

DATA SHEET PH 0665991

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED  
MAR 29 1978  
SEP 18 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC All Souls Universalist Church, Riverside, California

DEC 29 1977

AND/OR COMMON

Currently Unitarian-Universalist Church of Riverside

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Seventh at Lemon Street (3657 Lemon St)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Riverside

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
36

STATE  
California

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
06

COUNTY  
Riverside

CODE  
065 ✓

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

\_\_\_YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Unitarian Universalist Association (Local - Unitarian-Universalist Church)

STREET & NUMBER 25 Beacon Street 3657 Lemon Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

CITY, TOWN Boston, Massachusetts 02108 STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Riverside County Administrative Center

STREET & NUMBER 4080 Lemon Street

CITY, TOWN Riverside, California 92501 STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE CULTURAL HERITAGE BOARD LANDMARK #3

DATE March 12, 1969

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Riverside Municipal Museum

CITY, TOWN Riverside, California STATE 92501

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Red Sandstone Church, The "Elegant Little Church" of Land Marks of Riverside by Tom Patterson, 1964, Rubidoux Printing Co. of Riverside, p99 was earlier described in the Press (probably 1892) as quoted p.294 in "Autobiography - Rev. George H Deere" published by Press Printing Company, Riverside, CA 1908.

"The architecture is Norman Gothic, the style of the ecclesiastical buildings some five or six centuries ago, and presents a massive and strikingly handsome appearance, being constructed entirely of red sandstone from Flagstaff, Arizona, with large buttresses and a grand stone tower fifty feet high. The roof is covered with tiling, making the building impervious to fire or water and as enduring as the rock-ribbed Mountains.

The main entrance of the Church is into a vestibule under the tower on Lemon Street. The large oak doors being guarded by antique locks and hinges, and the floor made of Colton marble.

The auditorium is a large, well lighted room, with cup-shaped floor and a high vaulted dome broken by richly carved oak trusses. The pulpit is directly opposite the entrance, and back of it is a large alcove for organ and choir.

What at once attracts the attention of the visitor on entering the door is a magnificent memorial window in the north end, constructed of the finest art and cut glass. In the center is a beautiful picture of Christ, whose eyes seem to follow you wherever you go. The colors in this window are the finest we have ever seen in any window, the fact that the sun never shines through it making it possible to use brighter and lighter colors than more jewels. ...

The pews are of solid oak, as is also the wainscoting and pulpit furniture, all elaborately carved, especially the pulpit chairs and the end of the pews. Three hundred people can be comfortably seated. ..."

There has been only minimal modification such as the conversion from gas lighting to electrical. The great oaken doors have been faced with plywood as a security measure in more recent decades. The metal tile roof did not render the building completely "impervious to water" as moisture has damaged much of the original plaster of the high vaulted "dome". (dome was perhaps a license of expression for the unknown author of the brilliant description in the Press at time of the dedication of the church in 1892)

At present there is need of minor restoration for which the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Riverside has assigned a committee to assess.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891 - 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. C. Willard, Architect  
A.W. Boggs, Richard Girdwood, Bldrs

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historic church building is a lone example in Riverside, perhaps in California, of construction utilizing the colorful Permian age sandstone of the plateau area of Arizona so spectacularly exposed in the natural situation of the great red slope of the walls of Grand Canyon directly overlying the great Redwall limestone cliffs that form the vertical member midway in the canyon wall.

In Arizona there are a few surviving stone buildings, residences, commercial buildings and the Coconino County Courthouse at Flagstaff. This latter example has lost much of the original architectural interest through its having accretions of later masonry additions to accommodate an expanding administrative staff for the County. None of the Arizona examples of the use of Supai Sandstone had the initial elegance of architecture that characterized the All Souls Church of Riverside.

Of additional community and cultural significance is the association of the pastor Reverend George H. Deere with the encouragement of educational excellence and cultural achievement in the new community of Riverside which he had joined just a decade after its founding. Associated with the pastor in the project of constructing this historic church were most of the community leaders of those first two decades, whatever church community may have been the individual membership. This was truly a community project to which was volunteered a great measure of devotion.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

George H Deere - 'Autobiography' 1908 Press Printing Co. Riverside, CA  
 Tom Patterson "A Colony for California; Riverside's First Hundred Years" 1971, Press-Enterprise Co. Riverside, CA Esp.pp 218, 424-425  
 Tom Patterson "Land Marks of Riverside" 1964, Rubidoux Press, Riverside, CA p 99  
 Cultural Heritage File "All Souls Universalist Church" Riverside Municipal Museum  
 Local History File "All Souls Universalist Church" Riverside Public Library

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 1	4, 6, 5, 7, 7, 0	3, 7, 6, 0, 0, 4, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Abstracted from original deed of Jan 28, 1892  
 "Commencing at the South East corner of Block Six (6) Range Five (5) of the Town of Riverside as surveyed for the Southern California Colony Association by Goldsworthy and Higbie, according to a plat of said survey of record in the County Recorder's Office of the County of San Bernardino, State of California, running thence Westerly on the northwesterly side of Seventh Street Seventy Six (76) feet; thence Northerly at right angles to Seventh Street One Hundred and Sixty Five (165) feet; thence at right angles Easterly, parallel to Seventh Street Seventy Six (76) feet to Lemon St.;

thence <sup>LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES</sup> Southerly along the westerly line of Lemon Street One Hundred and Sixty Five (165) feet to the place of beginning."

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
California		Riverside	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Howard T Anderson (at request of Board of Trustees, Unitarian-Universalist Ch)

ORGANIZATION	DATE
STREET & NUMBER <u>4465 Ninth Street</u>	TELEPHONE <u>(714) 683-3531</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Riverside</u>	STATE <u>California 92501</u>

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665). I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Kenneth Mellon

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE 3/14/78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Rettig  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: William D. Reich  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9/18/78  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE Sept 14, 1978

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CONTINUATION SHEET **Significance** ITEM NUMBER **8** PAGE

From the records of the Riverside Cultural Heritage Board Survey that established All Souls Universalist Church as Landmark #3 ;

The Universalist State Convention was established in a temporary chapel in Riverside, California on June 1st 1887. This temporary chapel, a modified schoolhouse, was sold by the church in 1890, the proceeds being placed in a building fund toward a new place of worship. In 1891 Riverside's Universalists set to work on their new church.

As one of the oldest buildings remaining in the city, the All Souls Universalist Church exists as a record of early settlement. It was also the friendship between the founding pastor, Rev. George H. Deere and Charles Loring of Minneapolis, a former parishoner when Rev. Deere had served a Universalist Church at Rochester, Minn, that eventually led to many gifts to the City of Riverside such as Loring Opera House. Rev. Deere also left an important mark on the growth of Riverside in serving 17 years as President of the School Board and as President of the County Board of Education.

Riverside's All Souls Church remains a monument, in addition to its striking architecture, as the oldest Universalist or Unitarian church west of the Rocky Mountains. In this it shares in the tradition of the roots of a continuing protestant reformation that in this country was participated in by such noted thinkers as Joseph Priestley, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Brown, Ellery Channing etc.

The All Souls Church is one of ten local historical landmarks, along with the Mission Inn, the Municipal Auditorium, The Loring Building and Loring Opera House, in close vicinity of each other which make up a contemplated Riverside historical district.