

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 10 1985
date entered 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic First Congregational Church

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 225 W. Evans n/a not for publication

city, town Pueblo n/a vicinity of

state Colorado code 04 county Pueblo code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rev. Paul A. Mohr, Pastor, First Congregational Church Board of Trustees

street & number 228 W. Evans

city, town Pueblo n/a vicinity of state Colorado

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pueblo County Courthouse

street & number 10th & Main St.

city, town Pueblo state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Ongoing federal state county local

depository for survey records The Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

city, town Denver state Colorado 80203

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The First Congregational Church is located on the southeast corner at the intersection of Jackson Street and Evans Avenue in Pueblo, Colorado. The building, designed in 1889 in the Romanesque style, is of red sandstone laid in a natural fracture pattern. The use of stone, combined with the steeply pitched roof over the one-story mass, the large two-story stone tower attached at the northwest corner, and the one-story circular transept on the Jackson Street side lend a feeling of compression and heaviness. The horizontal is emphasized by the wide stone foundation forming a band around the building. Major elements composing ornamentation include the large arched window dominating the north elevation of the building, the arcade of windows on the circular transept, and the additional Romanesque detailing of the tower.

The tower at the northwest corner contains the main arched entryway which includes a pair of massive wood doors with large decorative iron hinges, over which is a stained glass transom. The carved cornerstone is also set in the tower and reads "First Congregation Church 1889 A.D." Demarking the belfry area is smooth stone corbelling. The rounded corners of the belfry support the bracketed bellcast pyramidal roof. Three arched openings pierce each face of the belfry. Other Romanesque features of the tower include narrow slit openings on each side at mid-level and two narrow rectangular windows at the first floor, west side.

The Evans Street elevation has a stone wall surface continuing into the gable, characterized by a large tripartite arched window with radiating voussoirs inset with stained glass. Dividing the middle section of the opening are engaged paired colonnettes with foliated caps. Matching these caps are the carved stone impost blocks at the corners of the building upon which the roof returns rest. Additional trim includes the bracketed eaves.

The east wall has a small step in the wall near its center containing a row of five rectangular windows inset with stained glass. The roof over this portion of the building is slightly flaired and distinct from the rest of the roof.

In 1964, a new church education building was constructed to the east of the historic structure, with the two buildings united by an enclosed passageway at the southeast corner.

The interior remains essentially intact and is discussed below.

Construction of the church at the time of its erection is made mention in an article appearing in the Colorado Chieftain October 3, 1889:

One of the prettiest buildings in the city is the new Mesa Congregational church, which will be completed and dedicated some time in November. It is situated on the corner of Jackson Street and Eaton Avenue. The building is not a very large one, having a seating capacity of only short 300, but it is a regular little gem in church architecture, complete and perfect in every respect. The walls are built of pink stone, cut to represent the natural fracture of the rock, and consequently do not present any of the parallel lines and right angles which are usually seen in cut stonework. The effect is peculiar, but not displeasing. The interior wood work of the building, the wainscoting, panels, etc., is of oak, while the walls

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and ceilings are finished in rich colors. The windows will be fine stained glass, and will be very pretty. The auditorium will seat 250 people, and a small chapel, which can be used in connection with it when necessary, will seat 60 more. The chapel will also be used for church entertainment, socials, reunions, etc. In addition to these rooms the building will contain a pastor's study, a kitchen, store room and lavatory. Everything used in the erection of this beautiful sanctuary is the best that could be obtained. No trouble or expense was spared in the construction, and it is indeed an architectural ornament to the city. Fred A. Hale is the architect who designed the beautiful structure, and Piper Bros are the contractors who have carried out his ideas so perfectly. The ediface is a credit to the designer and the builders, and the congregation have reason to be very proud of it. It will cost about \$12,000.

(Colorado Chieftain, October 3, 1889)

