

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

APR 29 2016

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: First Church of Christ Scientist

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:
The Architecture of Albert Frey

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

2. Location

Street & number: 605 South Riverside Drive

City or town: Palm Springs State: CA County: Riverside

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>4/27/16</u>
Jenan Saunders/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	Date
<u>California State Office of Historic Preservation</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

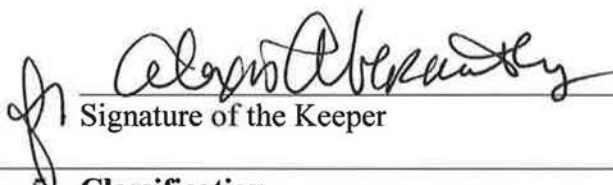
First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

6/14/86
Date of Action

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

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE BLOCK, METAL, WOOD,
STUCCO, GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The First Church of Christ Scientist is located on the west end of a block consisting of one- and two-story apartment buildings, small hotels, and another church building. The area is isolated from the main thoroughfare of South Palm Canyon Drive by a large, vacant parcel of land to the west, and the generally dry Tahquitz River to the north. Constructed in 1956, the one-story church building is modest in size, exhibiting architectural elements associated with the work of Albert Frey including a shed roof, deep eaves with metal fascia, sandblasted terra cotta colored concrete block construction, large windows, and slender steel posts. The building is in excellent condition and retains a high level of historic and physical integrity.

Narrative Description

The Palm Springs First Church of Christ Scientist was designed in 1956 by the architectural firm of Clark Frey & Chambers. The original master plan dated June 9, 1956 shows a foyer, auditorium, and a row of small office spaces behind the auditorium (**Figure 1**). In addition, a large Sunday school classroom, boardroom, and restrooms were also depicted; however, these three elements were not constructed until 1961 according to updated plans and building permits.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

In 1968, building permits confirm that a 360 square foot childcare room designed by Albert Frey was built at the rear of the building.

In terms of design, the church building exhibits key character-defining features associated with the work of Albert Frey. It is unadorned, utilitarian and constructed of sandblasted terra-cotta-colored concrete block (**Figure 2**). It features a shed roof, deep eaves, pipe support posts, metal fascia, and large plate glass north-facing windows (**Figure 3**). Stucco finish covers portions of the four elevations.

The building's distinguishing architectural element is sandblasted terra-cotta-colored concrete block arranged in a stack bond pattern. The shed roof covering the foyer and auditorium is the second most prominent element as it slopes upward toward the south with deep eaves on the west and north elevations. Clerestory windows punctuate the auditorium's west elevation beneath the shed roof. In contrast, the east elevation lacks eaves due to the presence of an interior terrarium screened by a grid of horizontal openings in a wall of concrete block. Aluminum-framed floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows and glazed entry doors distinguish the primary entrance on the north elevation, which is shaded by the main shed roof supported by slender steel posts. Stucco sheathes exterior surfaces on either side of the windows. Flat metal clads all fasciae.

A flat roofed addition constructed in 1961 is attached to what was the west elevation of the auditorium with a long hallway separating the two elements. The addition consists of two outward-stepped rectangular volumes of stack bond concrete block construction containing the restrooms and Sunday school classroom. Metal-framed windows on the west and south punctuate the latter. At the northeast corner of the church is the boardroom that was also added in 1961. Its flat-roofed rectangular volume features floor-to-ceiling, north-facing glazing and metal mullions. The addition's east elevation is of terra cotta colored concrete block arranged in a stack bond pattern identical to that of the original building. A finish of stucco was applied to the west side of the boardroom addition that originally was exposed concrete block. At the rear of the building is a small childcare room with three windows that was added in 1968. Between the Sunday school and childcare room is a narrow covered entry corridor. As noted, the 1961 additions were designed and anticipated in the 1956 plans prepared by Clark Frey & Chambers.

