

**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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Baptist Church

other names/site number Mountain Valley Church / 5AL.259

**2. Location**

street & number 408 State Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Alamosa [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Alamosa code 003 zip code 81101

**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.)

Georganna Coetzee State Historic Preservation Officer 3/30/05  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Edson Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 5/22/05

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado  
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

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.)

Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

Brick

roof Asphalt

other

### Narrative Description

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

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado  
County/State

## 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 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

### Periods of Significance

1907

### Significant Dates

1907

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

First Baptist Church  
Name of Property

Alamosa County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 423535 4147043  
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. 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 Tawney Becker (edited by OAHF staff)

organization Alamosa Uptown & River Association date November 2004

street & number Cole Park telephone 719-589-3681

city or town Alamosa state Colorado zip code 81101

## 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 First Baptist Church d.b.a. Mountain Valley Church

street & number 408 State Avenue telephone 719-5896733

city or town Alamosa state Colorado zip code 81101

**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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 1

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

## DESCRIPTION

The First Baptist Church was built primarily of concrete block as its exterior wall surface, and although painted, the ornamental face patterns of the blocks remain visible. The church meets the registration requirements for the "ornamental concrete block public buildings" property type as specified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940*.

Completed in 1908, the First Baptist Church is located in historic downtown Alamosa. The principal elevation faces west onto State Avenue, half a block north of Main Street. A hedge surrounds a grassy area on the south half of the property, with a white picket fence along the east edge. A municipal parking lot lies on the adjacent property to the north and east of the church. A Carnegie Library used to occupy the north parking lot. Directly to the south across the alley lies a commercial building. The church, painted white with reddish brown trim, is an elongated building with an irregular plan, a corner tower and a steeply pitched multi-planed roof. Designed in the Queen Anne style, this church is an asymmetrical composition consisting of a variety of forms, textures and materials. Constructed of rock face ornamental concrete blocks, a brick addition was built on the back (east end) of the church in 1933. The building is in good condition and despite some alterations, retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The complex roofline, comprised of numerous smaller roofs in a variety of sizes and shapes extending out from the larger main front-gabled roof, belies the building's basic rectangular form. Two slightly projecting cross-gabled sections on the north and south sides that form shallow transepts modify this rectangular plan. A pair of concrete block buttresses breaks up the wall surfaces at the southwest and northwest ends. The rear brick addition is wider than the original church, further modifying the rectangular plan. A two-story square tower with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof anchors the southwest corner and serves as a narthex. While both the church and the addition are one story with a full basement, the addition has a raised basement that places its main floor approximately six feet above grade.

The walls of the original structure are rock faced decorative concrete blocks laid in a running bond with flush mortar joints. The actual size of concrete masonry units is 17-1/2" x 7-3/8" for a nominal dimension of 18" x 8". The thickness of the blocks varies. Two belt courses of plain (smooth) faced concrete blocks breaks up the expanse of rock face masonry. A slightly projecting belt course of plain face concrete blocks encircles the building just above the basement windows. Another encircling course of plain face blocks forms a sill course for the main floor windows. This course is cast in place in some locations and at others it is formed of long concrete blocks of varied lengths. Plain face concrete blocks are also employed as lintels for the jack arched windows. On the north wall of the original building, one window was in-filled with flat concrete block. The 1933 addition has walls of red low-fired smooth brick laid in a running bond, a concrete foundation that has been stuccoed, and wood beams serving as lintels. The concrete block and brick are masonry load bearing walls. The wood framed roof structure free-spans the interior space to bear on these exterior walls.

The main roof of the church, is a steeply pitched gable (approximately 10:12). This roof and its numerous smaller extensions have widely overhanging eaves. Most eaves culminate in exposed rafters; the exceptions are the cross-gabled shallow transepts and a shed roof extension on the façade that have boxed eaves. A chimney constructed of rock face concrete blocks pierces the north slope of the church roof. The brick addition has a moderately pitched hipped roof with overhanging eaves and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 2

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

exposed rafters. White composition shingles replaced the original wood shingles.