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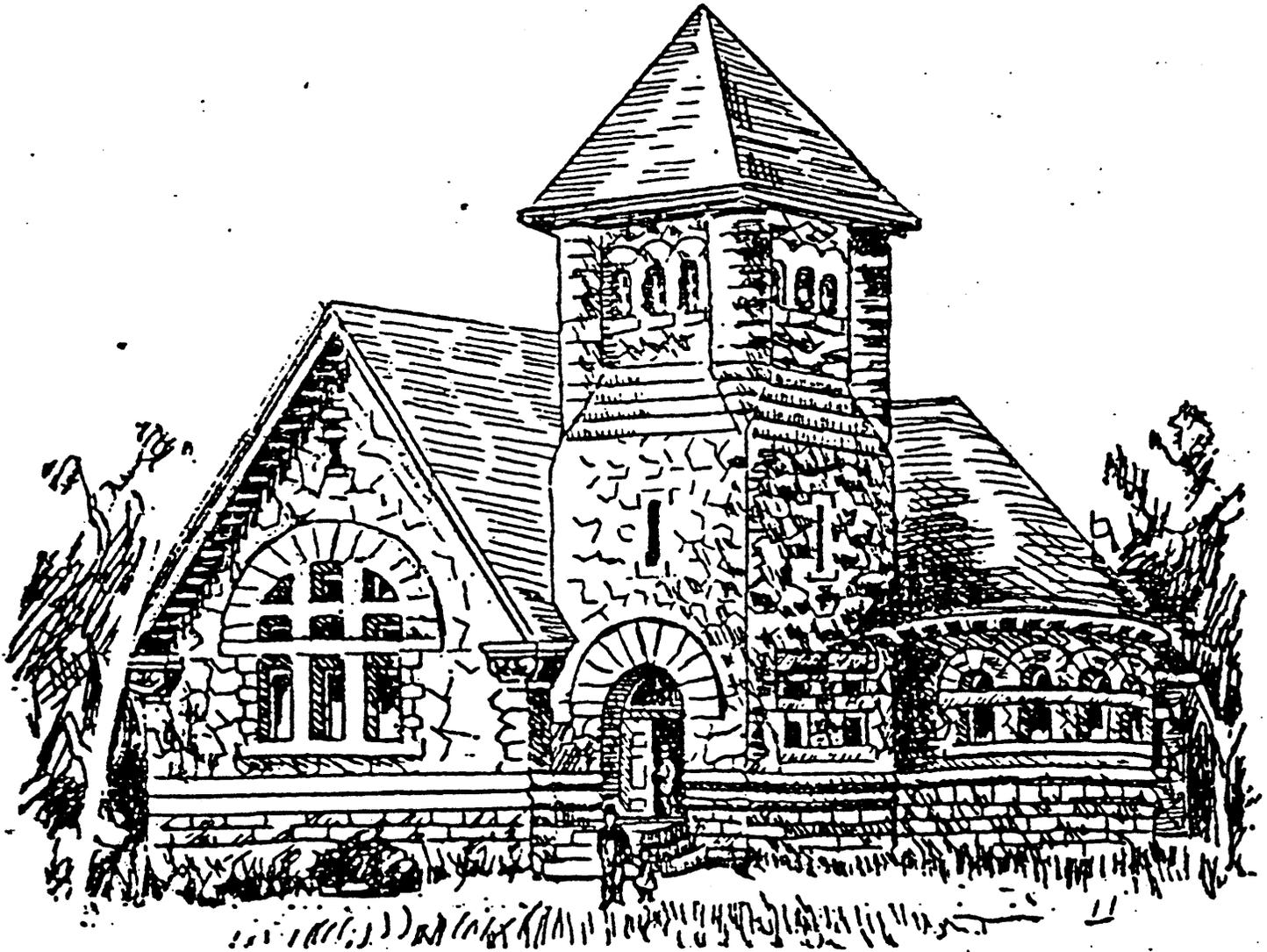
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Mesa Congregational Church

Source: Colorado Chieftain Weekly, October 3, 1889, (Enlarged 295%).

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 **Builder/Architect** Fred A. Hale, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The First Congregational Church is important in Pueblo for its distinctive Romanesque design and interesting use of materials.

The First Congregational Church at 225 W. Evans in Pueblo was organized by the Reverend T. McClelland, from the Home Missionary Society, in the summer of 1878. The church filed articles of incorporation as the First Congregational Church of South Pueblo in January of 1879. When first organized, the congregation met in an old school on the bluffs in South Pueblo. In 1881, the church moved to a permanent location in Block P on the Mesa, also in South Pueblo. By the end of the decade, the need arose for a larger building and a building committee was established. The January 25, 1889, Pueblo Chieftain announced:

The building committee of the Mesa Congregational church will meet to-day to examine the various plans which have been presented to them for their new church edifice. The committee will select a plan to present to the congregation, and as soon as detailed plans can be drawn and the contract let, work will commence on the building. It will cost about \$12,000.

There is some confusion as to who served as architect for the structure. Local church history credits Charles H. Stickney. However, in the October 3, 1889, Pueblo Chieftain it is stated that the architect was Fred A. Hale, who supervised the construction of the Stickney house on Orman Avenue. There is a strong resemblance between these two structures, and Stickney, as a member of the church, may have been influential in the church design. Nevertheless, due to the unusual stonework and craftsmanship exhibited, the structure is unique in Pueblo. Romanesque elements of the design which give prominence to the building include the heavy stone tower on the northwest corner, the arched entrance in the tower, the large arched window on the north wall, and the circular wing with its row of arched windows.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .4 acre

Quadrangle name Northeast Pueblo, Colo

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	3	5	3	2	1	5	0	4	2	3	4	5	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 of Block 105, CC&I Addition (Colorado Coal & Iron Company, CF&I).

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Not applicable code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Edward J. Simonich, Historic Surveyor, Pueblo Regional Planning Commission;
name/title James F. Munch, Planner, Pueblo Regional Planning Commission; Editor, Gloria Mills

organization Pueblo Regional Planning Commission date September 21, 1984

street & number P.O. Box 1427 (1 City Hall Place) telephone (303) 543-6006

city or town Pueblo state Colorado 81002

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12-21-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Delores Byers date 2-8-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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Pueblo City Directory, 1886-1909.

"Our Pioneers," Section IV, pp. 13 and 14, DAR, Arkansas Valley Chapter.

Millikin, Virginia G., The Bible and Gold Fields, 1969, pp. 60, 66, 92, 158, and 159.

"Brief History of the First Congregation--United Church of Christ," Unpublished Manuscript, Western Research Room, Pueblo Library District, Pueblo, Colorado.

Smiley, Jerome C., History of Colorado, 1913, Volume II, pp. 653, 655, and 658.

Western Architect and Building News, February and March 1890 Issues.

"Lovely Churches, The New and Beautiful Mesa Congregational Church," Pueblo Daily Chieftain, October 3, 1889, p. 1.

"Dedication Services," Pueblo Daily Chieftain, February 14, 1890.

"Building Committee to Meet," Pueblo Daily Chieftain, January 25, 1889, p. 3, c. 1.