



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

853

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 Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church

other names/site number Hotchkiss United Methodist Church; Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church; 5DT.1769

2. Location

street & number 285 N. 2nd Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Hotchkiss [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Delta code 029 zip code 81419

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 [ ] nationally [X] statewide [ ] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title: [Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 9/3/09
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.
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature] Date of Action: 10.28.09

**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	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	2	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.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION: religious facility  
SOCIAL: meeting hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls STONE  
roof WOOD  
other

**Narrative Description**

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

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Delta County/ ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The Hotchkiss United Methodist Church sits on the southeast corner of the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Orchard, two blocks north of the main street in a residential area dominated by Craftsman style homes of the same period. Well-maintained homes sit back from tree-lined streets. The church, with its prominent stone walls and bell tower, is one of the most distinctive buildings in the town. The grounds in front are planted with shrubs and grass while a parking lot sits to the south side. A small, non-original, front-gabled signboard with stone base displaying the name of the church and other general information stands in the northwest lawn.

The west-facing two-story church is an irregularly shaped building eighty four feet long and fifty feet at its' greatest width. Constructed from 1928 to 1929, the cross-gabled building consists of a raised basement and tall main floor which rests on a concrete foundation. The exterior of the building is faced with locally-collected basaltic rubble stone ranging in color from gray to black. These stones are set in a concrete mortar in random coursing. All corners of the building and the bell tower contain concrete quoins providing ornamental relief to the massive masonry walls. The building is generally rectangular with extensions for the main entrance (or narthex), coal shed, and choir room. A prominent two-and-a-half-story bell tower sits atop the narthex of the church.

The building has two main sections set perpendicular to each other. The east-west front gabled section intersects the north-south side gabled section at the south end. (See photos 1, 2, 4.) Each level of these sections contains differently shaped windows. All windows are wood framed. Cedar shingles cover the roof. The cornerstone remains visible on the northwest corner of the building.

**West Façade**

The asymmetrical west façade is the most heavily ornamented, exhibiting a range of architectural detailing and window patterns. The most prominent feature of the façade is the two-and-a-half-story bell tower. Concrete stairs lead to the main entry double doors, with a round arch divided light transom, at the base of the tower. The double wood doors each contain nine lights: six small square panes in two rows at the top and three narrow, vertical panes on the lower portion. (See photos 7, 17.) Stone side walls with concrete caps frame the stairs. The entry doors are recessed under a round stone arch lintel; above the lintel are the words "Community M.E. Church 1929" etched in concrete with a second round stone arch lintel above the words. This second lintel is topped by a concrete arch. A small room above the entry way contains large louvered wood vents on three sides (north, west, and south) with arched stone lintels and concrete sills. The top half-story is an open space which originally contained the bell but today has speakers for an electronic carillon. The north, west, and south walls of the tower each have two small round arch openings with stone lintels and concrete sills. Stone parapets project higher than the walls on all four corners. (See photo 7.) A six-inch concrete stringcourse serves as a visual divider between the main floor and the basement and runs around the entire building.

South of the main entry stairs, at the raised basement level, stands a wood glazed door with divided light sidelight and arched stone lintel. Stone column-like projections frame the door. The bases of these column-like projections are set in concrete; non-original light fixtures are placed in the concrete stringcourse. A concrete eyebrow shaped arch sits above the door lintel and below the concrete sill of the main level window. (See photo 10.) The raised basement level contains four windows, two on either side of the main entry. There are two windows south of the basement door with fixed panes. To the north are a pair of sliders; all are replacements of the original windows.

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A side-gabled roof with overhanging eaves and sculptured exposed rafters covers the section to the north of and behind the bell tower. The section to the south of the bell tower is front-gabled with a gable face that exhibits wood shingles, stick truss work, decoratively carved bargeboards, and exposed purlins. The truss at the apex of the gable protects a wood louvered vent. (See photos 1, 2.)

The church displays five stained glass windows on the main level. To the north of the main entry and bell tower are three sets of triple windows; the central panel is a casement that opens inward slightly at the top. Stained glass is set over the original patterned glass on the inside of the window. Stone segmental arched lintels with concrete sills frame all the windows. Two sets of paired stained glass windows south of the bell tower also have segmental arched stone lintels and concrete sills. The north window of each set/ pair opens inward slightly from the top. The southernmost set of paired windows does not have a stained glass panel covering the original patterned glass.

Above the three main level windows at the south end of the west façade are three small windows with concrete sills: a set of paired fixed windows is flanked by single fixed panes, providing light for an unused second story room. A concrete band just beneath the wood shingles in the gable face acts as a lintel for the windows.

**North Elevation**

The north wall displays windows on three levels. Four windows are evenly spaced towards the middle of the exposed basement and provide light to the offices. All four windows have been replaced, the end two with single fixed panes and the middle two with 1/1 panes. Windows on the main level consist of two sets of paired casements, one located directly above each of the end basement windows. Stone segmental arched lintels top the wood frame casements. Centrally placed between and above the main level windows are three square stained glass windows. These light the altar area inside. The wood shingled gable face exhibits two rectangular wood louvered vents. The gable face exhibits the same wood shingles, truss work, decoratively carved bargeboards, and exposed purlins seen on all other sides of the building.

The north wall of the tower contains a small lift elevator; a window opening was converted to a doorway to provide access to the narthex. A stone segmental arched lintel tops the opening. The elevator access area is sheltered by a shed roof projecting from the north wall of the tower.

The north wall of the east projection (the choir room) displays a paired, wood frame, casement window with stone segmental arched lintel and concrete sill.