The shallow transepts on the north and south sides have gabled roofs that peak below the ridge of the main roof. These two cross gables and the main roof gables (on the east and west ends) receive an elaborate treatment in keeping with the Queen Anne penchant for a variety of wall materials and textures. The verges extend approximately 12" from the wall and have boxed eaves. Their underside is cut out in the shape of a two-center pointed "Gothic" arch that echoes the shape of the windows below. The gable walls and verges are faced with alternating courses of fishscale and octagonal wood shingles.

The tower at the southwest corner is about 40 feet tall and is visually separated into three horizontal sections. Above the rock face ornamental concrete block base, the upper walls are surfaced in alternating courses of fishscale and octagonal wood shingles. A round window with a decorative surround punctuates the west, north and south sides of the tower below the secondary cornice. The smaller uppermost portion of the tower has large rectangular openings on all four sides. A pair of wooden Tuscan columns frames each of these openings. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof has overhanging flared eaves with exposed rafter tails. A short metal pole with a ball finial caps the roof.

The church windows are clustered in pairs or threes. The gabled ends contain three narrow 2-center pointed "Gothic" arched stained glass windows. The triple windows high on the west facade gable each have a simple wooden surround. The triple windows within the gabled transepts on the north and south sides are set in a single frame with plain wooden board in-fill. Paired jack-arched windows (single light fixed sash stained glass windows approximately 30" wide by 42" tall) punctuate the walls of the church. The exception is the shed roof section on the west façade near the front entrance where three smaller windows are united under one lintel. Each of these windows is divided into two vertical sashes with single fixed lights of plain glass.

The building faces west on State Street. The main entrance into the church is accessed via nine concrete steps or a precast concrete handicapped ramp that both lead to a concrete platform. Concrete-capped ornamental concrete block walls that slope with the stairway enclose the sides of the stairway. The ramp, added in 1991, is not attached to the building but rather connects to the platform at the top of the stairs. Steel pipe serves as handrails for both the stairway and the ramp. At the base of the tower, Tuscan columns supporting a simple pediment mark the main entrance—a single leaf glass and aluminum door with a fixed glass aluminum sidelight on the right side. This façade contains a trio of windows under a shed roof extension and a pair of windows centered under a hipped roof extension.

The three Gothic-arched stained glass windows set in a wood frame centered on the gabled transept dominates the north side. The transept is flanked on the west by two sets of paired, single light, fixed sash windows, and on the east by one pair of windows. Another window opening towards the addition has been filled in with smooth concrete block. All but the westernmost unit contains stained glass. Two windows, one above the other, are centered on the north elevation of the brick addition. The upper window is a double hung 6/6 light; the basement is a single sash, 6-light hopper.

The brick addition, which is longer than the width of the church, obscures all but the shingled gabled end of the church's rear elevation. The upper level of the addition incorporates a small single sash window, a group of three 6/6 double hung sash windows sharing a lintel, and two individual 6/6 double hung sash windows. Five 6-light wood casement windows serve the basement level.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 3

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

On the south side of the church, centered on the tower base, is a pair of single sash windows sharing a lintel. Another pair of windows under one lintel is positioned between the tower and the transept. Below these windows is a small wood framed shed roof enclosure that shelters a stairway and door to the basement. The three Gothic-arched windows within the transept are the same size and configuration as those of the north elevation. Two more windows sharing a lintel are found east of the transept. In general, basement windows are located directly below the main floor windows and are identical in width, but are shorter with sills slightly above grade. A number of basement windows have been covered by heavy metal screening or filled in with wood or concrete block. Another door to the main level of the church is located on the south wall near the addition; this opening replaced a window. A wooden stairway extends along the south wall of the original building to reach a wooden deck that extends from the doorway in the original building and wraps around the west and south walls of the addition. A simple balustrade encloses the deck. Two additional entrances, one for each level, punctuate the south elevation of the addition. The upper level door is accessed from the deck. Below the deck is a small, wood-framed vestibule faced with wide horizontal siding that contains a door to the basement. All three doors are modern flush wooden doors.

### *Interior*

A small vestibule is found just inside the main entrance. The sanctuary is located directly ahead. To the north of the vestibule is a pair of recently renovated handicapped rest rooms. The floors of the sanctuary are sloped towards the altar. Permanently installed wood pews are arranged, with two aisles, in a radiating pattern around the altar which is located at the east end of the room, four steps above the main floor and surrounded by a proscenium opening. The ceiling of the sanctuary echoes the slopes of the roof and transept gables. The large Gothic arched stained glass windows of the transepts dominate the space. Another tripartite Gothic arched stained glass window is located high on the west wall of the sanctuary. A small balcony and railing is located in front of it. There is a plate glass window behind the altar, now covered by a projection screen. Behind this window is a large, deep, metal baptistery tub that is no longer in use.

