and the following year, he and C. W. Bulger set up an architectural firm specializing in public buildings. The firm did not last long, dissolving in 1892. Shortly thereafter his brother, William Morris Rapp, came out to join him. Together they established the firm of I. H. and W. M. Rapp in Trinidad. In 1904, Arthur C. Hendrickson joined the firm as a draftsman. He became a member of the firm in 1909. In the book Creator of the Santa Fe Style: Isaac Hamilton Rapp, Architect, author Carl D. Sheppard theorized the roles of the three men in the firm with William Morris keeping the books, Hendrickson overseeing construction, and Isaac Hamilton as the designer and head of the firm.

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In June 1920, William Morris contracted pneumonia and died. In August of the following year, Hendrickson died. Sheppard concludes that the death of his two partners was very difficult for Rapp to absorb. At age 67, he withdrew from his active career and moved back to Trinidad from Santa Fe where he remained for the rest of his life. According to Sheppard, the firm did not dissolve, but for all practical purposes it did no new work. When Isaac Hamilton Rapp died in March 1933, the local paper referred to him as "one of the most prominent of the pioneer residents of Trinidad" who was "linked with many of the important construction operations in this city and throughout New Mexico."

Rapp was not only one of Trinidad's most prominent citizens, he also designed most of its important buildings. The first commission of record for Bulger & Rapp was the Zion Lutheran Church (1889) with Gothic and Queen Anne styling. This was followed by the First Baptist Church described as "a medieval fantasy", the Temple of Aaron exemplifying the eclecticism of the Victorian Age, and the First National Bank of Trinidad in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. He also designed the West Theatre (1907) and the Beaux Arts styled Las Animas County Courthouse (1912). Rapp designed the East Avenue School, the Trinidad Country Club, and several homes. The Country Club was designed in the Pueblo Revival style and completed about the same time as the Christian Church.

According to Sheppard the firm was "up to date in its architectural vocabularies as any firm in the country. It was also acutely aware of its clientele and the degrees to which the clientele could be moved in acceptance of the modern."

Rapp maintained offices in Trinidad and Santa Fe and the firm was connected with many of the principal building operations in southern Colorado and New Mexico. In addition to his prolific work in Trinidad, Rapp was also responsible for other Colorado buildings including the Lamar County Courthouse and the high school in Walsenburg. Rapp's remarkable career was not confined to Colorado. He also designed many buildings in Santa Fe and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Rapp was responsible for the County Courthouse and the hotel La Fonda in Santa Fe.

Sheppard cites Chris Wilson who places the firm of Rapp and Rapp in perspective. Chris Wilson described them as

Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado's leading architects between about 1895 and 1920....Like other architects whose careers straddled the turn of the century, Rapp and Rapp moved freely along the range of eclectic styles, from Italianate and Richardsonian Romanesque through Neo-classical and Prairie to California Mission and Pueblo styles.

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LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, COSection number 8 Page 5**SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

The Mediterranean Style was a popular choice for churches, schools and residences in Colorado during the 1920s. Buildings of this style were distinguished by their tile roofs and restrained ornamentation. Generally stucco or brick, these buildings were often painted white to contrast with the brightly colored roof tiles. Roofs were a low pitched gable or flat behind a parapet. The style employed casement windows, wrought iron grille work, and arched windows and entrances. While possessing many of these characteristics of the Mediterranean Style, the First Christian Church is unusual in its use of classical detailing. The Roman Doric order was used around the entrance and in an entablature on the north elevation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The First Christian Church was organized in 1882 and in 1888 construction began on a stone edifice on a site one block north (East Main and Walnut) of the church's current home. When this first building became too small for the congregation, efforts began to find a new location. As there was not any institution in the city doing the work of a Y.M.C.A. or Y.W.C.A., the members conceived of the idea to erect a building with all the features of these organizations. The site for the present First Christian Church was purchased in April 1920 from W. J. Littleton for \$4,199. The architectural firm of Rapp, Rapp & Hendrickson designed the building. (It is interesting to note that all three architect's names appear on the August 23, 1920 dated drawings, even though William Morris died in June.)

A December 18, 1920 Chronicle News article announced that ground had been broken for the Christian Church and that building operations would progress as weather permitted. The article included an architect's drawing and noted that the new church would "be built to carry out a plan of the utmost utility, inasmuch as there will be no waste in ornamentation, such as domes, spires, steeples, etc.." and that "Trinidad material and Trinidad labor will be utilized in the construction of the building."

Construction on the building was halted for a period and resumed again in May 1922. The cornerstone was laid in August of that year and in December the local newspaper commented on the rapid progress being made on the erection of the building.

The formal and public dedication of the church was September 30, 1923. Erected and equipped at cost of \$85,000, the new church was described as "one of the finest and best equipped buildings among the Disciples of Christ in Colorado." The Chronicle-News article noted that while a church edifice, the building was also a community recreation and welfare center:

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Thus will the new church building become a community welfare center. The work now being planned by the church is along the lines of a city Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. Membership in the church will not be required for the use of the gymnasium and other features of the church. The church building is to be dedicated for better citizenship.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Chronicle-News (Trinidad). 18 December 1920; 31 December 1922; 30 September 1923; 28 March 1933.

Pearce, Sarah J. A Guide To Colorado Architecture. Denver: Colorado Historical Society, 1983.

