

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 of Moffat

other names/site number Moffat Community Church; 5SH.1020

2. Location

street & number 401 Lincoln Avenue [N/A] not for publication

city or town Moffat [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Saguache code 109 zip code 81142

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.)

Mark Wolfe Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/4/08
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
 - See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 - See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper 7-24-08 Date of Action
Carlson H. Ball

First Baptist Church of Moffat
Name of Property

Saguache 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, 1900 to 1940

**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)

Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Concrete
walls	Concrete
roof	Metal
other	

Narrative Description

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

First Baptist Church of Moffat
Name of Property

Saguache 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

1911

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown architect

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 of Moffat
Name of Property

Saguache 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 | 420532 | 4205805 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |

The UTM reference point was derived 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 Preservation Planning Unit (prepared for the property owner)
organization Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation date July 1, 2007
street & number 225 E. 16th Ave. telephone 303-866-3392
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80203-1606

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 Town of Moffat
street & number PO Box 353 telephone 719-256-5015
city or town Moffat state CO zip code 81143

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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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National Park Service**

First Baptist Church of Moffat
Saguache County, Colorado

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Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900 to 1940 MPS

DESCRIPTION

The 1911 building of the former First Baptist Church of Moffat stands in the center of town, approximately two blocks east of State Highway 17. The generally T-shaped plan building has a concrete foundation supporting ornamental concrete block walls with wood sash, doors and trim. The cross-gabled roof has a corner steeple, two secondary steeples and a brick chimney. The gables, spires and roofs are sheathed with stamped metal panels in a fishscale pattern. The panel-faced concrete blocks have chamfered edges and smooth faces. Most of the windows contain double-hung sash with a stained glass upper light over a single clear lower light. Sills and lintels are concrete.

An east side poured concrete staircase with seven risers and short side walls with pipe railing leads the visitor to the corner entry in the projecting steeple. A stained glass transom surmounts the double five-panel doors. The upper steeple is sheathed in stamped metal siding and contains a louver covered opening with a semicircular arch. The four sides of the lower portion of the two-section roof flare to form overhanging eaves with rafter tails. The upper roof section is pyramidal with similar flared eaves. Three evenly spaced one-over-one windows complete the east-side fenestration.

The south side base of the steeple contains a one-over-one double-hung window. The main wall includes three closely spaced one-over-one windows. The gable contains a Palladian window. The foundation is pierced in two locations by enclosed stairways accessing the cellar. Each enclosure is of poured concrete with a gable roof sheathed with pressed metal shingles. One enclosure has a three-panel wood door and the other stair opening is covered by a sheet of plywood. The small tower base at the intersection of the south wall of the former chancel and the west wall of the sanctuary contains concrete block infilled window openings on its south and west sides. The top is sheathed in metal panels. Many of the concrete blocks in the tower are badly deteriorated due to water damage. The south wall of the chancery contains a single one-over-one sash.

The west wall includes two original openings infilled with modern concrete blocks. The gable contains a pair of one-over-one sash whose lower lights are covered with wood panels. A square brick chimney rises through the roof ridge just behind the gable. The small tower at the intersection of the north wall of the former chancel and the west wall of the sanctuary contains concrete block infilled window openings on its north and west sides. The upper portion of the tower is sheathed in pressed metal siding. The tall pyramidal roof has flared eaves and is sheathed in pressed metal siding.

The north wall of the chancel contains a window opening covered by a wood panel. The north wall of the sanctuary repeats the fenestration of the south sanctuary wall.

The building interior consists of approximately 1,600 square feet of enclosed area on the main floor, 185 square feet in the second-floor room, and about 1,600 square feet in a low-ceilinged dirt-floored cellar. Services were held on the main floor, while the small second-floor room was used for Sunday school classes. The cellar level housed an old coal furnace and has been used for storage throughout the years.

A pair of vestibule doors opens directly into the sanctuary area. A third door opens to the side of the sanctuary. A ceiling hatch accesses the belfry. The sanctuary itself is a rectangular room of 1,100 square feet, which includes a 180 square foot dais to the north. The floors are of tongue and groove hardwood. Wood wainscoting and chair rail moldings line the lower plaster walls. An original 16-foot

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high decorative tin panel ceiling exists throughout the building. The ceiling area above the sanctuary space is vaulted, although this is covered by a later drop plaster ceiling. North, east and south walls showcase wood-frame non-iconographic stained glass windows with simple curved and linear geometric motifs in milky whites and yellows, deep amber and terra cotta shades, and bright greens and blues. The original wood pews are still present and stored today in the church basement. The former chancel at the east end of the building is partially closed off by a non-original wall. The arches of the original openings remain visible. The space was last used as a church office.

The upper story is a single room of about 185 square feet, with a single window looking out over the church property to the west. The room has a white fiberboard ceiling with two sloped faces and a central flat face. On the east wall of the room an attic hatch leads to the framing that forms the original cathedral ceiling of the sanctuary below.

Alterations

On the exterior, one of the most visible changes is the loss of the spire on one of the two small steeples. Several sash are missing one or more lights and are now infilled with wood panels. Six original window openings are infilled with concrete block. A finial originally graced the pinnacle of the main steeple spire. The bell was once fully functional.

During the 1980s, the then-caretakers of the church realized that their building was failing structurally. They strove towards mending the walls on the north side, which were spreading, damaging the concrete blocks that composed them. The caretakers built thick concrete buttresses at the northeast and northwest corners, and attached a turnbuckle with threaded steel rods to the building to prevent further splaying.