Similar to the exterior, the building's interior is unadorned and utilitarian. The foyer, with its wall of north-facing glazing, leads to the spacious auditorium. Wooden horizontal slats form the rear wall behind the auditorium's rostrum and serve as vents above flanking exits. Ceiling air conditioning vents that run the length of the auditorium center a pair of distinctive lapped redwood soffits with hidden recessed uplighting. The room's east wall consists of three pairs of sliding glass doors that open onto an elongated terrarium with light provided from the grid of rectangular openings within the stack bond concrete block wall. Clerestory windows provide illumination from the west.

The entirety of the north end of the boardroom is glazed with aluminum mullions. A recessed metal parapet that shields air-handling equipment on the roof above the foyer was added in 1991. Similar recessed wooden parapets atop the flat roof at the rear of the building are also not

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

original to the design. The church itself centers a large asphalt parking area with a concrete sidewalk surrounding the building. Where the street curves on the north, a concrete block retaining wall forms a gravel-filled planter containing mature olive trees.

Because the building's three major additions (restrooms, Sunday school, boardroom) were designed by Clark Frey & Chambers in 1956, and the small childcare room by Albert Frey in 1968, integrity of design, materials, and workmanship remain high. The recessed non-original parapets could be easily removed and do not markedly detract from the overall design as relates to physical integrity. Because the property was commissioned by the First Church of Christ Scientist, which continues to hold services there, integrity of location, setting, and feeling remain high. As a result, the First Church of Christ Scientist is able to convey its architectural significance because the property exhibits those physical features associated with the work of Albert Frey in collaboration with John Porter Clark and Robson Chambers. These are its sandblasted terra-cotta-colored concrete block construction, shed and flat roofs, deep overhangs, metal fasciae, large plate glass windows, and pipe support posts. The building's form follows its function, eschewing ornamentation and providing no obvious historical references suggestive of a church.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1956

Significant Dates

1956

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frey, Albert
Clark, John Porter
Chambers, Robson

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The First Church of Christ Scientist is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of religious architecture associated with the modern movement as interpreted by Albert Frey for the desert environment of the Coachella Valley. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for religious buildings in association with the historic context “Desert Modern Design in the Coachella Valley, 1934-1965.” The property satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C. The period of significance corresponds with the building’s date of construction, 1956.

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

In his monograph on Albert Frey, scholar Joseph Rosa compiled a list of buildings and projects that Frey was responsible for designing as a firm partner or employee. The list does not include all of the works of his partnerships with Clark and Chambers; it includes only those works that were designed by Frey and not buildings designed by his partners. In the case of First Church of Christ Scientist, Rosa wrote in parentheses that the subject property was designed with Robson Chambers and does not mention John Porter Clark, who left the firm in 1957 after the initial plans were rendered. Notwithstanding the collaborative design credit, the First Church of Christ Scientist exhibits the key architectural elements Rosa associates with Albert Frey. These include its sandblasted terra-cotta-colored concrete block construction, shed and flat roofs, deep overhangs, metal fasciae, large plate glass windows, and pipe support posts.

The First Church of Christ Scientist exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of religious buildings associated with architect Albert Frey within the context “Desert modern design in the Coachella Valley 1934-1965.” The subject property is an important example of the religious building property type that maintains sufficient integrity to be readily identifiable as the work of master architect Albert Frey, in this case, in collaboration with John Porter Clark and Robson Chambers. As a result, the property meets National Register Criterion C, Criteria Consideration A, because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of religious architecture associated with Albert Frey and is the work of a master architect.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

As indicated in *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Univ. of California, Santa Barbara; Palm Springs Art Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 33.810067 Longitude: -116.542155