**East (rear) Elevation**

The east wall consists of a front gabled section to the south (left) and a side gabled section to the north (right). On the front gabled section, two windows covered with boards exist at the basement level. The main level exhibits two narrow 1/1 double-hung windows flanking a centrally placed larger 1/1 double-hung window. All windows have stone segmental arched lintels and smaller upper panes over larger lower panes. These windows light the choir room. Three small square windows with concrete sills are grouped close together and sit above the main level windows, but are off center, placed towards the north end. The gable face exhibits the same wood shingles, truss work, decoratively carved bargeboards, and exposed purlins seen on all other sides of the building. (See photo 5.) Overhanging eaves shelter sculptured exposed rafters. A metal ash pit door exists at the northeast corner of the front-gabled section, at the base of the chimney visible on the exterior.

A brick chimney pierces the northern roof slope, near the junction of the gabled roof sections. A small

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air conditioning unit rests on the eastern slope of the side gabled roof section, near the junction of the roofs. A second brick chimney pierces the eastern roof slope at approximately the mid-point of the side gabled section. The east wall consists of four triple casement windows; the base of the chimney projects outward between the first two windows toward the northern end. All windows are wood frame with stone segmental arched lintels and concrete sills; they also display stained glass set over the original patterned glass on the inside. As with the triple windows on the west façade, only the central window pane opens slightly inward. A small flat roof concrete block coal room addition is located directly underneath the middle two windows of the side gabled section. This coal room is no longer used to store coal, though it is used for storage. A vented opening exists on the north side. A small shed roof shelters a plain metal and fixed pane door south of the flat roof addition. A short flight of concrete stairs lead away from the door, towards the coal room addition. The basement level contains a paired window at the north end, lighting the secretary's office. The south window pane is 1/1 while the north pane appears to be replaced as it is fixed pane.

**South Elevation**

The basement and main levels each exhibit five evenly spaced windows. All windows are wood framed 1/1 double-hung with a smaller upper pane. The main level windows have concrete sills and stone segmental arched lintels while the basement windows sit below the concrete stringcourse and rest upon the concrete foundation. No doors pierce the south wall. Overhanging eaves shelter sculptured exposed rafters. A front gabled dormer-like projection sits atop the roof slope. It has a wood louvered vent protected by a wood stick truss in the gable peak. Exposed purlins are also visible.

A single casement window (on the south wall of the narthex) with segmental arch stone lintel and concrete sill provides light into the narthex.

**Interior** (see sketch plan – page 11)

One enters the church through the narthex. Directly across from the main entry doors are two wood panel swinging doors which open into the back of the sanctuary. These doors exhibit a single square panel above three narrow rectangular panels. A set of double wood panel doors to the left (north) of the main entry leads to the elevator. A large rectangular transom covered with paper is positioned over the doors. (See photo 17.) A wood panel door on the right (south) in the narthex provides access to the rear sanctuary. This door has the same panel pattern as the doors into the main sanctuary.

The interior of the raised basement is fairly plain and functional. Stewart Hall, which occupies the entire south end of the basement, is the primary social area for the church but also serves as a place for community meetings as well as non-worship church functions. The remainder of the basement is divided into rooms that serve as a kitchen for Stewart Hall, Sunday school, restrooms, furnace, storage, and two offices for the Pastor and church secretary. The functions of these rooms have changed over the years but no major structural change to the original architecture has occurred, with one exception. Installation of the coal furnace caused an opening to be made in the stone foundation to allow access to the coal storage area. Original doors and hardware exist throughout the basement.

The sanctuary, chancel, and altar area fill most of the interior of the main floor space. Approximately two thirds of the sanctuary contains pews with aisles in the middle and on both ends. The chancel and altar are framed on either side by a sacristy (now a storage room) and a set of stairs that lead to the offices below. (See photo 14.) Three small windows on the north wall high above the chancel contain original, brightly-colored stained glass. (See photo 16.)

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The southern area contains a raised dais with pews divided into aisles as in the sanctuary. The back of the southern area is divided into two rectangular rooms, one for Sunday school and a soundproof nursery/ "cry room." Facing the rear of the church, the door configuration from left to right consists of a pair of flush (no panels) door and a sliding glass door, both for the nursery/ "cry room"; and two sets of paired flush doors accessing the Sunday school room. The choir room, located in the southeast corner, originally was partially open to the sanctuary but was closed in to serve as a storage room for robes and other materials. The original arch, framing the opening, can be seen on the inside of the room. Access into the choir room is through a wood flush door.

The ceiling of the sanctuary is distinctive, with the rafters and support beams all exposed and stained a dark walnut. Heavy wooden beams with regularly spaced rafters form the ceiling support; heavy purlins and angled cross beams, each resting on wood sidewall supports, carry the load of these heavy wooden beams. (See photos 15, 18.) The woodwork rests against a white plastered ceiling, providing a contrast in materials. Four wrought iron chandeliers hang from the ceiling and provide soft light for the sanctuary.

Oak tongue and groove flooring covers the original pine floor below. An eight foot piece of cloth with a cross and a wooden flame serves as the primary altar back drop and sits beneath the square stained glass windows. The altar, framed by bracketed wood trim, is placed in a niche between the storage room and stairwell. (See photo 14.) An organ and piano are situated in the northwest section of the sanctuary while a pulpit stands to the east of the main aisle in the chancel.

**Alterations:**

Exterior alterations are relatively minimal. The main entry stairs leading to the narthex were replaced in-kind with concrete in the 1950s. The addition of a small elevator occurred north of the main stairs; the window in the narthex was removed and replaced by a set of double doors to permit access from the elevator in 1981. A cinderblock coal room was added to the east (rear) wall to store coal for the coal furnace when it was installed in the late 1940s. An opening in the wall and foundation provided access between the coal and furnace rooms. All of the raised basement windows have been replaced, many with fixed panes. The original cedar shake roof was replaced in-kind and remains the same visually.

Interior alterations and additions have occurred over the years. It appears the greatest amount of work was done in 1965, consisting of the following: redesign and extension of the chancel and altar area (including the cloth panel with cross and wooden flame and the addition of two rooms, one in either corner accessed by flush wooden doors off the altar); paneling of the sanctuary walls: vertical paneling in the rear sanctuary with a wider paneling in the remainder of the sanctuary space; laying a new oak floor over the original pine floors; building a full-length step to the rear dais, having removed the roll down door and partial wall; rebuilding of the organ grilles; and new pews.

New stained glass panels were created and added to the existing windows; the original windows remain intact but modern stained glass panels were placed over them on the inside between 1976 and 1979. John Crouch, who taught Art at Grand Junction High School and served as the choir director for a number of years, designed and installed them. A total of twenty one panels were built and installed in the sanctuary. A room at the rear of the sanctuary was made into a nursery/"cry room" and a sliding glass door installed. Other changes include converting the "Ladies' Aid Room" into a kitchen with a window in order to more efficiently serve meals in the large social hall (Stewart Hall). The original fireplace in the Ladies Aid Room was filled in at that time. The original kitchen then became a Sunday

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school room.

**Non-Contributing Resources**Rectory

The 1959 Rectory is a rectangular one-story building with an asphalt shingle side-gabled roof and exposed rafters. Walls are covered in wavy asbestos siding. The building faces west and sits directly behind the church. Concrete steps lead to an off-center modern door. Immediately south of the door is a triple 1/1 window. A single 1/1 window sits further south of the triple window. Two 1/1 windows, each with shutters, are evenly spaced on the south wall. The east (rear) wall displays the following window pattern: a single 1/1 and two sets of paired 1/1s. All windows are vinyl with shutters. The north wall contains an additional entry with modern door. On either side of the door are triple windows: a large, single, central fixed-pane flanked by small, narrow 1/1 windows.

Currently used as a daycare facility, the building is considered *noncontributing* due to its age of construction outside the period of significance and the fact that it is not architecturally significant. It does not possess any of the same materials or decorative elements as the church.

Garage/ Storage

The garage/ storage building was also constructed in 1959. It is one-story with a side-gabled roof and metal siding on the walls. It faces south, with an overhead door opening up onto the edge of the parking lot. A modern slider window exists on the west wall while a rectangular fixed-pane is centrally placed on the east wall. The north wall contains a small divided light window and pedestrian door towards the west end.

The building is considered *noncontributing* due to its age of construction outside the period of significance and the fact that it is not architecturally significant. It does not possess any of the same materials or decorative elements as the church.

ENVIRONMENT

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1929

Significant Dates

1929

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

STEWART, PETER

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
#

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State Historic Preservation Office
[ ] Other State Agency
[ ] Federal Agency
[ ] Local Government
[ ] University
[ ] Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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## SIGNIFICANCE

The 1929 Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible to the National Register under Criterion C at the *State* level of significance in the area of **Architecture** as an excellent example of the Craftsman style applied to an ecclesiastical building. The church displays the typical characteristics of the style such as local stone, truss work, overhanging eaves with exposed rafters, and wood shingles. Additional details- the decoratively carved bargeboards on the exterior, and the beams and sculpted rafters on the interior- attest to the expert craftsmanship of local builder Peter Stewart. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from its distinctive architecture, Criteria Consideration A applies.

Craftsman style churches are rare in Colorado, with only three currently identified: the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert (listed National Register, NRIS # 05001507, 1/11/2006), the United Methodist Church of Cedaredge (unrecorded), and the nominated Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church. Of note, all three of these churches are located in Delta County and utilize local basaltic stone as an exterior wall material, though they were designed by different architects/builders. While two Craftsman style churches have been identified in Boulder County, both buildings display wood shingle exteriors. The Hotchkiss church, in addition to its counterparts in the county, is an outstanding example of a Craftsman style church. With few exterior alterations, the church retains integrity of materials, workmanship, and design, and is clearly able to convey its architectural significance.

It is clear from the detail on the Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church Peter Stewart was a strong supporter and practitioner of the Arts and Crafts Movement, of which the Craftsman style was a part. According to *American Architecture, An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, Cyril Harris describes the Arts and Crafts Movement as

the emphasis by a group of artisans on craftsmanship and high standards in all architectural details.... The emphasis on craftsmanship espoused by the Arts and Crafts movement was especially embodied in the designs of the southern California architects Charles Sumner Greene (1868-1957) and his brother Henry Mather Greene (1870-1954), in whose work architectural details were carried to a high art (15).

The movement, which began in England in the latter part of the nineteenth century, was a reaction to the excess and machine-made ornamentation of the Victorian era. Proponents of the movement subscribed to simplicity of design, return to hand craftsmanship, and the use of natural materials. In the United States, the movement focused on the use of wood to highlight the form and function of the item, whether it was a piece of furniture or the exterior of a building. This emphasis on natural materials and use of wood is seen in the Hotchkiss church with its use of local basaltic stone and wood utilized for trusses, roof shingles, interior beams, and interior brackets.

## Historical Background

The town of Hotchkiss was one of three communities established in the North Fork Valley of the Gunnison River ten miles east of Delta, Colorado, in the early 1890s. The valley, like much of the rest of western Colorado, had been explored earlier and the potential for farming and development of extensive irrigation systems recognized. It was not until the treaty of 1880 resulted in the re-settlement of the Ute Indians into southwestern Colorado and northeastern Utah that the area formally opened to homesteading.

In 1893, about the same time that the nearby towns of Paonia and Crawford were established, Enos

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Hotchkiss founded the town, giving it his name. The three communities anchored the valley and all shared a similar economy and culture. Enos Hotchkiss lived in Saguache for a number of years in the 1870s. He previously worked for Otto Mears where he first built a flour mill for him and later worked in the San Juan Mountains as mining development was underway. He knew the valley and was one of the first to claim land in the valley.

As new homesteaders moved into and settled the valley, the town of Hotchkiss quickly grew into a market and supply center. The valley developed into a major fruit growing area. Roads, railroads, schools, and churches soon followed.

In 1893 a Methodist minister and scholar, the Reverend Henry Harpst, visited his son near Hotchkiss. The new residents, who until then had no regular church services, quickly pressed Harpst into service. In the same year he held the first church services in the valley in Hotchkiss. Harpst was then solicited by Paonia and the small community of Bethlehem to conduct services there as well and soon was preaching at three locations each Sunday, usually at newly built schools.

By 1898, the first church in the valley saw completion. It was a small brick church built in Hotchkiss called the Andrew L. Webb Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church with Reverend J.C. Veeder as its first minister.

The valley developed a substantial farming and ranching industry which sustained the three towns. In time, the rush of development slowed, growth became steadier, and the area more stable. Additional churches were built, including Methodist churches in Paonia and Crawford. Religion has always been an important bond for people in the valley and remains so today with a wide variety of Protestant sects, Catholic, Mennonite, Evangelical, and New Age spiritualism. There are twenty one churches in a valley with no more than 5,000 people.

Important events affected the history of the valley: coal mining, the Great Depression, and a change in fruit transportation and marketing. Coal mining developed after the valley was settled. Between 1903 and 1930, mines in the valley produced some 1000 tons of coal per day. Mining was primarily responsible for the construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in the area. Mining declined during the Depression, and it was not until after World War II that it came to be the dominant driver of the economy. Many fruit farmers worked at the mines to supplement their farm incomes during that time period. The mines were a bust and boom blessing as people in the valley learned over the years. When the mines closed yet again in the 1970s many people left the valley to find work in Montrose, Aspen, Crested Butte, and other cities to the north. Today the coal mines and associated rail transportation are once again an important part of the North Fork Valley economy.

The Great Depression of the 1930s halted development of the fruit industry in the valley. Although fruit production remained an important activity, its growth stabilized and the industry stagnated until World War II when it and the valley slowly began to prosper again. Exempt from the draft, farmers were encouraged to produce for the war effort. According to common knowledge in the valley, they endured the Depression with less trauma than many people in urban areas because they could produce most of their needs locally. Hotchkiss and the valley have grown slowly since the Depression.

In the 1970s a significant change in the transportation of fruit to market occurred about the same time as the coal mines closed. Prior to that time fruit was marketed directly from the farm to independent truckers converging on the valley each fall. After that time fruit had to be marketed to centralized regional distributors; production dropped as a result. With the exception of two areas, Rogers Mesa

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and the Paonia vicinity, most farms converted to hay while orchards were cleared. It was also at this time that many young people decided not to pursue farming and moved to more exciting, prosperous jobs and locations away from Hotchkiss.

Today the population of the town is around 1,000 people, maintaining that level for the last five years. The valley is still primarily a farming and bedroom community for miners. Vineyards are replacing some of the apple, peach, and cherry orchards, while many individuals work in the coal mines. The area has become a retirement community as well as home to a recreation based population of young people in Paonia. Paonia is also home to the *High Country News*, a national environmental journal and major employer in town.

The expanding wine industry and growth of small organic farms are steady trends in the valley today. In fact, the valley houses the most organic farm operations in the state of Colorado. According to the Colorado State University Research Station, the valley possesses an almost ideal climate, soil, and pest-free environment for organic farming.

**History of the Church**

The first church was constructed in 1898 on the same location as the present church. Membership in the congregation grew steadily and soon outgrew the small church, with Sunday school and other Sunday activities spilling into tents on the front lawn. By 1926, serious discussions were underway to construct a new and larger church. Leading the way was their new pastor, Reverend Chestnutt.

Women of the church held meetings in 1927 in conjunction with the trustees; various proposals to solve the overcrowding were proposed. One suggestion was to dig a basement under the existing church. All eyes turned to trustee Peter Stewart. Stewart said the foundation would not support a basement. The congregation then suggested adding an annex. Stewart said that would cost as much as a new church. At every suggestion, Stewart shook his head no and, in the end, the congregation voted to raise money and begin construction on a new building. It appears from church history Peter Stewart had a greater vision in mind for the church.

Church members subscribed monies in the amount of \$12,000 to be paid over a five year period. The estimated cost was \$15,000 with donated labor and materials to offset some of these costs.

To no one's surprise, the trustees selected Peter Stewart to build the new church. Reverend Chestnutt and the chairman of the building committee, Mrs. P.G. Stewart, completed the basic design and allocation of space and function. Mrs. Stewart, Peter's wife, also was named manager of construction. Peter Stewart and a Mr. Campbell of Grand Junction drew up the plans for the church. Church history indicates Peter Stewart's past as a builder gave him free reign to determine the architectural style and design of the building. It is interesting to note that historically, Christian churches typically have the entrance situated on a short western façade at the rear of the nave, directly opposite the chancel. In this church, however, the entrance is on the long west façade and comes in at the side of the sanctuary, a departure from standard church construction.

According to the *Hotchkiss Herald*, at 8:30 A.M. on Wednesday, July 18, 1928, work began on the new church. The old church was torn down and all of the brick salvaged to be used as the inner wall on which native volcanic stone would be laid. Work on the walls followed the basement excavation. William Coutts of Hotchkiss, also a member of the church, did all of the masonry work. The church was

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completed in the early part of 1929 and dedicated on April 18, 1929.

By the time Stewart moved to the western slope of Colorado, he already had a substantial reputation as a builder. His family originally settled in Nova Scotia where they continued a long family tradition of craftsman-carpenters, extending back as far as family records exist before immigrating to the United States. He married around 1900 before moving to British Columbia. He then immigrated to the United States from Canada in 1905. He entered the North Fork Valley and purchased a farm on Barrow Mesa just above the town in 1913. Peter Stewart was from a long line of European craftsmen and probably learned his trade from his father and/or grandfather.

After settling in the valley, he grew fruit like most of his neighbors and started building homes in the valley. Although Stewart apparently received limited formal education, he worked in construction in Nova Scotia for his Scottish father and in British Columbia. By the time he arrived in the North Fork Valley, he was a highly skilled and experienced carpenter. He seems to have been fully grounded in the philosophy and intent of the Arts and Crafts movement. The many homes and farmhouses he built in the North Fork Valley all display the Craftsman influence. In particular, he made use of natural stone, used heavy wood trim and stick work for the interior, and apparently designed the homes he built to meet the needs and budgets of the locals for whom he worked.

Of similar design is the 1921 First Presbyterian Church in the nearby community of Eckert, Colorado, designed by nationally known architect Lawrence B. Valk. Valk developed a reputation for applying the Craftsman tradition to ecclesiastical buildings, designing a number of churches throughout the nation. He published a book on church architecture. It is likely that the church in Eckert was well known throughout the valley and admired for its distinctive masonry. Although there is no tangible proof, it is highly likely that Peter Stewart used the Eckert Church as a model for his design of the Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church. The architecture and massive masonry walls of the two churches are similar and form a distinctive pair in the valley.

The final cost of the church totaled \$15,600. By the time construction began, members had subscribed \$12,365 toward that goal. It is interesting to note, however, that construction of the church began on the eve of the Great Depression. In the end, Peter Stewart carried the note for the remaining \$3,000. While progress in paying off the debt continued, it was not until the late 1940s/ early 1950s when Stewart finally tore up the note for the remaining amount and the church debt was retired.

During the period of construction from July 1928 until completion and dedication on April 18, 1929, the movie theater hosted church services, although children's Sunday school continued in tents near the church.

Dignitaries from the Methodist Episcopal Church attended the dedication of the church and enjoyed special choir presentations. The dedication flyer lists Mr. Peter Stewart as "architect and builder."

The church has been in continuous use for the last eighty years with almost no changes to the exterior or the original placement of interior walls. The congregation diminished over the last couple of decades as part of a larger trend in attendance in mainstream Protestant churches, but membership still numbers around 100. In recent years, however, membership has increased. Each Sunday the church hosts two Sunday schools, a worship service, and a host of meetings and other events. The church still serves as a social services center and houses a day care center for the community. Every Sunday and at Christmas the chimes of the carillon sound throughout the small town.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County/ Colorado

Section number 9 Page 10

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- Stewart, June (granddaughter of Peter Stewart). Telephone interviews by Gary Matlock, January & February 2009.
- TeGrotenhuis, Ken. *Recollections of Building Our Church*. On file at church. Ca. 2006.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Interview by Gary Matlock, July 2008, at Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church.
- "The Past and Future of Local Coal Mining." *The North Fork Merchant Herald*. February 2009.
- Grandchildren of Peter Stewart, Interview by Gary Matlock, July 2008, at Stewart House.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) (NAD 27)

- 1.     13     263924     4297944  
      Zone    Easting     Northing
- 2.     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting     Northing
- 3.     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting     Northing
- 4.     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_     \_\_\_\_  
      Zone    Easting     Northing

The UTMS were derived by OAHP from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management

[ ] 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 Gary Matlock, Trustee

organization Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church     date March 30, 2009

street & number 285 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/ P.O. Box 567     telephone (970) 872-3540

city or town Hotchkiss     state Colorado     zip code 81419

**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 Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church     Attn- Pat Johnson, Senior Pastor

street & number 285 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/ P.O. Box 567     telephone (970) 872-3540

city or town Hotchkiss     state Colorado     zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County/ Colorado

Section number 10 Page 11

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

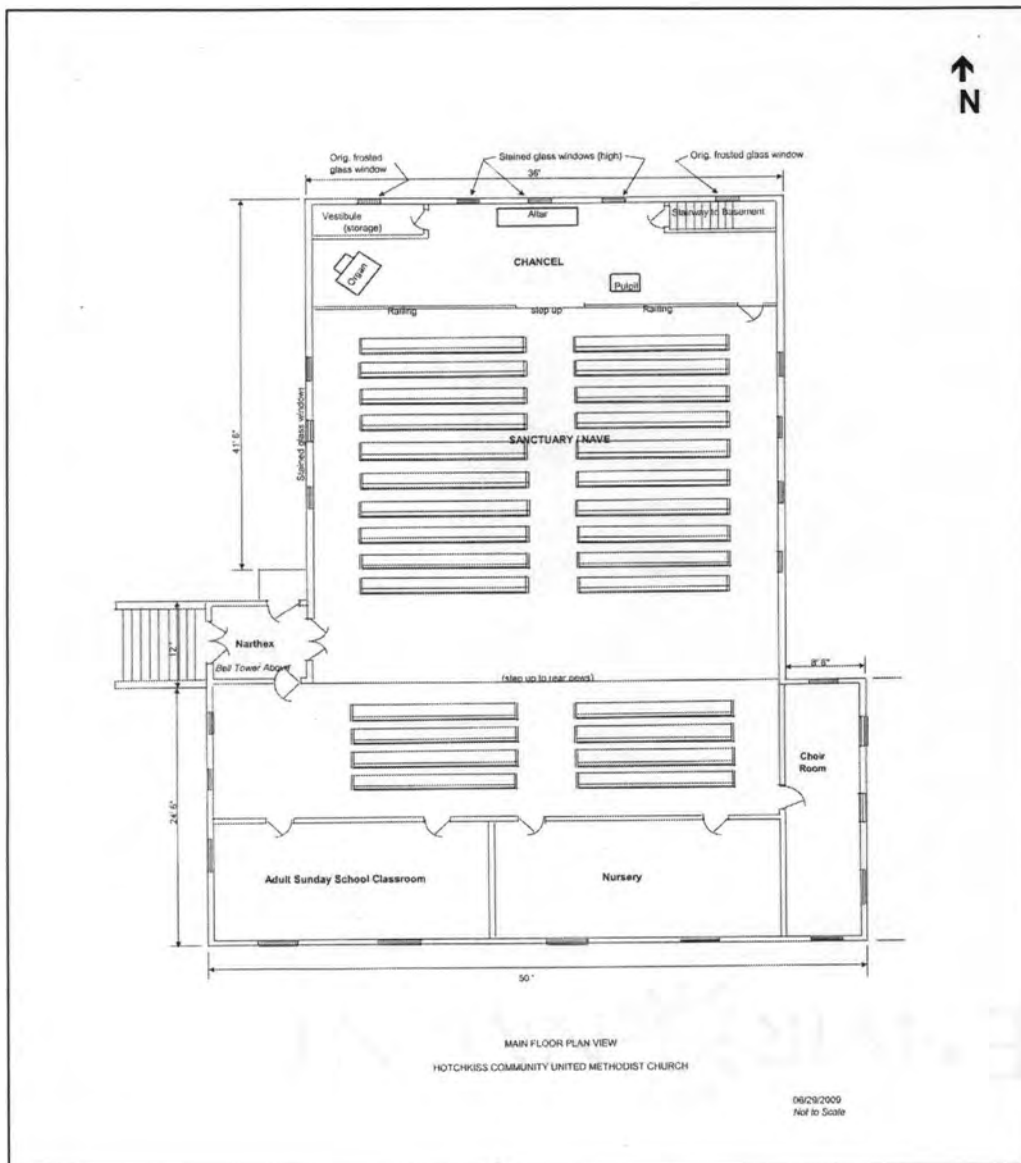
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 12-16, inclusive, Block 7, Original Hotchkiss, Town of Hotchkiss, Delta County, Colorado.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel includes all the land historically associated with the church.

## Sketch Map



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

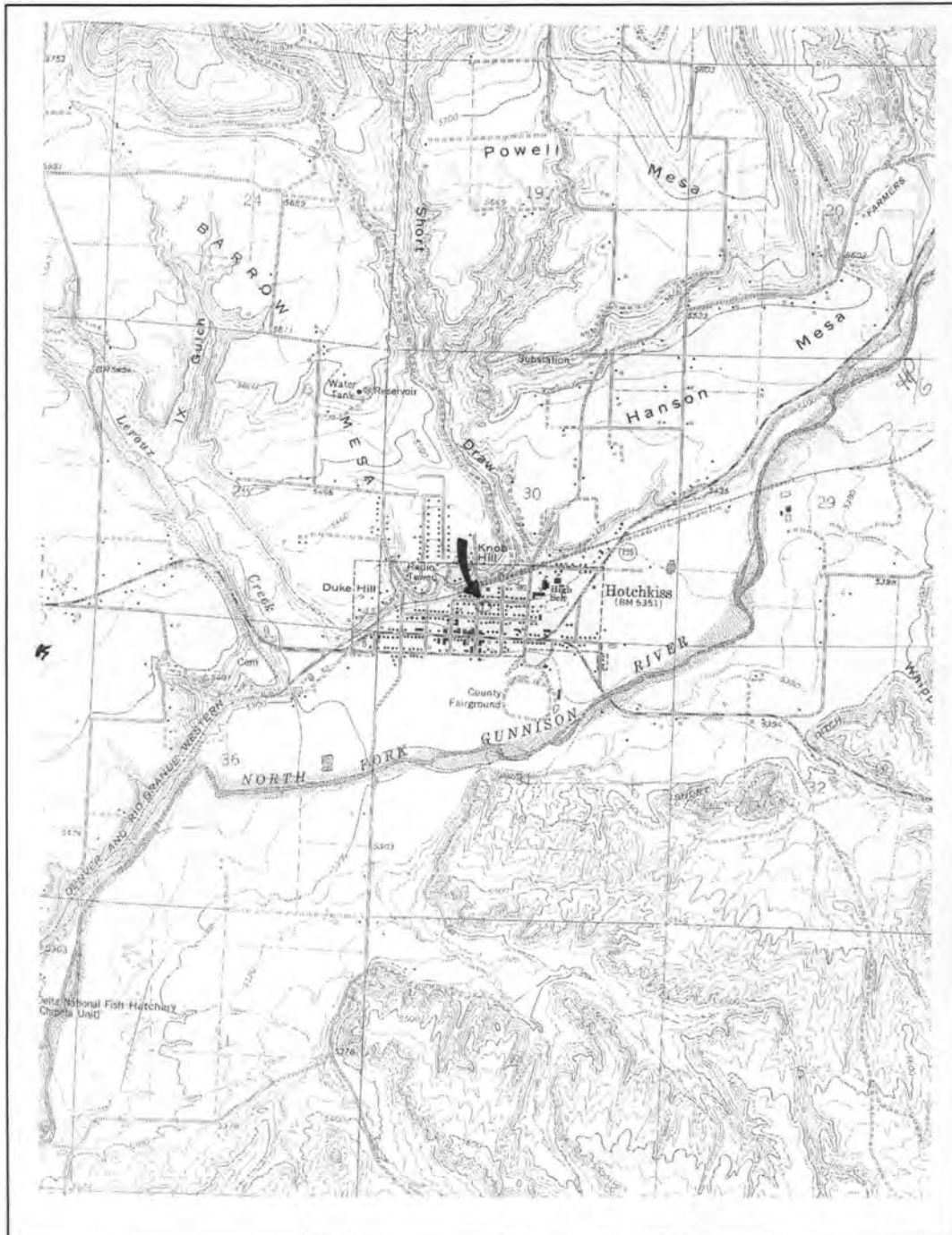
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County/ Colorado

Section number 10 Page 12

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Hotchkiss Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 263924E / 4297944N  
PLSS: 6<sup>th</sup> PM, T14S, R92W, Sec. 30  
NE¼, SW¼, SW¼, SW¼  
Elevation: 5335 feet





# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County/ Colorado

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

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-22 except as noted:

Photographers: Jonathon Thompson & Robert Kearny  
Date of Photographs: February 2009  
Negatives: TIFF images on cd on file with NPS in Washington, D.C.

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	West façade, camera facing east.
2	Oblique view of west façade and south side, camera facing northeast.
3	North side, camera facing south.
4	East (rear) side, camera facing southwest.
5	East (rear) side, camera facing west.
6	South side, camera facing north.
7	Close-up of main entry on west façade, camera facing east.
8	Close-up of chimney.
9	East (rear) side, camera facing northwest.
10	Basement entrance, west façade, camera facing east.
11	Gable detail on west façade.
12	Close-up of carving on bargeboard.
13	Close-up of basaltic rock.
14	Interior- sanctuary and altar.
15	Interior- sanctuary stained glass windows.
16	Interior- stained glass windows over altar.
17	Interior- narthex and elevator door.
18	Interior- rafters in sanctuary.
19	Interior- school room.
20	Interior- library.
21	Interior- floor detail.
22	Interior- close-up of chandelier in sanctuary.

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC

Photo No.	Photographic Information
H1	Image of church shortly after completion. Image courtesy of Florence Miller (Peter Stewart's granddaughter), Grand Junction.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County/ Colorado

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 14

## H1: Shortly After Completion in 1929



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: COLORADO, Delta

DATE RECEIVED: 9/18/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/05/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/20/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/01/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000853

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 10.26.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

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.



COMMUNITY  
M.C.  
Church

5DT. 1769

#1

Holtzkliss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 #2

Hutchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

26-Front (angle detail)





5DT. 1769 #3

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5 DT. 1769 # 4

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 #5

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 #6

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

6-southside



COMMUNITY  
M.E.  
CHURCH  
19 29



5DT. 1769 #7

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 #8

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5 DT. 1769 #9

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5 DT. 1769 #10

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

St. Lawrence  
5000  
1111  
1769





5 DT. 1769 #11

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

11. Ad. side front



5DT. 1769 # 12

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



5 DT. 1769

# 13

Holtzkiss United Methodist Church

Delta County Colorado



Have I Alone  
Sent Me

FOLLOW ME

5DT. 1769

#14

Holtzkiss United Methodist Church

Delta County Colorado

15 - Secretary (from)





5DT. 1769

#15

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church

Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 #16

Holtzkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

17 - Standard glass - 1/2 liter



5 DT. 1769 #17

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church

Delta County Colorado

25-70007-10000-1000



SDV. 1769

#18

Hatchless United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

27 - Sanctuary Elder  
detail





SDT. 1769 #19

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church

Delta County Colorado



5DT. 1769 # 20

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



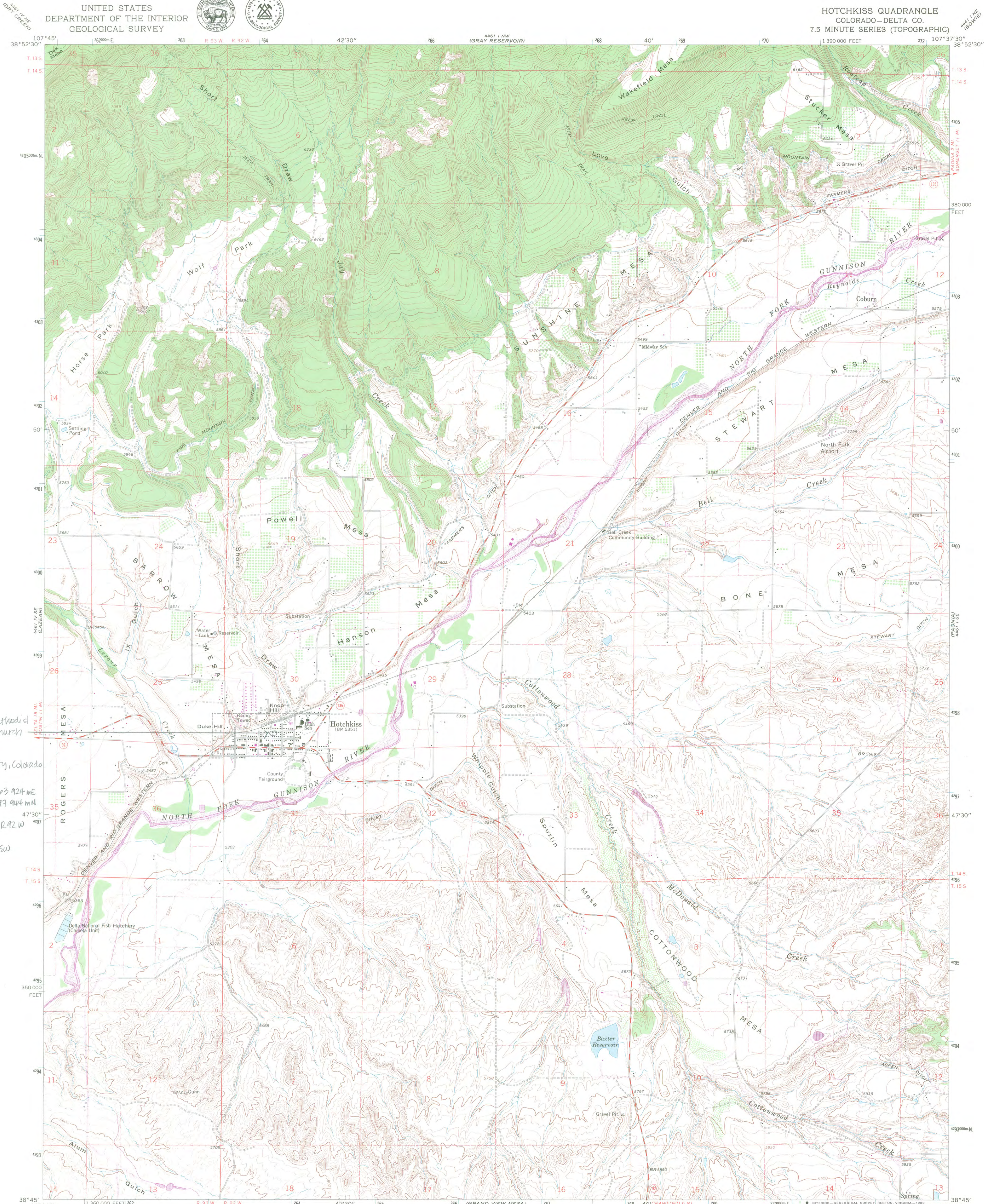
5DT1769 #21

Hutchliss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado



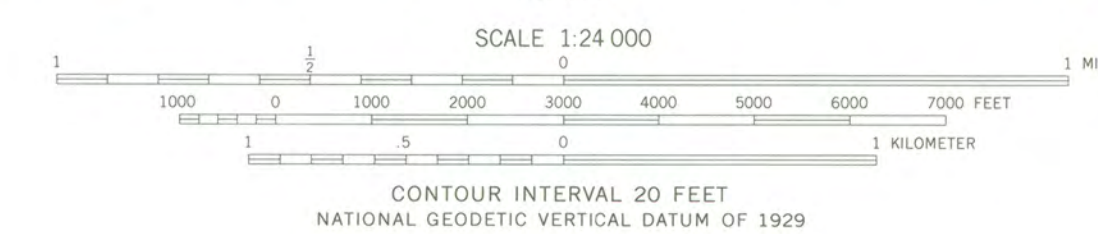
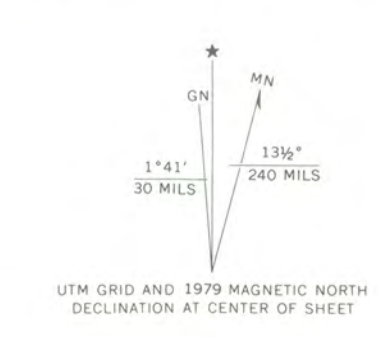
5DT. 1769 #22

Hotchkiss United Methodist Church  
Delta County Colorado

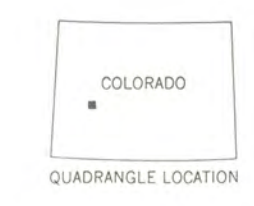


Hotchkiss Methodist  
Episcopal Church  
5 DT 1769  
Delta County, Colorado  
UTMS:  
Zone 13 203 924 ME  
4297 944 MN  
6<sup>th</sup> PM T14S R.92 W  
S80  
NE, SW, SW, SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1965  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Colorado coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 13, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1975 and other source data. This information not  
field checked. Map edited 1979



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929




THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

HOTCHKISS, COLO.  
N3845—W10737.5/7.5  
1965  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
DMA 4461 I SW—SERIES V877





 OFFICE of ARCHAEOLOGY and HISTORIC PRESERVATION



September 10, 2009

Dr. Janet Snyder-Matthews, Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, N.W. 8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: National Register Nomination

Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church  
Delta County, Colorado

Dear Dr. Snyder-Matthews:

We are pleased to submit for your approval the nomination for Hotchkiss Methodist Episcopal Church, located in Hotchkiss in Delta County.

The nomination was reviewed at the August 7, 2009, Review Board Meeting, and the Board recommended that it be forwarded to Washington for final review.

We look forward to the formal listing of this property. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (303) 866-4683.

Sincerely,

Chris Geddes  
National and State Register Historian  
Colorado Historical Society  
(303) 866-4683  
[chris.geddes@chs.state.co.us](mailto:chris.geddes@chs.state.co.us)

Enclosures: 5DT.1769 nomination form, USGS topo map, black and white photos, cd with TIFF images

*A program of the*  
**COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**