The drop plaster ceiling in the sanctuary hides the original stamped tin ceiling above. The new ceiling installation occurred no later than 1933. The wood pews in the sanctuary were originally oriented in a north-south direction. Those seated faced the original chancel to the west. The floors functioned for many years with only the softwood plank underlayment. The congregation did not install the hardwood floor until the late 1930s.

Two risers and a trio of flattened round arches supported by round Tuscan columns originally defined the chancel. The chancel area, a rectangular space about 300 square feet in area, was where the celebrant stood behind the altar during services. Twin steeples create nooks with stained glass windows in the northeast and southeast corners of the chancel. The chancel area originally extended to the west end of the church, and had stained glass windows at its perimeter. A later partition forms a west wall of the chancel. This partition was probably built shortly after construction of the church proper, to block the view of two stairs from the congregation.

A long-demolished stair at the north side of the west wall led down to the cellar. In its place is a storage closet. Long-term church members indicated that the cellar had always been used for storage, especially for wood and coal. An intact stair at the south side of the west wall leads to the second floor. This stair has several winder treads and fourteen steep risers.

Although suffering from deferred maintenance, deterioration, some interior alterations and serious structural failings, the building retains a high degree of integrity in relation to its location, setting, design, materials and workmanship. It retains the important visual characteristics of its ornamental concrete block construction, stamped metal applications, and its distinctive ecclesiastical form and

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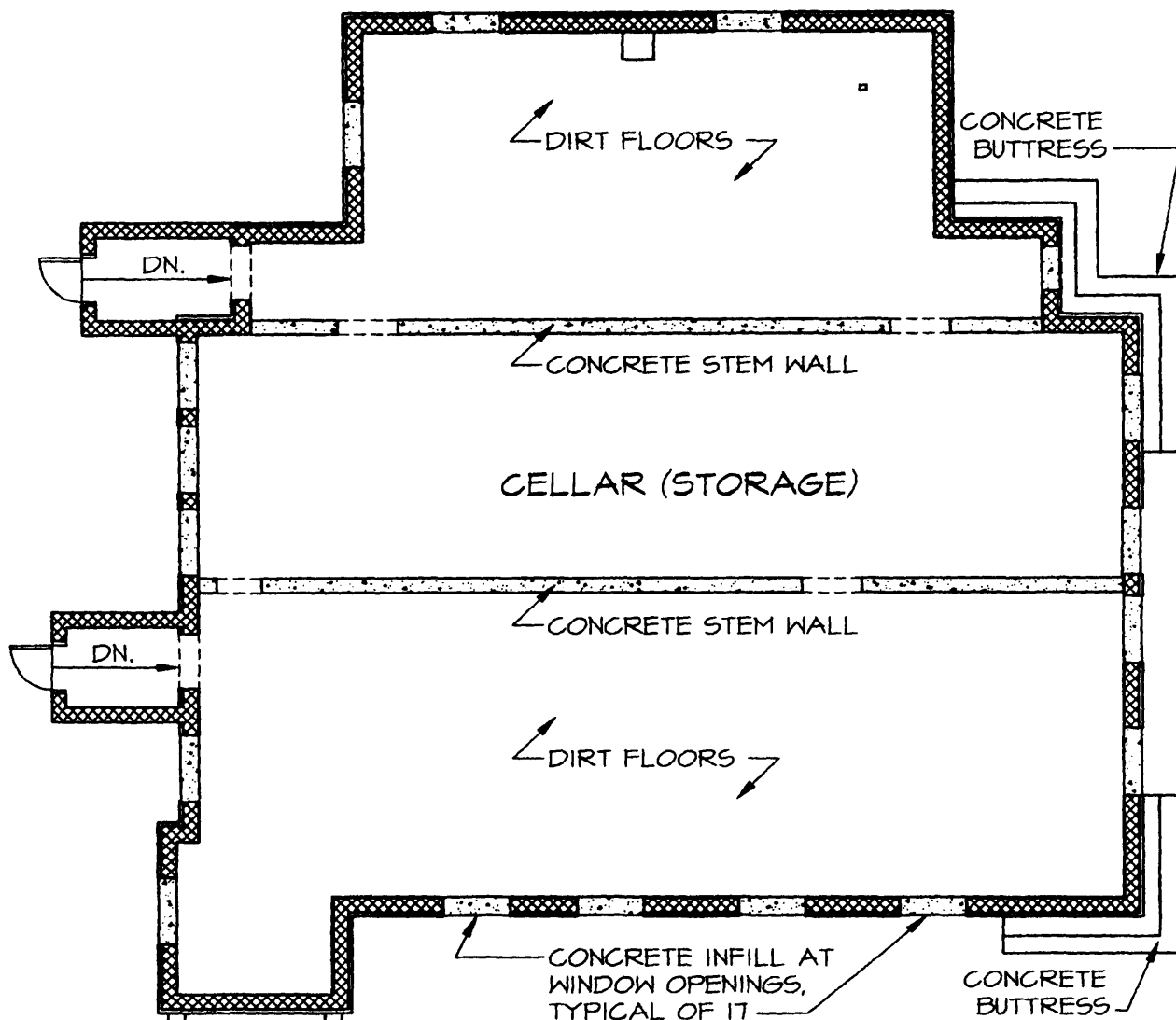
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ornamentation. These factors contribute to the building's integrity of feeling in respect to its time, place and method of construction that constitute its architectural significance.