To the north of the proscenium arch is a small stage and to the south is a winding stairway to the basement. The pastor's office is located at the northwest corner of the main floor and accessed through the sanctuary. The addition is reached through an opening in the back of the altar. It houses a meeting room, small kitchen, entry vestibule, and storage space. The ceiling and east wall of the sanctuary are textured sheet rock. Composition paneling covers the vertical surfaces of the south, east and north walls. The addition has mostly sheet rock panels with textured ceilings.

The basement is utilitarian in design. The large open area under the sanctuary is a dining room with a kitchen located to the east. Mechanical spaces are found along the north wall. The basement of the addition is used mostly for storage and children's playrooms. The occupied spaces have been renovated with wood paneling and textured sheet rock.

### *Alterations*

According to church minutes and the printed history (1992/2002), the brick addition, which served as living quarters for the pastor, was constructed on the east end of the building in 1933. (A 1929 Sanborn map shows a small rear addition that was obviously replaced by the larger 1933 construction.) The window on the north side was in-filled as a small bathroom was also constructed in the northeast

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 4

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

corner of the church. At the same time or perhaps later, the window on the south side of the church was converted into a doorway. The addition now serves the church's needs providing a meeting room, storage, and a kitchen (on the upper level).

Since the 1933 brick addition, there have been a few other modifications. A fire in the furnace on December 15, 1936 caused some damage, but the church was saved. In the mid-1950s the furnace was changed from coal to oil and forced air. In the early 1960s ninety feet of guardrail was placed near the east side of the church to protect the building, and new carpet was purchased. Also around this time, the pulpit was remodeled. The sanctuary was remodeled in 1969. A photograph in the *Valley Courier* of the church from 1964 shows a white wooden sign at the front of the church where a large stone sign currently stands. Assessor records and the church history indicate this large stone sign was added in 1974.

Historic photographs indicate that the church's concrete block and wood shingles were left in their natural state and the trim was painted white. The 1933 brick addition was also originally unpainted. According to the church history, the building was "painted inside and out" in 1950. It is unclear if that meant the concrete block and brick walls were painted. In a ca. 1970s photograph, the ornamental concrete block was not yet painted. The 1981 inventory form on file in the state preservation office states the building was painted, but the photograph looks very similar to the ca. 1970s image. Photos in County Assessor records seem to indicate that the concrete block was not painted until sometime after 1989. Today, the building is painted white with reddish brown trim.

A ca. 1930 photograph shows a small shed roofed extension of ornamental concrete block on the south side of the church with an open doorway facing west. The block appears to match that of the church walls in size, color, and texture. At some still undetermined time, this covered entryway to the basement was replaced with the current wood framed construction whose door faces south.

In 1984, restoration experts re-glazed the windows, replaced glass, repaired lead, reinforced the windows with new bars, painted sashes, and installed plastic-like protective storm windows (*Valley Courier*, 28 September, 1984). A new stairway to the basement was installed in 1988.

The original wood shingles are still on the roof but have been covered with asphalt composite shingles. A color photograph from the 1970s shows tan shingles that appear to be in very good condition; the current shingles are gray in color. Church records indicate that the church was re-roofed in 1988 and again 1992. A 1970s photograph shows a tall brick chimney near the northwest corner. Originally it rose 10 or more feet above the roof, but the portion above the roofline was removed in the 1990s.

The handicapped ramp on the front of the church was built in October 1991, but according to church records, it was not complete until April 1992 when the permanent railings were added. In 1994-95, the two handicapped accessible restrooms were added inside near the entryway. Around this time, the downstairs restroom and the kitchen were remodeled. As evident in photographs from the 1970s through 1989, the main entrance was a plain white wooden door. Church records indicate that the current glass and aluminum door with side light was installed in 1995.