Sheppard, Carl D. Creator of the Santa Fe Style: Isaac Hamilton Rapp, Architect. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988.

Architectural drawings for the Christian Church by I. H. Rapp, W. M. Rapp & A. C. Hendrickson (1920) located at the First Christian Church in Trinidad.

Tax Assessor and County Clerk and Recorder records located at the Las Animas County Courthouse in Trinidad.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lot three (3) and the north 16 feet of lot four (4) and the north 16 feet of the west 55 feet of lot (5) in block 88 of the original town site of Trinidad.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This includes the land historically associated with the First Christian Church.

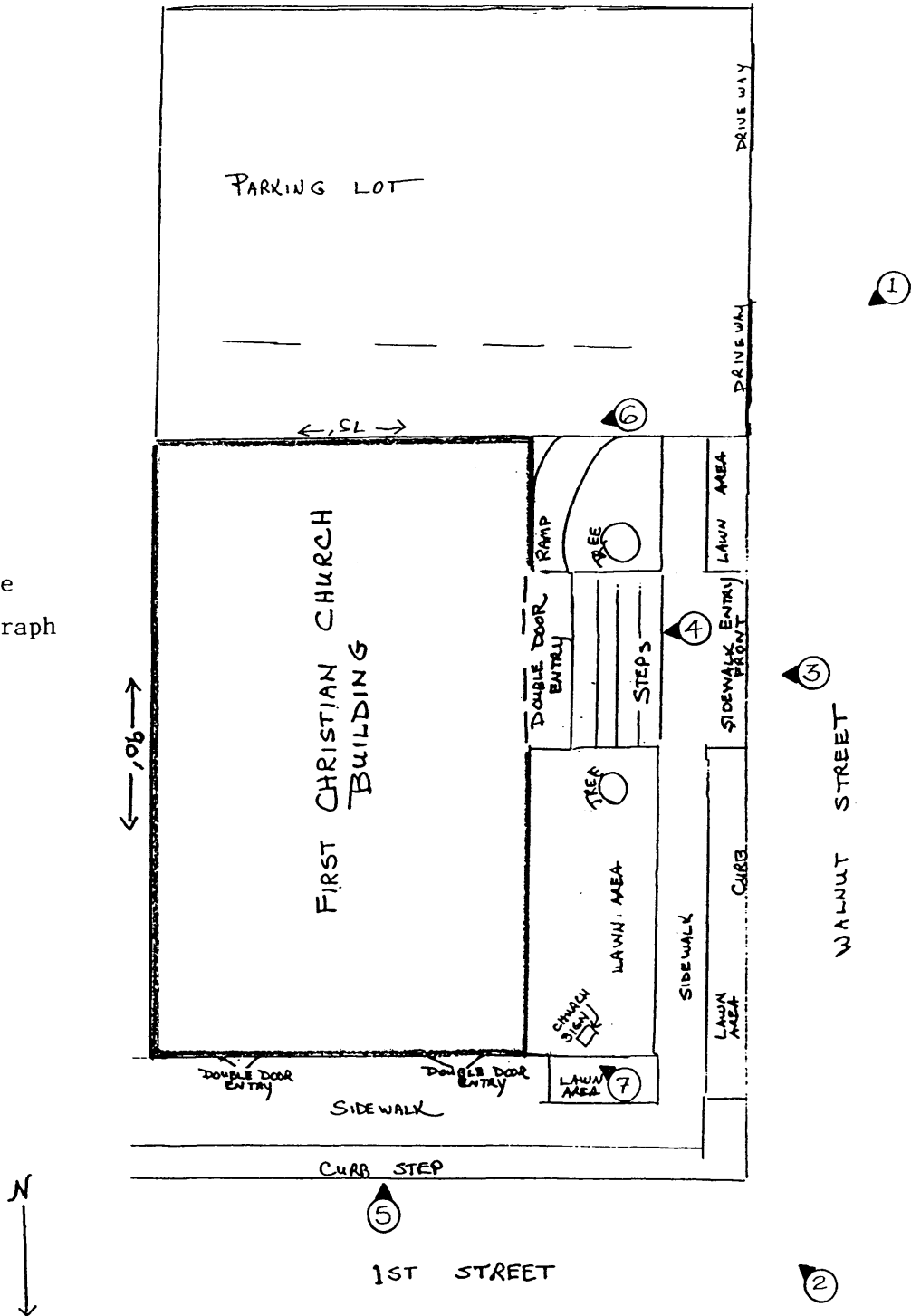
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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

not to scale
○ = photograph



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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO



First
Christian
Church

(Trinidad West
Quad)

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FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
LAS ANIMAS COUNTY, CO

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is the same for all photographs:

name of property: First Christian Church
city, county & state: Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado
photographer: Sharin L. Barnes
date of photograph: June 1995
location of negative: 215 Glen Street, Trinidad

photograph #

- 1 west (Walnut Street) elevation, camera facing northeast
- 2 northwest corner, camera facing southeast
- 3 front entrance, camera facing east
- 4 detail above front entry, camera facing east
- 5 north (1st Street) elevation, camera facing south
- 6 southwest corner, camera facing northeast
- 7 cornerstone on northwest corner, camera facing southeast
- 8 interior - main sanctuary
- 9 interior - colored glass windows in main sanctuary
- 10 interior - pulpit and choir loft