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

The nominated property is located at 605 South Riverside Drive, Palm Springs, Riverside County, California on the southeast corner of South Riverside Drive and Random Road. There is approximately 250 feet of street frontage. Its legal description is .70 ACRES M/L IN LOT 1 BLK D MB 022/076 APN: 508-191-030.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with First Church of Christ Scientist, 605 South Riverside Drive.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Peter Moruzzi/Architectural Historian
organization: _____
street & number: 2018 Griffith Park Blvd., #114
city or town: Los Angeles state: CA zip code: 90039
e-mail petermoruzzi@gmail.com
telephone: 213-706-0151
date: November 20, 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: First Church of Christ Scientist
City or Vicinity: Palm Springs
County: Riverside
State: California
Photographer: Peter Moruzzi
Date Photographed: November 4, 2015

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0001.tif
Context view, camera facing southeast
- 2 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0002.tif
East elevation, camera facing southwest
- 3 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0003.tif
East and south elevations, camera facing northwest
- 4 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0004.tif
Rear (south) elevation, camera facing northeast
- 5 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0005.tif
West elevation, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0006.tif
North and west elevations, camera facing east
- 7 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0007.tif
North elevation, camera facing southwest
- 8 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0008.tif
Primary (north) elevation, camera facing south
- 9 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0009.tif
Interior auditorium, camera facing south
- 10 of 10 CA_Riverside County_Frey MPS_First Church_0010.tif
Interior boardroom, camera facing north

Index of Figures

- Figure 1. Master Plan, 1956.
- Figure 2. Primary (north) and west elevations, looking southeast, 1959.
- Figure 3. North and west elevations, looking southeast, 1959.

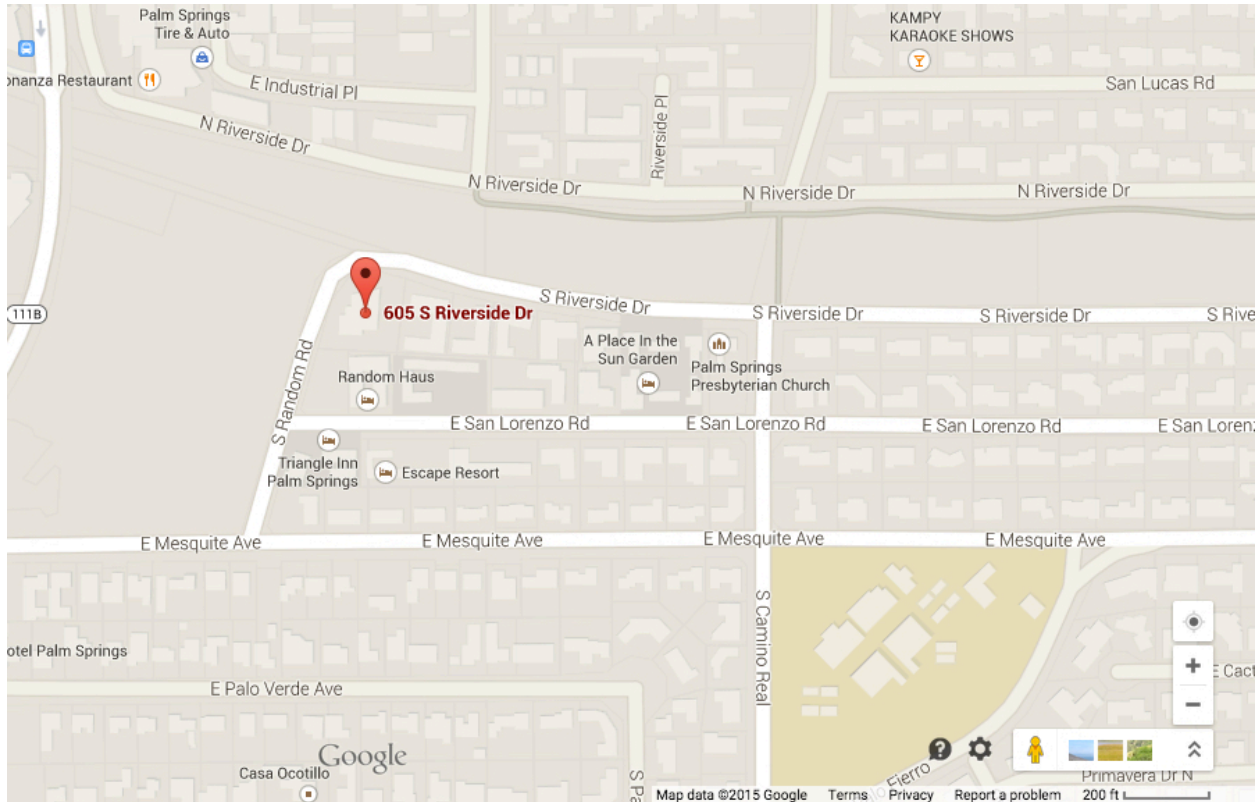
First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Location Map