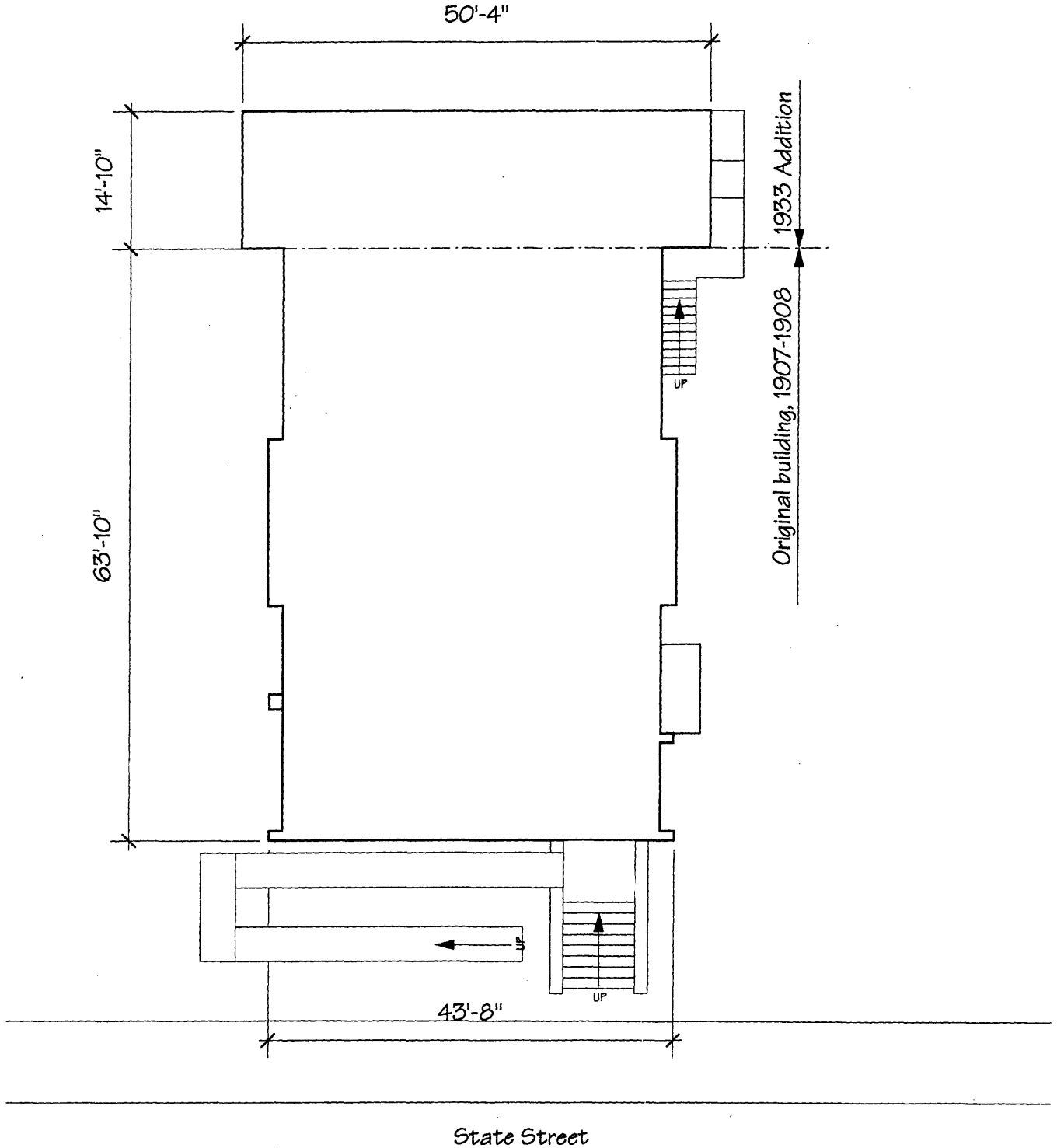
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 5

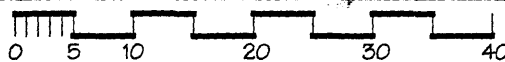
(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

Sketch Plan



**SKETCH PLAN, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

1/16" = 1'- 0"