FLOOR PLAN (From Jones, *Historic Structure Assessment*, 2003)



1

Cellar Measured Floor Plan

Scale : 1/8" = 1' - 0"

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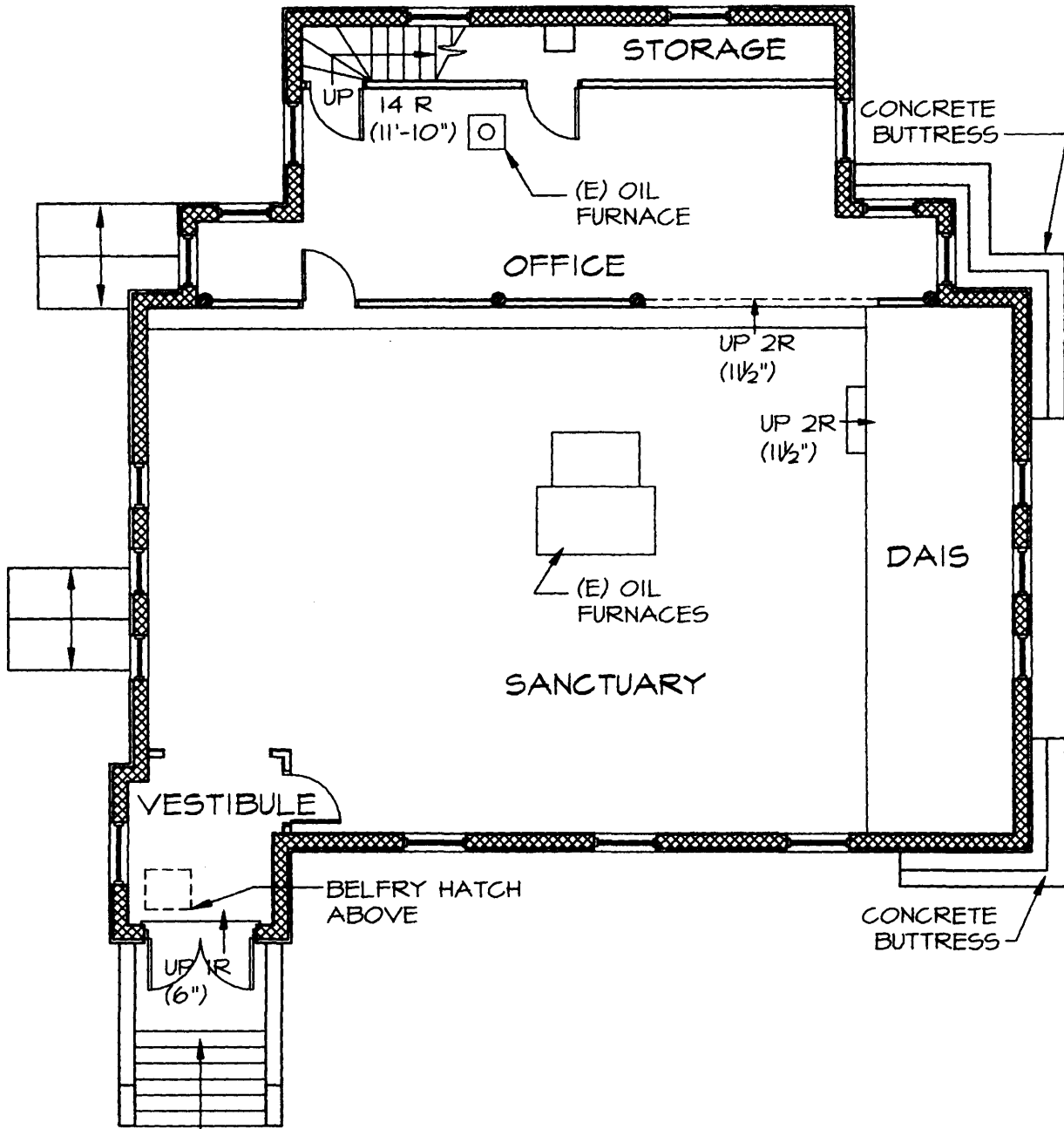
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FLOOR PLAN (From Jones, *Historic Structure Assessment*, 2003)



2

Main Floor Measured Floor Plan

Scale : 1/8" = 1' - 0"

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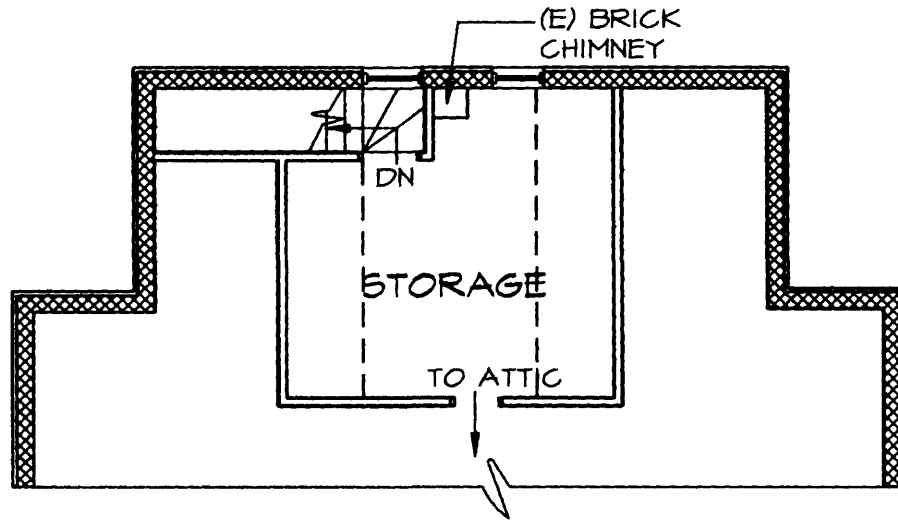
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FLOOR PLAN (From Jones, *Historic Structure Assessment*, 2003)



3

Upper Floor Measured Floor Plan

Scale : 1/8" = 1' - 0"

MJA, LLC • 2003



The site also contains a small, rectangular plan, gable-roofed outhouse with stucco-covered walls, composition shingles and exposed rafter ends. The east wall contains a four-panel wood door. The north side contains a small rectangular wood-frame window without sash.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The 1911 building of the First Baptist Church of Moffat is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of *architecture*. The building meets the registration requirements for the public building property type as set forth in the National Register multiple property documentation form, *Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900 to 1940*. The building is an excellent example of the use of on-site formed, panel-faced ornamental concrete blocks in a small but elegant church building. The irregular plan and cross-gabled roof building is also noteworthy for its primary and secondary steeples and its use of pressed metal roof shingles and siding. Original stained glass windows are present throughout the building as is the interior pressed metal ceiling. Though structural deterioration is a current problem, the church retains a high degree of physical integrity in relation to its original construction.

Architectural Significance

The founders of the Moffat Church took advantage of the recently perfected ornamental concrete block construction technique in the erection of their new building in 1911. As discussed in the multiple property document, the block became popular in the first years of the twentieth century with advances in portland cement production and with the introduction of relatively inexpensive, easy to use, on-site block making machines.

Although far from common, several congregations across the state chose ornamental concrete block for their new church construction projects in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Construction began in 1907 on Alamosa's First Baptist Church on State Avenue. An asymmetrical composition consisting of a variety of forms, textures and materials, the church epitomizes the Queen

Anne style. Its steeply pitched complex roof with a dominant front-facing gable, the corner tower, and patterned shingles are also characteristic of the style. Queen Anne is an unusual expression for ornamental concrete block construction in Colorado. Although pattern books and builders' catalogs included some Queen Anne examples, most concrete block design in the state relied on simplified styles. The building utilizes rock-faced block, the most common face pattern type. This is the only ornamental concrete block public building in Alamosa.



*First Baptist Church in Alamosa.
Source: Office of Archaeology and Historic
Preservation, Colorado Historical Society.*

Designed and built in 1917 by its pastor, John Reininga, the Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe (National Register-listed) houses one of the oldest Lutheran congregations in Colorado. The Gothic style ornamental concrete block building has a 96-foot tower. Fourteen stained glass windows illuminate the simple interior. As in Alamosa, rock-faced block constitutes the majority of the exterior walls. Smooth panel-faced blocks make up the first seven courses above the foundation.

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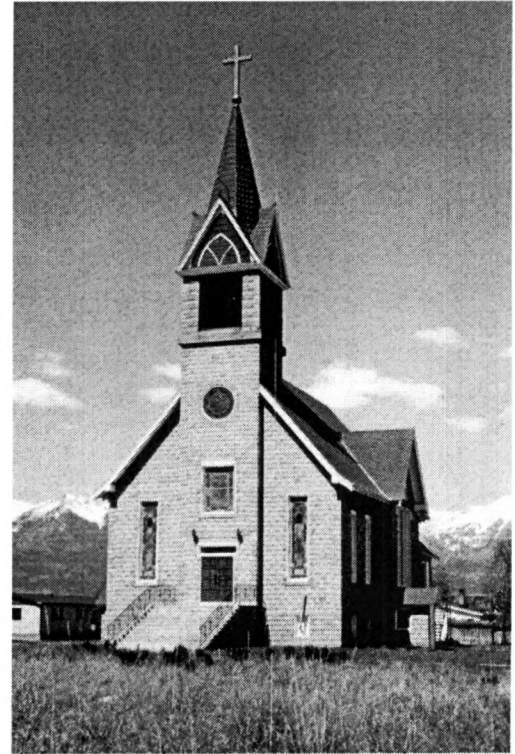
Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900 to 1940 MPS

The stylish Gothic Revival Methodist Episcopal Church in Wiley displays a skilled and distinctive use of ornamental block. A photo taken just after the building's completion, and most likely before the construction of the steeple spire, shows a predominantly panel-faced block building with dark rock-faced block for lintels, quoins and water table.

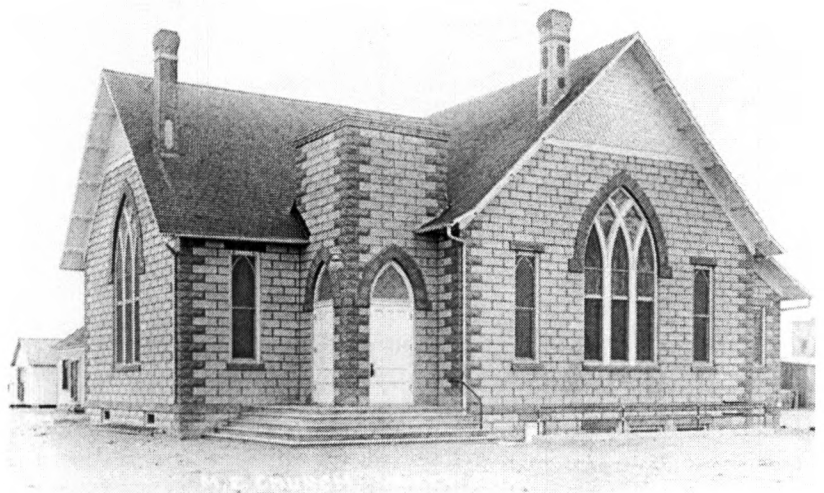
The designer of the Moffat church remains unknown. The proportions and overall aesthetic of the building indicate that the designer had some training in architecture. The plan may be original, but it could well have come from one of the many plan or pattern books widely available at the time. Several practical design errors, such as the lack of steel reinforcement in the block and the location of steeples directly in roof valleys, indicate that the designer's training in technical aspects of construction may have been deficient.

The building is eclectic in its styling, incorporating both secular and ecclesiastical design elements to create a distinctive church building. Del Norte architect Mark Jones, in his 2003 historic structure assessment, characterized the building as being of "a unique style, with features of varying origins. The overall bulky massing could be considered Romanesque Revival, whereas the proportions approach a Classical Revival style. The flourishes and wood detailing are Victorian in character, whereas the spires are reminiscent of those found on eastern European or Scandinavian stave churches." Jones continued:

The design is sturdy and practical, and as such contributes to the staid heritage of American vernacular church architecture. The church plan is simple, but, for its small town setting, its formal detailing are rich and elaborate. Its use of materials, such as decorative block and siding panels, are also unusual for its location. The overall form is Romanesque with its heavy bearing masonry walls. Buttresses at the north elevation of the building added in the 1980s



*Hope Lutheran Church in Westcliffe.
Source: Office of Archaeology and
Historic Preservation,
Colorado Historical Society.*



*Wiley Methodist Episcopal Church in about 1910.
Source: Stephen H. Hart Library, Colorado Historical Society.*

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contribute to this Romanesque character. The building elevations are classically proportioned. Finally, the flared double eaves of the church spires have a certain flair reminiscent of a Scandinavian stave church, or a Russian Orthodox Church.

As outlined in the multiple property document, contractors and builders most often fabricated ornamental blocks on-site by means of a hand-operated block press. Face plates could be changed allowing for a variety of surface treatments. Early twentieth century builders' catalogs advertised block machines and attachments. Though a slow process, forming blocks at the construction site could significantly lower transportation costs as opposed to shipping factory-made blocks or brick. Barrels or bags of portland cement would be shipped to the construction site and the builder would use locally available aggregate and water to form the concrete mix.

A rare and valuable construction photo shows workmen fabricating the blocks for the Moffat church. In the center is a tall wood block press shaded by a wood shelter. A four-man crew operates the press by pouring concrete into the block form and then pulling down on the long press handle to shape the block and remove excess water. Each finished block is released into a tray where a waiting worker moves it to a drying area for several days or weeks of curing. The Moffat photo shows a long trough in which the crew mixed concrete by hand. A block-size panel from a stack near the press was inserted in the press prior to the forming of each block. Workers picked up each newly shaped and fragile block by means of the support plate to avoid damaging the block. New blocks were spread out near the construction site to dry.



This circa 1911 photograph shows a four-man crew using a concrete block press for the Moffat church. Source: Jones, Historic Structure Assessment, 2003.

Local sources indicate that J. W. Biggs and his sons, Arthur and Clarence, hauled the sand for the concrete blocks. A Mr. Ingraham operated the block press. The exact proportions of the mixture used at Moffat are unknown, but most likely consisted of 1 part cement to 5 or 6 parts of local sand and gravel. Contemporary reports indicated that two men working together could produce between one and two hundred blocks in one eight-hour shift.

Builders found it challenging to maintain quality when fabricating blocks from small batches of concrete mix. Changes in the proportion of cement, aggregate and water, as well as the type, size and cleanliness of the aggregate could significantly alter the structural and aesthetic qualities of the blocks. Changes in weather at the construction site also affected the fabrication and drying process. Unskilled workers or do-it-yourself property owners often produced poor quality block. Many ninety-year-old

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block buildings contain cracked, spalling and deteriorating blocks whose ills may be tracked to the fabrication process.

The concrete blocks in the Moffat church exhibit generally good overall structural quality. Post-construction water damage and underlying foundation problems account for the majority of the visible block deterioration. The church demonstrates the practicality of ornamental block as an structural system, though its design application and later maintenance decisions resulted in long-term structural problems.

Also of note is the extensive use of pressed or stamped metal siding and shingles. Ornamental sheet metal, which reached its peak of popularity in this country in the last decade of the nineteenth and the first decade of the twentieth centuries, provided an affordable, durable and fire resistant material with architectural effects.

Although the use of sheet metal for architectural ornament was comparatively new in the 1870s, a major sheet-metal industry developed in the next several decades that changed the face of buildings across the country. Improvements in sheet-steel production and drop presses in the late 1800s made the stamping of larger decorative panels possible, allowing customers to purchase not only building fronts but also cladding for the whole building that imitated rock face stone or pressed brick. The manufacturers recommended it for covering old buildings with deteriorating facing as well as for new structures. Easily nailed over a wood frame, these pressed panels could instantly produce the appearance of a substantial masonry building. The illusion might be further enhanced by covering the sheet metal with a paint mixed with sand. By 1911, sheet-metal manufacturers were advertising prefabricated, fireproof garages with rock face metal siding. It is interesting that the rock face pattern, an imitative form very popular for ornamental concrete block, also became a staple for sheet metal, appearing as early as 1887.

As several disastrous urban fires proved, the fire-resistant qualities were exaggerated. Metal might be incombustible, but it lost strength at high temperatures. Even with galvanizing and plating, abrasions could still cause rust, necessitating regular repainting. Air pollution from coal burning attacked the protective coatings and limited the life of the metal. Many of these problems could be avoided with proper maintenance, and although not entirely so, sheet metal was still more fireproof than wood. "A different more philosophical troubling problem for the industry," architectural historian Pamela Simpson noted in her 1999 study of the material, "was the aesthetic issue of sheet metal's appearance and the imitative forms in which it was produced."

As early as 1874, many used the phrase "servile imitation" to describe ornamental sheet-metal and it appeared repeatedly during the vigorous 30-year debate conducted in the building press. Critics claimed that the "trained eye" could always identify sheet metal by "its inferior look" and that comparing stone ashlar to sheet metal was like comparing "clothing to a mask." The problem was not so much the act of imitation as the result—stamped metal failed to convincingly imitate stone and wood. Simpson noted:

To the ordinary people who bought the cornices, shingles, and building fronts, sheet metal was not so much imitation as allusion....Whether or not sheet metal actually fooled anyone into thinking it was stone or wood was irrelevant. What mattered was that it was successful ornament in its own right....Sheet-metal ornament was a substitute, a

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faithful reproduction, but also a material possessing its own unique qualities, and these qualities deserved to be admired....Moreover, sheet metal represented modernity and progress....New products shaped by new technology....These were products that were better than the stone and wood they replaced. They supplied rich ornament, durability, and fire resistance at a price the masses could afford.

The same dichotomy applied to ornamental concrete block and stone.

The aesthetic debate over the appropriateness of the imitative qualities of sheet metal and ornamental concrete block reflects the criticism faced by many new materials that appeared between 1870 and 1930. Were pressed metal and concrete block dishonest sham, inferior and unattractive? Or were they economical, durable and safe substitutes expressing modern, progressive values? The debate became moot as the popularity of ornamental sheet-metal and concrete block began to decline in the late 1920s. This was partly due to a change in aesthetic ideas. Metal facades and cornices had been associated with Italianate and other various ornate styles, which had fallen out of fashion. Other factors also contributed to the decline of stamped metal. The economic disaster of the Great Depression in the 1930s and the diversion of metal into military uses in the 1940s all but ended the architectural ornamental sheet-metal business. In the case of ornamental concrete block, the introduction of inexpensive factory-made cinder block by 1916 took away much of the cost advantage of on-site fabricated block. The difficulty of fabricating consistently high quality block on-site also worked against its competitiveness. Similar to the problem with stamped metal, the increasing popularity of Art Deco, Moderne and International styles favored the use of smooth block over the rough faces typical of ornamental concrete block.

With its internal and external use of stamped metal, coupled with the ornamental concrete block structural system, the designer and builders of the Moffat church utilized popular faux materials to create a distinctive building rooted firmly in the building technology of the first decades of the twentieth century.

Church History

The San Luis Town and Improvement Company founded the town in 1889, naming it for David H. Moffat, president of the Denver and Rio Grande Railway. Moffat extended his railroad to a large depot in his namesake town, as well as to nearby Hooper and Mosca, for the shipment of cattle and grain. The development company constructed a huge stockyard at the south end of town. At one point in time, Moffat residents boasted having the second largest shipping yard for cattle in the state of Colorado.

Moffat's first boom took place when the Oklahoma Land and Colonization Company began developing nearby land. The company, headed by a Mr. Logan, purchased several hundred acres of land and divided it into five-acre tracts. The tracts, along with a town lot, were offered for two hundred dollars. A lottery drawing decided who received the premium improved lots. Premium lots were of many varieties, and included those with artesian wells, livery stables, houses, or a brick hotel. Once the lots were occupied, Moffat had a population nearing 1,000 residents.

Moffat's children were educated at a small one-room brick schoolhouse. The schoolhouse also served as the Sunday school and church. The school district demolished the first Moffat schoolhouse with the

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completion of a new two-story frame school building in 1911. With the original Moffat schoolhouse slated for demolition, the church leaders agreed to build a new facility for their congregation. The *Saguache Crescent* of August 6, 1911, states that "A Baptist Church was organized last Sunday, with about twenty members. P.M. Jones and daughter Edith went over from here (Saguache) and helped organize the church. A subscription list has been started for the erection of the building." On the same date, the cornerstone was laid and then dedicated for the Moffat Baptist Church.

The first pastor of the church was a Reverend Ida, who stayed in the area for about a year. By the late 1910s, it became apparent that five-acre tracts of land were too small for townspeople to make a living, so many of the early Moffat residents left for other towns in the San Luis Valley and elsewhere. At some point Moffat could no longer support a Baptist pastor, so the Baptist Association allowed the community to use the church building. A Ladies Aid group paid the insurance premiums during this period. Volunteers held Sunday school classes, and an itinerant missionary preacher would occasionally stop to perform a Sunday service. In 1921 or 1922, the Baptist Association considered moving the entire church south to Hooper. Arthur Biggs and some supporting Moffat residents pitched in to purchase the church building and halt the relocation. Between 1924 and 1925 a Baptist minister, Reverend Goudy, and several Methodist ministers held services at the Moffat church.

Reverends Miller and C. W. Hardon came to the church in the late 1920s and early 1930s and held baptisms in the street water tank and at the nearby Mineral Hot Springs, respectively. The church reorganized in the early 1930s as the "Moffat Community Church." Local history includes the story of a female church member and neighbor who roughly chiseled the word "Baptist" from the cornerstone and the entry keystone.

Interest in the church waned during the early 1940s, and for a time the building was used only as a Sunday school. A Reverend Reimer came to Saguache in 1944 to work with the Hispanic population there, and offered services in Moffat on a volunteer basis. A semi-retired minister, Reverend A.D. Schantz moved to town in 1945 to be the first Moffat resident pastor since Reverend Ida's first tenure in 1911. In the next year, the evangelist Reverend Newman came from California to work on revival meetings. In the late 1940s Mr. McCarrell from Del Norte preached in the church, and in 1950, Elsie Widneau and Mildred New taught Sunday school classes and held services in the evenings. Verle Milles and Dorothy Chatelein of the "Village and Rural Missions" arrived in 1951. Reverend Ray Cheyney served as a resident pastor from 1951 until 1953.

During his term as pastor, Reverend Cheyney initialized an important change to the interior church architecture. He directed that the furniture for the chancel, or rostrum as it is referred to in the *Saguache Crescent*, be moved from the west platform to the north platform. The reoriented pews faced the preacher standing on this north platform. The congregation also converted the west platform into Sunday school classrooms and filled in the arches between the sanctuary and the east platform.

Reverend Bob Zink and his wife, Doris, came to the church for three years of service. They assisted Reverend Paul Zeller in a local summer church camp program. A youthful Reverend Jack Canady served the church in following years. Non-denominational church leaders made occasional use of the building for services in the 1990s, but by the year 2000, it had fallen into disrepair and deterioration. The last surviving trustee of the church building donated the property to the Continental Divide Association of Southern Baptist Churches. In 2002, the Town of Moffat purchased the property with the intent of transforming the building into a town hall and community center.

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Heckendorn, Dale. "Ornamental Concrete Block Buildings in Colorado, 1900-1940," National Register of Historic Places multiple property documentation form, April 4, 1996.

Jones, Mark M., Associates, Architects. "Moffat Community Church, Moffat, Colorado, Historic Structure Assessment." December 2003.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The land included in this nomination consists of Lots 9-10, Block 149, Town of Moffat, Saguache County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination includes the land historically associated with the church building.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

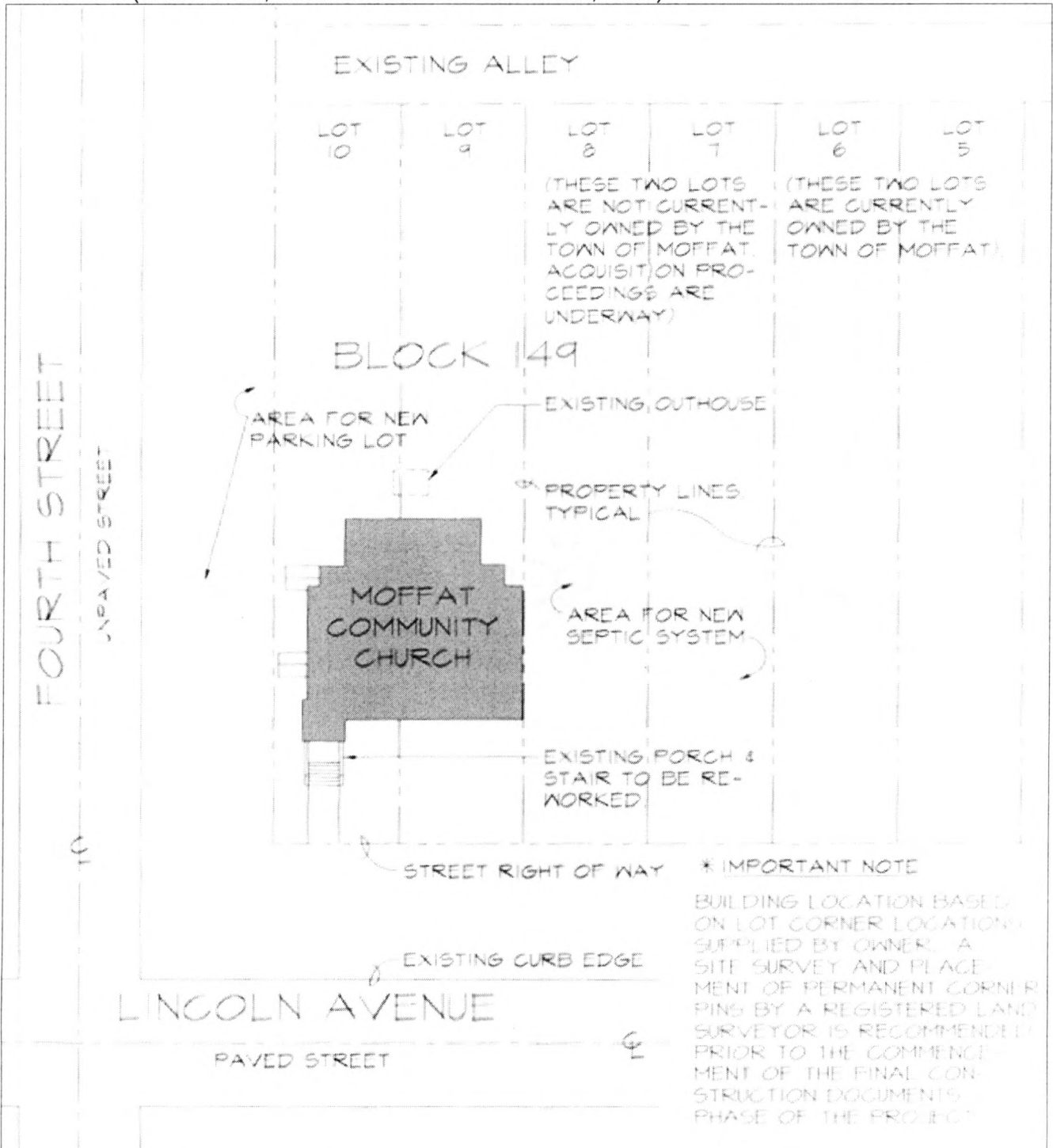
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SITE PLAN (From Jones, Historic Structure Assessment, 2003)



1

Measured Site Plan

Scale 1" = 30' - 0"

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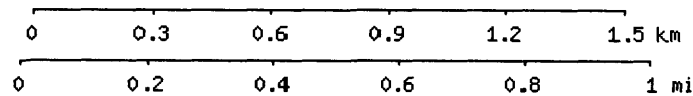
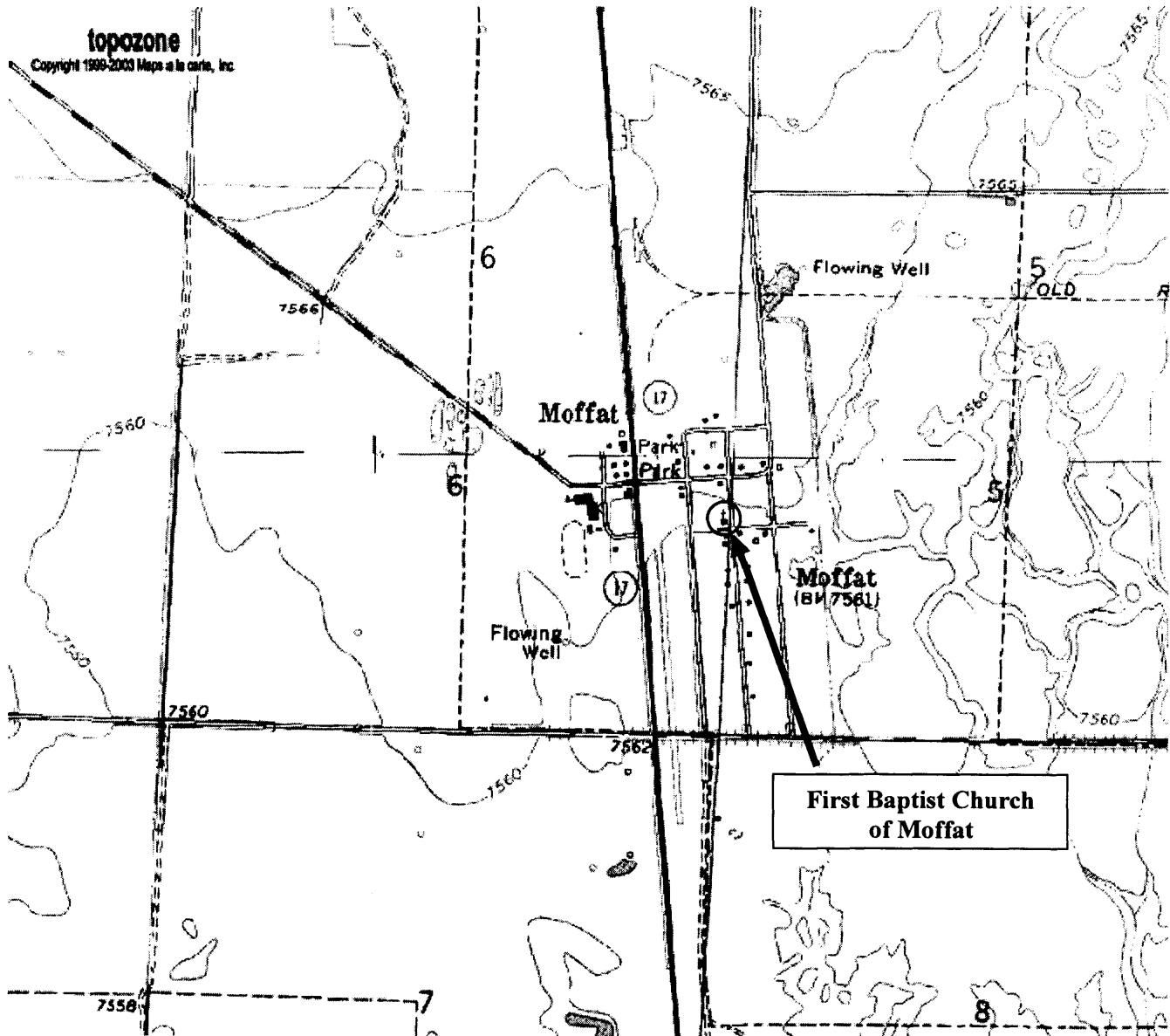
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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Moffat South Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 420532E / 4205805N (NAD27)
PLSS: NM PM, T43N, R10E, Sec. 6, SE¼ NE¼ NE¼ SE¼
Elevation: 7,560 feet Site Number: 5SH.1020



Moffat, USGS Moffat South (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

* M
G
M=10.265
G=-0.56

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-15:

Photographer: Holly Wilson
 Date of Photographs: November 5, 2007
 Location of Negatives: Digital files submitted to the National Register

Photo No.	Photographic Information	Digital File
1	East facade; view to the west.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat1.tif
2	South side; view to the north.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat2.tif
3	Gable and steeple detail, south side; view to the north.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat3.tif
4	West and south sides; view to the northeast.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat4.tif
5	West and south sides; view to the northeast.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat5.tif
6	North side; view to the south.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat6.tif
7	North and east side; view to the southwest.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat7.tif
8	Sanctuary, infilled arches on west wall; view to the west.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat8.tif
9	Sanctuary, infilled arches on west wall; view to the northwest.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat9.tif
10	Sanctuary, east wall; view to the northeast.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat10.tif
11	Sanctuary, north wall; view to the north.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat11.tif
12	Office, infilled arches on east wall; view to the northeast.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat12.tif
13	Office, north wall; view to the north.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat13.tif
14	Outhouse, east and south walls; view to the northwest.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat14.tif
15	Outhouse, west wall; view to the east.	CO_SaguacheCounty_Moffat15.tif