Latitude: 33.810067

Longitude: -116.542155



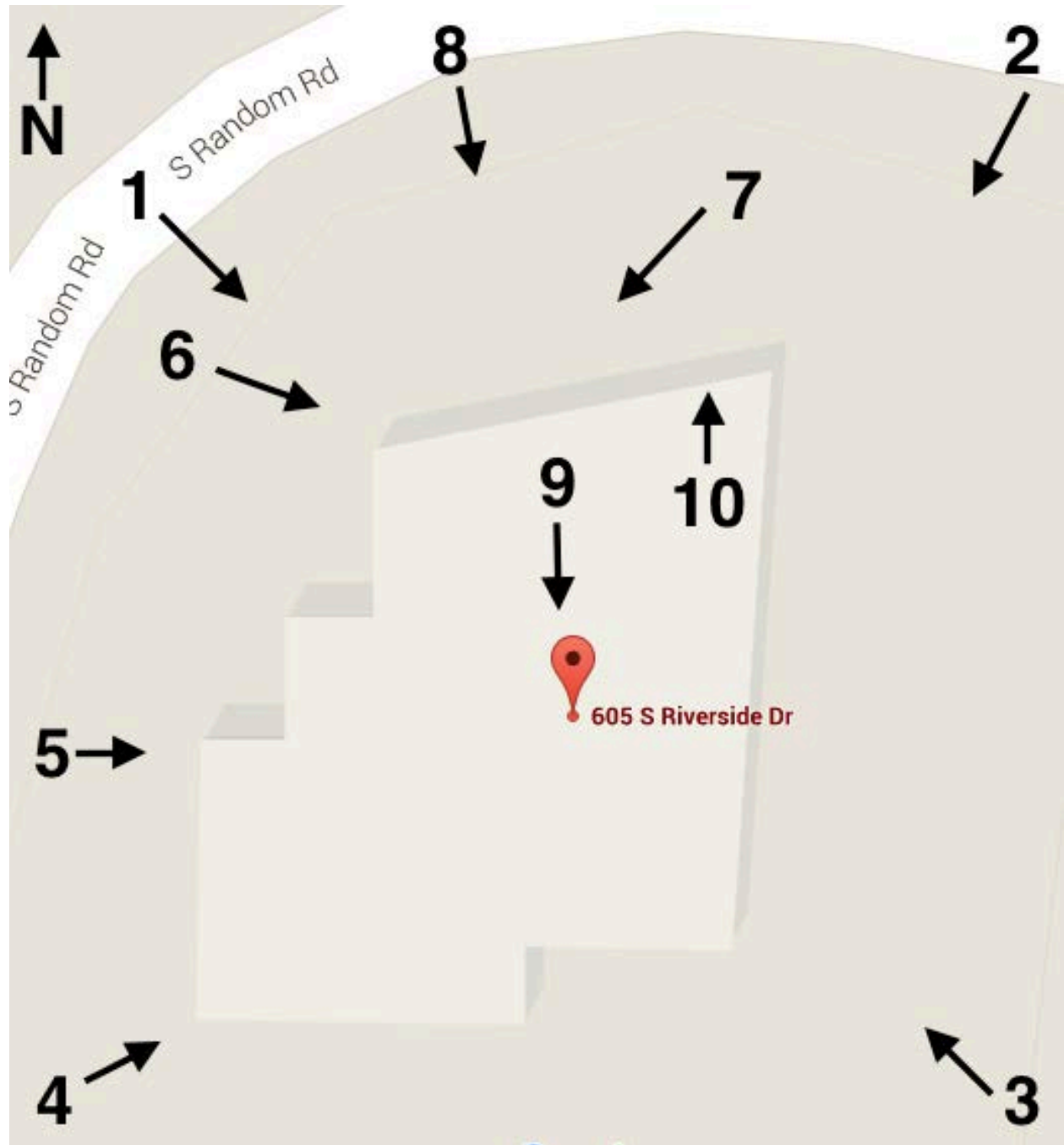
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington,