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

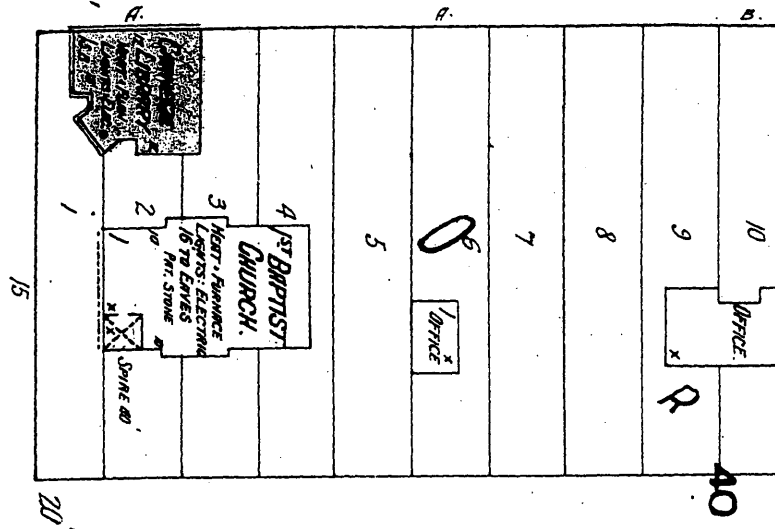
First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 7 Page 6

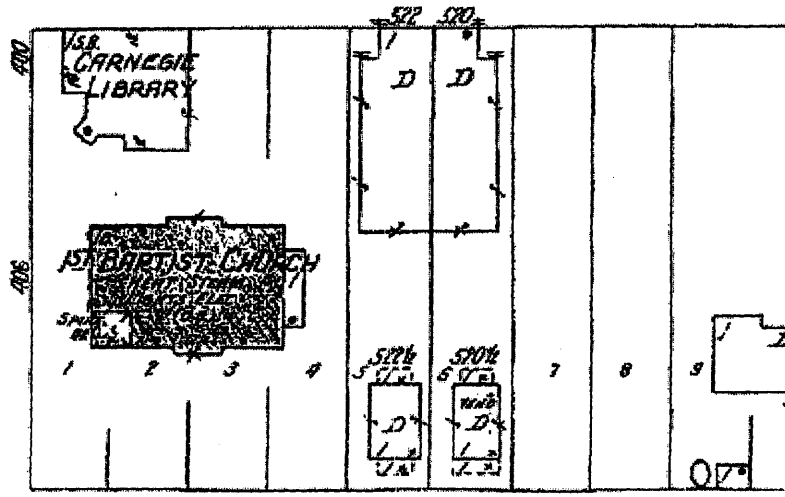
(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

Sanborn Maps

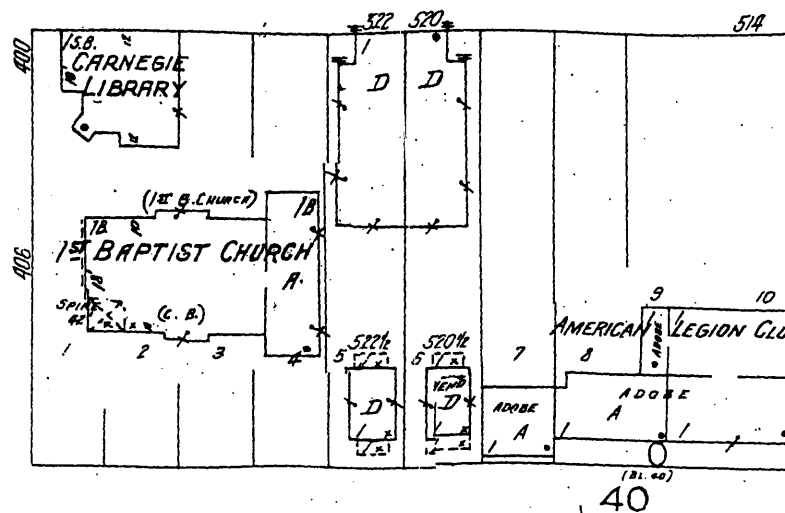
November 1909



November 1929  
(Note small addition  
on rear.)



March 1946



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 7

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

## SIGNIFICANCE

This nomination is an addition to the *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940* multiple property submission. Construction began in 1907 on the First Baptist Church with its exterior wall surface comprised of rock faced ornamental concrete block. The ornamental face patterns of the blocks remain clearly visible despite being painted. The church therefore meets the registration requirements of the "Ornamental Concrete Block Public Building" property type and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, Criteria Consideration A applies.

The interpretation of the Queen Anne style in concrete block construction gives First Baptist Church additional architectural significance. An asymmetrical composition consisting of a variety of forms, textures and materials, the church epitomizes the Queen Anne style. Its steeply pitched irregularly shaped roof with a dominant front facing gable, the corner tower, and patterned shingles are also characteristic of the style. Some classical elements are present, most notably the pedimented entry supported by Tuscan columns. This integration of classical elements is a decorative detailing subtype of Queen Anne known as the Free Classic, which became common after 1890 (McAlester 1984:264). Queen Anne is an unusual expression for ornamental concrete block in Colorado. Although patterned books and home builder catalogs included some Queen Anne examples, most concrete block construction in the state relied on more simplified styles, such as the Foursquare or Classic Cottage.

First Baptist Church, the oldest standing church in Alamosa, is the only public building in Alamosa constructed of ornamental concrete block. Some residences in the older sections of town contain ornamental concrete block, but it is limited to visible foundations. The church is the most prominent example of this construction material in Alamosa. Ornamental concrete block construction can be found elsewhere in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado. In the town of San Luis (Costilla County), there are two residential examples. One of the houses, the 1906 Salazar House (listed in the National Register) is similar in style to the church employing Queen Anne and classical elements. There is also a church in Moffat (Saguache County). However, it is smaller in size and simpler in plan and detailing. No other public buildings built of ornamental concrete block have been identified in the San Luis Valley. Further north in the Wet Mountain Valley there is Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westcliffe (Custer County). This church also lacks the Queen Anne exuberance of the First Baptist Church.

### Historical Background

The First Baptist Church of Alamosa formed in November 1902 and frequently met in other churches such as the Adventist Church or in one of the area schoolhouses. Church business meeting minutes show that on July 14, 1903 the motion was made to "submit the plans of the church to the architect to consider the cost of the building." In addition, at that meeting, "Mr. Hust's offer of the lots and donation of \$100 provided the building suits him [and] that it cost not less than \$3000 and not more than \$3500" was accepted. On August 16, 1903 the Building Committee was "given the power to withdraw plans from Mr. (Charles) Minnery, [and] to communicate with other architects," eliciting the resignation of Mr. Minnery as church treasurer a week later (First Baptist Church minutes, August 16 and 23, 1903).

According to "A History of the First Baptist Church of Alamosa" (1992/2002), on December 1, 1904, the Building Committee purchased the building site and in November 1905, materials were purchased. It is not known with certainty if Minnery's plans were utilized in some form, but no references to a later architect are given in existing church records. Roy Campbell, who owned a large brickyard in Alamosa,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 8

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

received the contract for the project in 1906 (*Alamosa Independent Journal*, 28 December 1906), though it is not certain that his yard made the blocks. Several concrete block manufacturers were documented in Alamosa around this time.

Construction of the church began in 1907 and the Masons laid the cornerstone on October 15<sup>th</sup> with great ceremony. Roy Campbell presided as acting "Grand Architect" at the ceremony (*Alamosa Independent Journal*, 18 October 1907). The significance of the event is underscored in the "Card of Appreciation" printed on the front page of the *Alamosa Courier* the next day, which expressed the appreciation of the church to the "businessmen of Alamosa, who closed their places of business during the ceremonies of the laying of the corner of [the] new church building." Both local papers commented on the tremendous fellowship shown by the ministers from other churches that spoke at the ceremony. The *Alamosa Courier* (19 October 1907) announced that "the laying of the corner stone of the new Baptist Church on this occasion probably marks a new era in Alamosa, for from these beginnings, often new energy, new life and new vigor come." The following month E.O. Butler, pastor for the church, noted in the *Alamosa Courier* (9 November 1907) that "the walls of the new church are almost completed and it is the desire of the pastor and church members to push the work as fast as possible."

At the end of the year, an *Alamosa Independent Journal* article (27 December 1907) included a list of the many substantial improvements giving assurance that Alamosa is forging ahead." The article noted that "the gradual and healthy growth, both in the building and in the population, has been very noticeable here for many years, but more so for 1907 than probably any year since the town came on the map." Characterized as "cement block" with a \$5,000 cost, the Baptist church appears near the end of the list.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, August 30, 1908, though "the new edifice was not as yet completed as the glass for the windows and the new seats [had] not arrived" (*Alamosa Courier*, 5 September 1908). The article further reported that "a subscription was then taken up with most gratifying results. Within half an hour \$3635.00 was subscribed, and this amount with that already subscribed leaves but the small sum of \$625.00 due on the magnificent \$8500 structure." The dedication program included addresses by Dr. Stevenson of Chicago (sermon), Rev. Bowers of Monte Vista (First Baptist), Rev. Darley (Presbyterian Church), Rev. Harrison (Episcopal Church), and Rev. W. F. Ripley, state secretary of the Baptist Association, Pueblo. The article (*Alamosa Courier*, 5 September 1908) noted that

Rev. Butler cannot but take commendable pride in the result of his labors here and the monument he has been instrumental in erecting to commemorate his stay among us will stand for all time, a pleasure not only to the members of that faith but to the whole city. The building is modern in every respect, has an inclined floor, study rooms for the children and for the pastor, and will be steam heated. The windows and seating are expected soon and the congregation can then enjoy the result of their labors.

The installation of new carpet and pews at the church was acknowledged in the newspaper on November 29, 1908 (*Alamosa Independent Journal*), but an actual date for the arrival of the stained glass windows has not been determined.

The ornate stained glass windows offer their own mystery. Restoration experts repaired damage to the windows by vandals in September 1984. They identified the name Hoffman in the corner of one large

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 8 Page 9

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

window on the west elevation, indicating that these windows were designed by the 19-century painter (Heinrich?) Hoffman, whose religious themes were translated into stained glass designs by the J & R Lamb Studios in Clifton, New Jersey. However, no documentation has been located to support this as the source of the windows. Some of the plainer windows that include clear glass may date to the 1920s.



The ornamental concrete block and wood shingles are unpainted in this ca. 1930 photograph of the church. There is now a parking lot where the Carnegie Library once stood.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 9 Page 10

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Blumenson, John J.-G. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. Revised ed. Nashville, TN: AASLH Press, 1981.
- Cudworth, Dan, Rev. *First Baptist Church Centennial Celebration: A History of the First Baptist Church of Alamosa*. Alamosa, CO: 1992 (revised 2002).
- First Baptist Church of Alamosa. Church business-meeting minutes. 14 July 1903.
- First Baptist Church of Alamosa. Church business-meeting minutes. 16 August 1903.
- Heckendorn, Dale. *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940 Multiple Property Documentation Form*, 1996. Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society, Denver Colorado.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 1984.
- Sanborn-Perris Map Co. "Alamosa, Colorado." Pelham, New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co.
- Valley Courier, The. *Alamosa: The First 125 Years. A Photo History*. Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 2003.

## NEWSPAPERS

- Scarffe, John. "Restorers Discover Art in Stained Glass." *Valley Courier*. 28 September 1984.
- "Church Directory." *Valley Courier*. 27 November 1964.
- "Personal and Local Items." *Alamosa Courier*. 21 November 1908.
- "Personal and Local Items." *Alamosa Courier*. 17 October 1908.
- "Church Dedication." *Alamosa Courier*. 5 September 1908.
- "Dedication Exercises." *Alamosa Courier*. 29 August 1908.
- "Church Dedication." *Alamosa Courier*. 22 August 1908.
- "A Notable Lecturer: Rev. Thomas Stephenson." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 21 August 1908.
- "\$104,850 to the Good. Improvements for 1907." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 27 December 1907.
- "Baptist Notes." *Alamosa Courier*. 19 November 1907.
- "Laying of the Corner Stone: With Appropriate Ceremonies the Masons Lay Corner Stone for First Baptist Church." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 19 October 1907.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number   9   Page  11 

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

"Masons Lay the Corner Stone: The Corner Stone of the First Baptist Church of Alamosa is Put in Place In Solemn and Ancient Style." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 18 October 1907.

"Local News." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 12 July 1907.

"Local Happenings." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 15 March 1907.

"Local News." *Alamosa Independent-Journal*. 28 December 1906.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number 10 Page 12

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

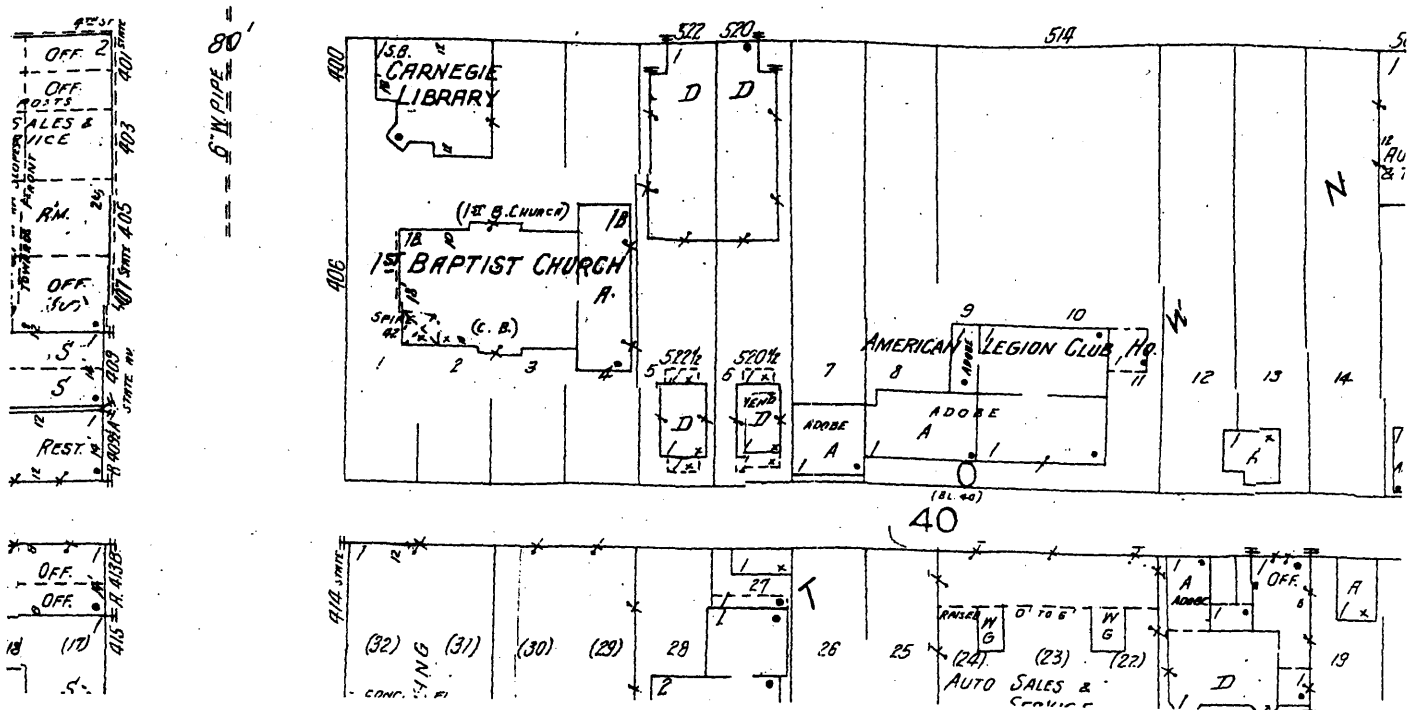
**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

South 100 feet of Lots 1-4, Block 40, Original Townsite of Alamosa

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the First Baptist Church.

1946 Sanborn Map





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 13

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

---

### PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: First Baptist Church  
Location: Alamosa, Alamosa County, Colorado  
Photographer: Tawney Becker  
Date of Photographs: November 2004  
Negatives: Alamosa Uptown & River Association, Cole Park

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	West façade; camera facing E
2	West front and south side; camera facing NE
3	North side; camera facing S
4	Rear addition (east end) and north side; camera facing SW
5	South side; camera facing NE
6	Cornerstone at southwest corner; camera facing E
7	South side "transept"; camera facing N

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

First Baptist Church  
Alamosa County, CO

Section number \_\_\_ Page 14

(Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado MPS)

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Alamosa East Quadrangle, Colorado (7.5 Minute Series)