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Sketch Map/Photo Key

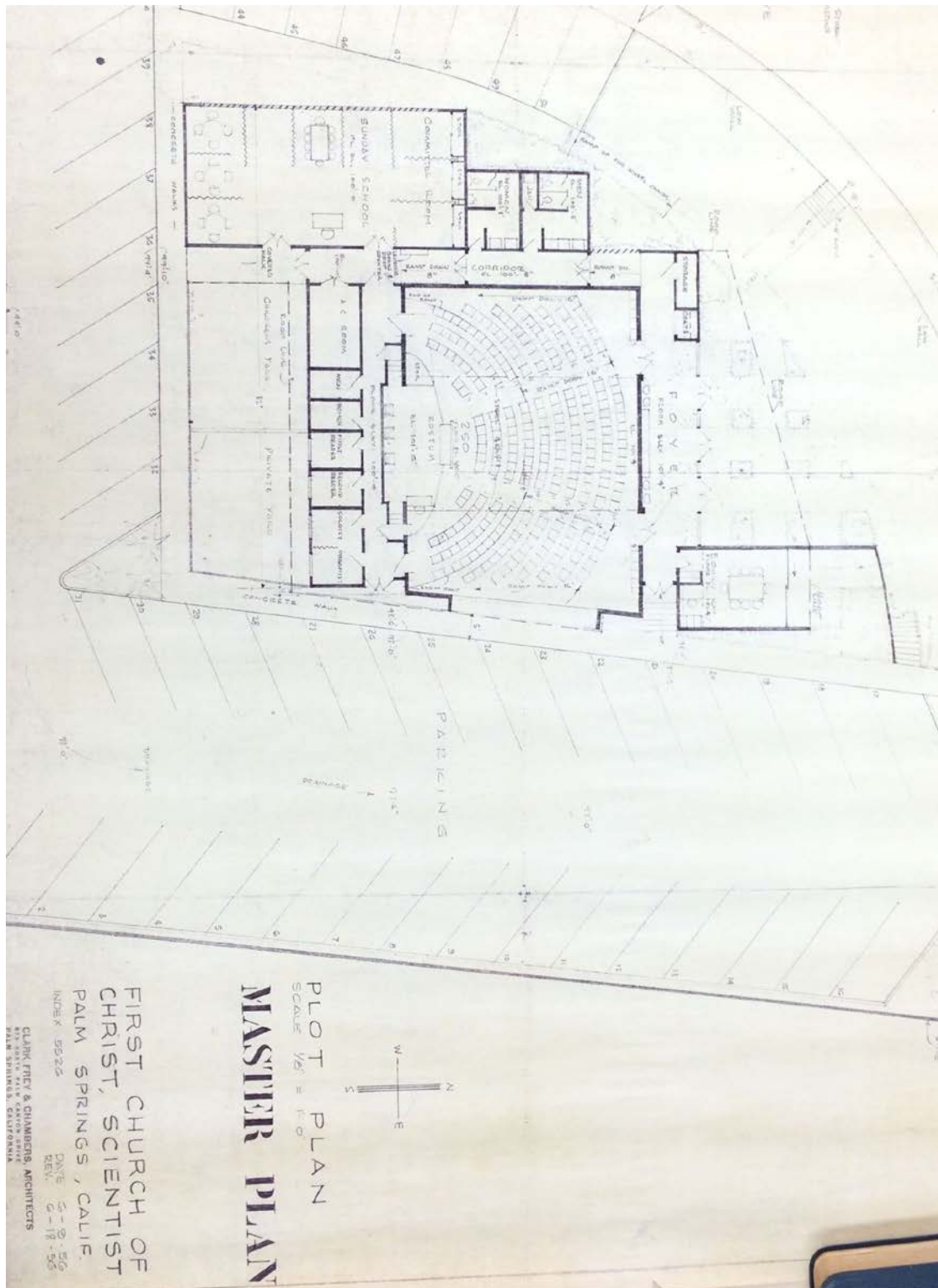


DC.

First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 1. Master Plan, 1956.



First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 2. Primary (north) and west elevations, looking southeast 1959.



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First Church of Christ Scientist
Name of Property

Riverside, California
County and State

Figure 3. North and west elevations, looking southeast, 1959.



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DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL SCIENTIST

SOUTH RIVERSIDE
RANDOLPH

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♿











FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHARISMATIC



GOD IS LOVE
1 JOHN

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE JOHN 1:9

DIVINE LOVE ALWAYS HAS MET
AND ALWAYS WILL MEET EVERY
HUMAN NEED JOHN 1:9

14
49
179

14
49
179

EXIT



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY First Church of Christ, Scientist
NAME:

MULTIPLE Architecture of Albert Frey MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Riverside

DATE RECEIVED: 4/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/25/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/09/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/14/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000357

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6/14/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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

**First Church of Christ Scientist
Palm Springs, Riverside County
Staff Report**

The First Church of Christ Scientist is located on the west end of a block consisting of one- and two-story apartment buildings, small hotels, and another church building. The area is isolated from the main thoroughfare of South Palm Canyon Drive by a large, vacant parcel of land to the west, and the generally dry Tahquitz River to the north. Constructed in 1956, the one-story church building is modest in size, exhibiting architectural elements associated with the work of Albert Frey including a shed roof, deep eaves with metal fascia, sandblasted terra cotta colored concrete block construction, large windows, and slender steel posts. The building is in excellent condition and retains a high level of historic and physical integrity.

The First Church of Christ Scientist is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of religious architecture associated with the modern movement as interpreted by Albert Frey for the desert environment of the Coachella Valley. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for religious buildings in association with the historic context "Desert Modern Design in the Coachella Valley, 1934-1965." The property satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C. The period of significance corresponds with the building's date of construction, 1956.

The property is nominated on behalf of a group of private individuals. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board has received a copy of the nomination. No letters have been received to date. Staff supports the nomination as written and recommends the State Historical Resources Commission determine that the First Church of Christ Scientist meets National Register Criterion C at the local level of significance with a period of significance 1956. Staff recommends the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination for forwarding to the National Park Service for listing on the National Register.

Amy H. Crain
State Historian II
March 22, 2016

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

**RECEIVED 2280**

APR 29 2016

**Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service**

April 27, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Subject: **First Church of Christ Scientist
Riverside County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST SCIENTIST to the National Register of Historic Places. On April 18, 2016 in San Francisco, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion C with a period of significance 1956.

The First Church of Christ Scientist is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of religious architecture associated with the modern movement as interpreted by Albert Frey for the desert environment of the Coachella Valley. In addition, the property meets *The Architecture of Albert Frey* Multiple Property Submission registration requirements for religious buildings in association with the historic context "Desert Modern Design in the Coachella Valley, 1934-1965." The property satisfies Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction as evaluated under Criterion C.

The property is nominated on behalf of a group of private individuals. In its role as representative of the City of Palm Springs, a Certified Local Government, the Historic Site Preservation Board received a copy of the nomination. No letters have been received.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Amy Crain of my staff at (916) 445-7009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jenan Saunders".

Jenan Saunders
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure