NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

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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 determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
Other name/site number Grace United Methodist Church/173-5880-8405

2. Location

Street & number 944 South Topeka ☐ not for publication
City or town Wichita ☐ vicinity
State Kansas Code KS County Sedgwick Code 173 Zip code 67211-2397

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.)

Patrick Zollner DSHPO 5/25/06

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State 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 commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

☐ 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:)

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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Brick
Roof: Asphalt
Other: Limestone

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

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Sedgwick Co., Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register

- ☐ **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 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 it 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

Period of Significance

1910-1915

Significant Dates

1910, 1915

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Terry, C. W.

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:
- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Church Archives

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
Name of Property

Sedgwick Co., Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1
Zone: 1 4 | Easting: 6 4 6 9 7 0 | Northing: 4 1 7 0 8 5 0

2
Zone: | Easting: | Northing:

3
Zone: | Easting: | Northing:

4
Zone: | Easting: | Northing:

☐ 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 J. Greg Kite, President

Organization Historic Preservation Alliance Date May 10, 2005

Street & number 230 North Market, Suite 201 Telephone (316) 269-9432

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67202-2006

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Grace United Methodist Church , Rev. Terry L. Murray, Pastor

Street & number 944 South Topeka Avenue Telephone (316) 262-6195

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67211-2397

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

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church (1910), now known as Grace United Methodist Church, is a two-story, Neoclassical Revival style religious structure. It was designed by prominent and well-known architect, C. W. Terry, and was completed at a cost of $65,000.00. The building dominates the northeast corner of Topeka and Gilbert Streets in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas (population 330,000). The overall dimensions of the original church building include a frontage of 92 ½ feet on Topeka Avenue and 102 ½ feet on Gilbert Street. The church's main construction materials are cherry red brick and Carthage limestone. In 1958, a two-story education wing was added to the north side of the church.

Exterior

The monumental entrance faces west toward Topeka Avenue, featuring a grand stairway with wing walls and ledges. The classic Greek front portico is complete with a pediment and cornice above and two (2) Ionic columns. There is also an elevated repeating pediment and cornice on the two (2) street facades, visually supported by masonry pilasters at the corners and embellished with dentils. The foundation is build of brick and concrete, with a veneer of four (4) courses/ribbons of limestone and a partially exposed basement. The lower set of front steps is concrete, while the upper set is limestone. The ionic columns are limestone with an egg and dart pattern above the volute of the capital and an acanthus leaf pattern below. The three (3) large pairs of entryway doors are quartersawn tiger oak. The arches above those doors are terra-cotta tile as are the lower front pediment and cornice. The top repeating pediments and cornices are zinc (sheet metal), including the fascia and soffit. The red brick parapet is capped with concrete.

Rectangular, raised brick medallions are found between the first and second floors on the two (2) street facades and the ornamental arches above the windows vary from round to elliptical to pointed. The window heads and sills are terra-cotta tile on the two (2) street facades, while the window sills are stone on the north and east sides. The terra-cotta tile utilizes overlapping seams in the window arches, heads and sills, as well as in the pediments and cornices. The three (3) Gothic, stained glass windows on the south street façade are dramatic: one (1) large one in the center and two (2) smaller ones flanking it, all with elaborate tracery. In fact, all of the windows in the Church are stained glass, except those in the basement. The stained glass panels of the windows were constructed mostly with Kokomo Opal Glass (Indiana) by the Paul Wissmach Glass Company (West Virginia). The only distinct Christian symbol in any of the stained glass windows is found at the top of the large, center Gothic window on the south street façade. This "Cross in a Crown" symbolizes the eternal reward of the faithful in the life after death to those who believe in Christ. Rev. 2:10.

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There is a second, smaller entrance just to the north of the main entrance, which mimics its design with two (2) Ionic columns. In this instance, however, only the cornice is terra-cotta tile, while the pediment is capped with concrete. The stairway is all limestone, again with wing walls and ledges. This entrance leads directly to the interior down a hallway into the gallery for Overflow seating. There is also a third entrance immediately to the south of the main entrance, which leads down a staircase from south to north to the basement and actually runs beneath the main entrance. In addition, there is a fourth entrance on the southeast corner, which leads up a staircase from east to west to the Pastor's Study. Finally, there is a fifth entrance at the back of the church on the east side (alley side), which leads both downstairs to the basement, as well as upstairs to the Sacristy, Sanctuary and Overflow, as well as on upstairs to the Balcony of the Overflow.

The roof begins on the north side with a very low pitched section covered with rolled composition, which was originally coated with tar. Next, there is a symmetrical, higher pitched two (2) tiered hipped roof. It is also covered with rolled composition. The lower, main hipped roof was originally layered with red clay barrel tile. The two (2) hipped roofs are separated by a secondary wood frame parapet. The two (2) gabled roofs above the pediment and cornice on the two (2) street facades die into the main hipped roof. The upper, small hipped roof, which comprises a cupola over the nave, replaces the original, nearly flat skylight, having an iron frame and 1 ½ feet X 4 feet rectangular glass sections. The skylight was replaced by the upper, small hipped roof because of water leakage and damage. Although water drains down to each corner, the main drainage is to the southeast corner of the roof. The sheet metal cross above the front pediment was originally lighted by neon tubes.

The two-story, flat roof education wing was added to the north of the church in 1958. This modern-styled addition is divided into vertical bays alternating between narrow red brick and wider window bays consisting of white-painted concrete and large multiple-pane, metal-framed windows. The central entrance bay projects above the parapet of the remainder of the façade and features an aluminum-frame, double-leaf entrance with a large stained-glass window on the second story of the bay.

Interior

Three (3) large pairs of entryway doors of quartersawn tiger oak at the front of the church lead to the interior. The door frames are coffered with raised panels, also in oak. The interior of the church is made up of the Narthex, Nave, Sanctuary or Chancel, Balcony, Overflow, Pastor's Study and Sacristy. The Narthex is the foyer or entryway, which extends across the west front of the building. The Nave is the principal longitudinal area of the church, extending from the main entrance or Narthex to the Chancel, flanked by aisles, where the congregation sits. The Sanctuary or Chancel is the part of the church from where the service is conducted and is an elevated platform, three (3) steps up from the Nave. The Pastor's Study or Chancellery is the location of the clergy's office and library. The Sacristy is the room in which communion accoutrements, linen and supplies are kept; it is equipped with a sink.

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The floor of the Narthex is covered with white hexagonal mosaic tile with an alternating diamond medallion pattern and a decorative brown and black border. On either end of the Narthex is a matching oak staircase to the Balcony with large twin newel posts and square spindles. There are also highly decorated and ornamented radiators for heat. Opposite the three (3) pairs of entryway doors is a wall dividing the Narthex from the Nave. Leading into the Nave are two (2) center aisle double doors, as well as two (2) outside aisle single doors, also of oak. Likewise, the frames of these doors are coffered with raised panels.

The predominant feature of the Nave is the large, stained glass dome, which is currently back lit with fluorescent tubes. Lowered decorative beams squarely frame the base of the dome. Surrounding the dome are four (4) enormous light fixtures made of wood with large glass globes hung by steel chains from the ceiling, which can be raised or lowered from above on a catwalk. Originally, four (4) "Turk," wooden blade fans hung down twenty (20) feet from the ceiling by black, rigid conduit to within ten (10) feet of the floor. They were located where the spotlights are currently mounted, utilizing the same wiring and outlets. The ceiling fans were removed approximately a year following the installation of the air conditioning system. On the walls are five (5) matching wood sconces painted gold, each with a cluster of three (3) light bulbs. There are thirty (30) Gothic oak pews divided by two (2) aisles. Two (2) rows of the front three (3) sections of pews have been removed because of space constraints, as well as one (1) row of pews in the rear. The third row from the back has been cut short to accommodate four (4) wheelchairs, one (1) on each side and two (2) in the middle. There is seating in the Nave for about six hundred (600).

The boundary between the Nave and the Sanctuary is the three (3) steps up to the platform where there are three (3) separate communion or chancel railings divided by two (2) aisles. As viewed by the congregation, there are two (2) speaker stands in the Sanctuary or Chancel. The one on the left is the pulpit, which is used by the clergy to read the gospel and preach the sermon. Accordingly, the left side of the church is called the gospel side. The one on the right is the lectern, which is used by lay people to read the epistle lesson, lead the congregation in prayer and make announcements. Accordingly, the right side of the church is called the epistle side. The communion table or alter stands centered behind the pulpit and the lectern. Behind the alter is an alcove, which provides seating for the choir and displays the pipes for the organ. On either side of the entrance to the alcove is another pair of matching wood sconces painted gold, each with a cluster of three (3) light bulbs, identical to the five (5) wood sconces in the Nave. Inside and behind the entrance and hidden from view from the Nave is a border of single, exposed light bulbs that surround the front of the alcove and resemble those of an old band shell.

Besides the three (3) large Gothic, stained glass windows on the south side of the Nave and the stained glass dome above, the third major element of the interior of the church is the M.P. Moller pipe organ in the Chancel or Sanctuary. The designation of Opus 3213 indicates the number of organs that

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Moller had built up that point in time. No two (2) organs are alike and this opus number is on every single pipe and piece of this organ to keep it separate from all other organs in production. There are forty-five (45) visible pipes. Of the total number of pipes, 20% are original. The base for the pipes of the organ is composed of a series of six (6) separate oak sections, each comprised of smaller Gothic panels. A pair of large decorative, half-round oak brackets with ornate leaf carving beneath support two (2) matching sets of pipes on either side of the front of the base. The base for the pipes of the organ has a lighter golden oak finish compared to the dark oak finish on the rest of the woodwork. There is a small, lighted brass cross above the center of the base and a plaque below, which states: "In Memory of J. E. Croxton 1922." Two (2) small matching sconces frame the outside of the base for the pipes of the organ. While this organ was installed in 1922, the chimes were not added until 1929 as indicated by the plaque in the Narthex, which states: "The Chimes in Our Organ were Donated by Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Roll 1929." The organ was tonally updated and a new console purchased in the early 1980s.

A matching oak staircase on either end of the Narthex leads to the Balcony. The Balcony has a pine floor with oak railings and a matching pair of large highly decorated and ornamented radiators for heat. There are six (6) small, stained glass windows on the west side and one (1) on the south side, all with elaborate Gothic tracery. There are two (2) sections of seats divided by an aisle in the center and bordered by an aisle on each side. The south section has four (4) rows of twelve (12) seats or forty-eight (48) seats and three (3) rows of seven (7) seats or twenty-one (21) seats for a total of sixty-nine (69) seats. The north section has three (3) rows of twelve (12) seats or thirty-six (36) seats, one (1) row of eleven (11) seats (one (1) less than the south section to accommodate a doorway to the classrooms and overflow) and three (3) rows of seven (7) seats or twenty-one (21) seats for a total of sixty-eight (68) seats. In addition, there is a back row of ten (10) seats, giving a total seating capacity in the Balcony of one hundred forty-seven (147). Interestingly, the seats in the Balcony, which were installed in 1965-66, had been the balcony seats in the Arcadia Theater (1917), located on the north end of the Forum (1910), a municipal auditorium, before it was demolished. They still retain their original brass seat numbers and row letters. Two (2) small ceiling fixtures, which are miniatures of the four (4) large ones in the Nave, light the Balcony. The face of the Balcony is covered with raised oak paneling.

Dividing the Nave from the Overflow seating and classrooms are two (2) tall oak tambour (narrow strips of wood glued on canvas) doors, which meet in the middle to close and roll up on each end to open, similar in function to the roll top for a desk. The Overflow has a second floor walkway with a steel pipe railing. It originally had classrooms above and below for a total of twenty-two (22) Sunday school rooms. These rooms were arranged so that they could be opened into the Nave, making a total seating capacity of Fourteen Hundred (1,400). There are six (6) art deco wall sconces, each with two (2) light bulbs. The entryway to the Overflow from the street is a second, smaller entrance just to the north of the main entrance. It has a raised panel wainscoting. All of the woodwork is pine instead of oak.

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Besides the original skylight above the dome in the Nave, there is a second skylight in the ceiling above the Overflow. It is rectangular in shape, measuring approximately ten (10) feet in length and eight (8) feet in width. This skylight is surrounded by a border of single, exposed light bulbs, nine (9) on each side and six (6) on each end, for a total of thirty (30). These lights, like the ones surrounding the alcove behind the Nave, resemble those of an old band shell. The stained glass, itself, of the skylight is divided into two (2) basic parts: the interior and the exterior. The interior is composed of forty-eight (48) square sections of light green glass bordered with light brown glass, eight (8) sections on each side and six (6) sections on each end. The exterior is composed of twenty-four (24) rectangular sections of yellow-green glass bordered, on the outside, by a narrow ribbon of white glass and bordered, on the inside, by a narrow ribbon of blue-green glass, terminating in each corner with an elliptical pattern enclosing a section of purple glass. The extreme outside border is composed of narrow sections of dark brown glass.

The Pastor's Study is located through a door on the right side of the alcove and behind the Chancel or Sanctuary. It is complete with a desk, chair and library. Centered on the east wall is a painted brick fireplace with a brick hearth, which operates a gas stove. There are two (2) small matching double-hung stained glass windows on each side of the fireplace, as well as two (2) large matching double-hung stained glass windows on the south wall. All of the woodwork, including the door and window casing and baseboard, is of oak. The Sacristy is a small adjoining room opposite the Pastor's Study, also behind the Chancel or Sanctuary. It is very plain with a sink, countertop and wall cabinets for storage.

The beauty of the architectural design and craftsmanship of the masters who built Grace Methodist Episcopal Church is still apparent today. Other than the removal of the red clay barrel tile from the lower hipped roof, the church's exterior and interior remain virtually unchanged nine-five (95) years after its construction. Consequently, the building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grace Methodist Episcopal Church (1910), now known as Grace United Methodist Church, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its architectural significance as an example of a Neoclassical Revival style religious structure from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The second oldest Methodist church in Wichita is important not only because if contributes to the neighborhood's character, but also because it represents a bygone era of cherry red brick and Carthage limestone construction. The building, now ninety-five (95) years old, has a monumental, classic Greek front entrance on the west side; a breathtaking, stained glass dome above the Nave; and a one-of-a-kind, 996 pipe M. P. Moller organ in the Chancel or Sanctuary. It has all of its original, beautifully hand-crafted oak and pine woodwork, mosaic tile floors, stained glass windows, light fixtures, pews and doors. Grace was the first church in Wichita with air-conditioning when installed in 1954. Besides serving its congregation, Grace United Methodist Church has one (1) of the oldest Scout Troops, eighty (80) years old, continually sponsored by the same institution, in the City of Wichita.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Church Building

Grace United Methodist Church claims the distinction of being the second oldest Methodist church in Wichita. Grace was the first offspring of the First Methodist Church, St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, on North Broadway. It was originally called the Emporia Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church and was located at the southwest corner of Dewey and South Emporia Avenue. This first church building was erected at a cost of $5,412.00 and was dedicated on June 27, 1886. However, the first workshop service of the congregation of the Emporia Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was held on January 15, 1886.

The young church continued to grow and in 1910, the need for more room led the Trustees to dispose of the old property and purchase the present site of the church at Topeka and Gilbert. The warranty deed for this property reflects Lots 102 and 104 on Topeka Avenue in Block 8 of the Orme and Phillip's Addition to the City of Wichita, Kansas, in Sedgwick County, were acquired on May 10, 1909 at a cost of $2,000.00 and Lots 106 and 108 on Topeka Avenue in Block 8 of the Orme and Phillip's Addition to the City of Wichita, Kansas, in Sedgwick County, were acquired on July 15, 1909 at a cost of $3,500.00.

The cornerstone of the building is Carthage Limestone, quarried at Carthage, Missouri and was laid in place at 2:20 p.m. on the afternoon of December 26, 1910 by S. B. Kernan, Chairman of the Board of Trustees.[1] The stone is crystalline while limestone of superior durability and matchless beauty.

For building purposes, either rough or dressed, it has no equal and it is specially adapted for trimmings, pavements and monuments.[2] Stone was quarried at Carthage, Missouri by hand for many years prior to the installation of quarrying machinery, which was introduced in about 1885 for the production of exterior building stone.[3]

This church was completed five (5) years after construction began and was dedicated on September 15, 1915.[4] It has a unique single pipe steam heating system, originally coal fired and later converted to natural gas, wherein the steam goes to the heaters in the top half of the pipe and condensed water returned to the boiler by way of the bottom half of the same pipe. On March 8, 1916, the newly completed Grace Church was honored by playing host to the 34th Annual Southwest Kansas (Methodist) Conference.

On June 20, 1929, members of the congregation of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church gathered to witness the burning of the mortgage incurred when the church building was completed. G. E. Meeker held the mortgage document which was ignited by S. B. Kernan, one of the original members of the church.[5] S. B. Kernan was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Grace Church at the time of the buildings construction, and a lifelong member. He served twenty years as a Sedgwick County Commissioner. Kernan was born on May 26, 1851, in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, and became a resident of Sedgwick County in 1883. He served as a member of the Board of Education for two (2) years, three (3) years as Treasurer for the City of Wichita, and four (4) years on the City Council. At the time of his death, Kernan lived at 902 South Topeka on the same block as Grace Methodist Church.[6]

During the construction process, when the building was ready for the outside brick veneer, there was a little question as to the color of brick to be used. All the trustees with the exception of S. B. Kernan[7], chairman, were in favor of a light colored brick. Mr. Kernan wanted a cherry red, but was in the minority. As it happened, when the light colored bricks were priced it was found that the church could not afford them, so they had to accept the cherry red.

Methodism has not always remained united. The Methodist Protestant Church was formed in 1830 primarily as a movement for more adequate lay representation. Slavery later caused the Church to divide between south and north. It was not until 1939 that the three branches of Methodism again became one Church. On April 23, 1968, in Dallas, Texas, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, founded by William Otterbein, Jacob Albright and Martin Boehm, became the United Methodist Church.

A name change, from Emporia Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church to Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, was filed with the State of Kansas on April 3, 1912. The name was changed on April 4, 1954, to Grace Methodist Church and again on April 20, 1969, to Grace United Methodist Church.

Grace United Methodist Church has the distinction of having one (1) of the oldest Scout Troops, continually sponsored by the same institution, in the City of Wichita. It was first organized as Troop 21 in 1925 and now carries the designation of Troop 621.[8]

In 1927, the female members of the congregation devised a plan to raise money ($145.00) for the building fund by starting Wichita's strangest musical organization. Known as the "Kitchen Orchestra," this musical group played on instruments made out of kitchen utensils. Each member of the orchestra has to produce her own instrument. And wonderful ingenuity was displayed in making instruments from kitchen utensils which not only looked like the article they represented, but also made a real noise. A bass drum made from a wash boiler, a banjo made from a sauce pan, a harp made from a broom, a bass viol made from a market basket, horns made with funnels for the bell, a saxophone made from a coffee-percolator, and a conductor's table made from a washboard are among the strange and wonderful musical instruments. The first public concert, held on September 27, 1927, was an instantaneous success, the deficit wiped out in one fell swoop. Twenty-six old-time songs were played on the instruments and invitations began to pour in. Future performing engagements were booked.[9] The performances continued through the mid-1980s and the modern "Kitchen Orchestra" was again featured in the Wichita Eagle (newspaper) on March 31, 1981.[10]

Grace United Methodist Church continues to be a viable church with a thriving congregation in the old center city portion of Wichita, Kansas, carrying on its ministry as it has since located on this property in 1910. It reaches out to the people of the church and the neighborhood through worship, Sunday school, Youth Group, United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, Choir, Boy scouts, Jammers, Thespians, Neighborhood Meals, Golden Chain and other initiatives. It is the goal of these groups and this congregation to continue to maintain the church's historic features for future generations, preserving the building's outstanding architectural integrity.

The Church Organ

Mathias P. Moller built his first pipe organ manufacturing shop in April 1881, in Hagerstown, Maryland. This factory was destroyed by fire in 1895. In January 1896, a new factory was completed. Thirty-three years after building his first organ, Moller built his one thousandth. The second thousand organs were built in only seven years, the third thousand in five years. Moller averaged one organ per day through the entire decade of the 1920s. M. P. Moller, Inc., still continues the production of quality pipe organs today. The M. P. Moller Company constructed the organ for Grace United Methodist Church in 1921.[11] Opus 3213 is the number of the organ. That designation indicates the number, sequentially, of the organs that Moller had built up to that point in time. No two organs are alike and this opus number is on every single pipe and piece of this organ to keep it separate from all other organs in production at the time of manufacture.

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The organ in Grace United Methodist Church was purchased in 1922 at a cost of $5,450 by donation from Mrs. J. E. Croxton in memory of her husband, the former Treasurer of the Church. The first organist was Mrs. Ivan (May) Streed. Unique aspects of this organ are that the original wind chests and a number of original sets (ranks) or pipes are still playing. Of the 996 original pipes, 628 have been replaced through maintenance on the organ. The console was replaced in 1952 at a cost of $2,500.00. In 1983, the M. P. Moller Company provided Grace United Methodist Church with the original blueprints for the Opus 3213 to assist with restoration work being done on the organ. The total cost to renovate the organ, returning it to its original splendor, was $45,000.[12]

Architecture

The Grace Methodist Episcopal Church is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style and was designed by the noted Wichita architect C. W. Terry. According to the *Discover Historic Wichita* brochure published by the city, Charles W. Terry (1847–1931) resided in Wichita for about thirty years. He moved to the city in 1885 and worked for the first two years with several associates including Elbert Dumont (1874–1904), Alfred Gould (dates unknown), A.T. Hayward (dates unknown), and G.K. Thompson (dates unknown). Dumont and Hayward soon started their own business, as did Gould. Edward Forsblom (1875–1961) joined him in 1906 and eventually took over the firm. Forsblom purchased the business in 1916 and Terry moved to California soon after where he died in 1931. In addition to the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, C.W. Terry's company designed many fine residences extant in Wichita including the L.W. Clapp House, 1847 Wellington Place (1887), the Steinbuchel House 1905 Park Place (1887), the Cyrus M. Beachy House, 3715 E. Douglas (1909), and the Marc Clapp House, 1817 Wellington Place (1913). He also designed the elegant north addition to the Scottish Rite Temple, 332 E. First (1907) as well as numerous commercial buildings.

Endnotes

[1] *The Wichita Eagle*, December 27, 1910.
[2] *The State of Missouri.* an Autobiography by Walter Williams. Press of E. W. Stephens, Columbia, 1904.
[3] *Missouri Marble.* Norman S. Hinchey. Report of Investigations No. 3, 1946, Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, Rolla, Missouri.
[4] *The Wichita Eagle*, October 1941, The Grace Methodist Church" by Mrs. Hazel Brosius.
[5] *The Wichita Eagle*, Morning Edition, June 21, 1929.
[6] *The Wichita Eagle*, August 29, 1930.
[7] *The Wichita Eagle*, July 30, 1916.
[8] Grace United Methodist Church Directory, February, 1970.
[9] *The Wichita Eagle*, November 6, 1927.
[10] *The Wichita Eagle*, Neighbors Section, March 31, 1981.
[11] *The Wichita Eagle*, June 1983.
[12] The Wichita Eagle, June 1983.

Bibliography

Discover Historic Wichita. A Listing of Wichita's Registered Historic Landmarks and Districts. A brochure published by the city, 2005.

Grace United Methodist Church Directory, February, 1970.

Missouri Marble. Norman S. Hinchey. Report of Investigations No. 3, 1946, Missouri Geological Survey and Water Resources, Rolla, Missouri.

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The Wichita Eagle, December 27, 1910.

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The Wichita Eagle, August 29, 1930.

The Wichita Eagle, July 30, 1916.

The Wichita Eagle, November 6, 1927.

The Wichita Eagle, Neighbors Section, March 31, 1981.

The Wichita Eagle, June 1983.

The Wichita Eagle, June 1983.

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 102, 104, 106 and 108 on Topeka Avenue in Block 8 of the Orme and Phillip's Addition to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the west by Topeka Avenue, to the south by Gilbert Street, to the east by the alley and to the north by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

The nomination contains all property historically associated with the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

Bibliography

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The Wichita Eagle, November 6, 1927.

The Wichita Eagle, Neighbors Section, March 31, 1981.

The Wichita Eagle, June 1983.

The Wichita Eagle, June 1983.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located on Lots 102, 104, 106 and 108 on Topeka Avenue in Block 8 of the Orme and Phillip's Addition to the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The property is bounded to the west by Topeka Avenue, to the south by Gilbert Street, to the east by the alley and to the north by adjacent property lines.

Boundary Justification

The nomination contains all property historically associated with the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church.

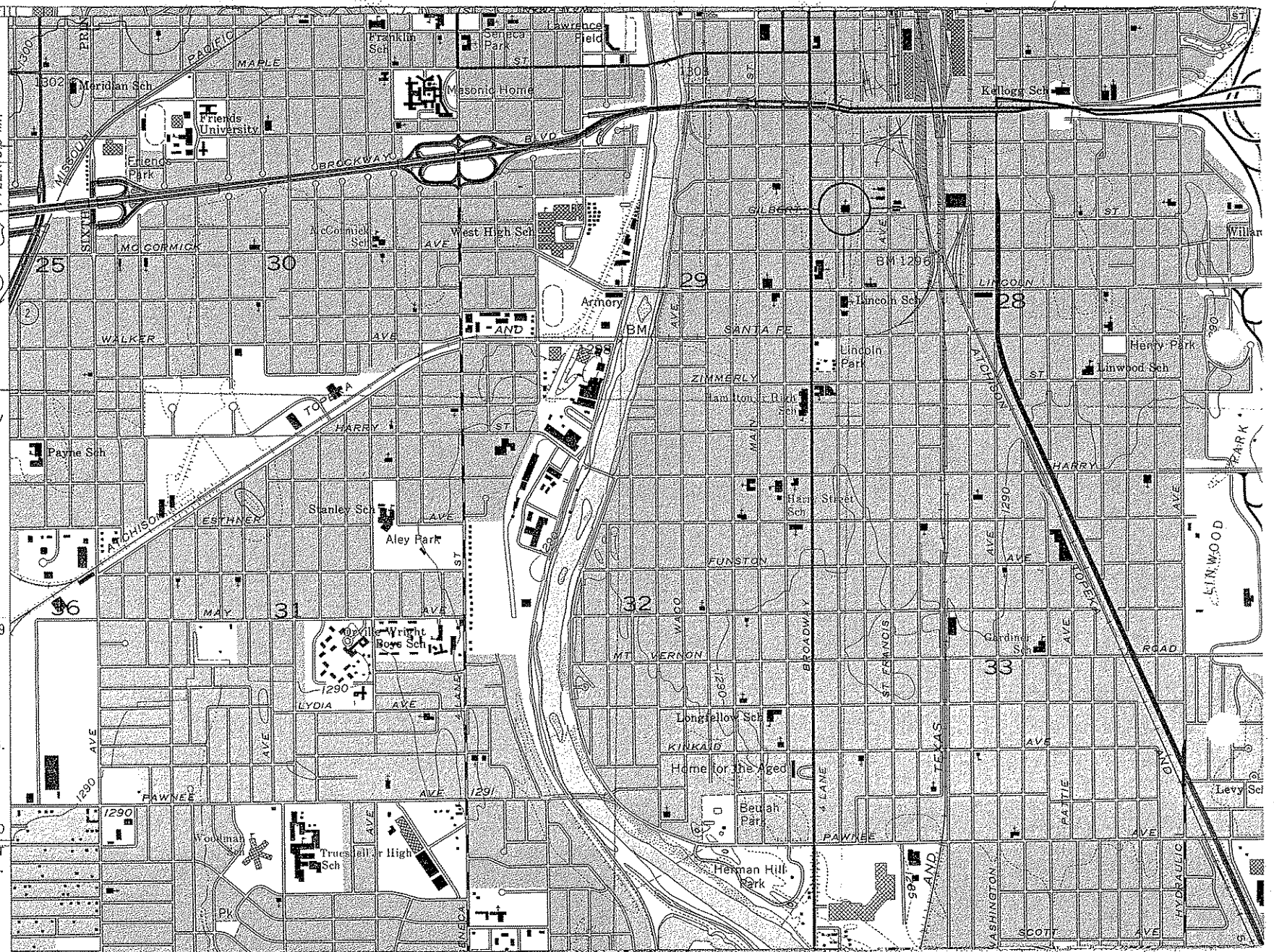
Photographic Information

The following information is consistent for all photographs:

1. Grace Methodist Episcopal Church
2. Sedgwick Co., Kansas
3. Photograph by Bob Bettis
4. August 15, 2005
5. Digital image archived at Kansas State Historical Society

The following information is specific to each photograph:

Photo #	Description of View
1.	View of front (west) elevation from the west.
2.	View from the southwest.
3.	View of south elevation from the southeast.
4.	View of east (rear) elevation from the northeast.
5.	View of 1958 addition on northern half of east elevation from the east.
6.	View of north elevation from the northeast.
7.	View of 1958 addition on the front (west) elevation from the northwest.
8.	View of west elevation junction between 1958 addition and church from the west.
9.	Detail of pediment and capitals from the northwest.
10.	Window detail from the west.
11.	View of entrance foyer (narthex) from the north.
12.	View of sanctuary from the southwest.
13.	View of sanctuary and balconey from the northeast.

14. View of stained glass window in sanctuary from the north.
15. View of stained glass dome in sanctuary.
16. View of fireplace in sacristy from the west.

Grace Methodist
Episcopal Church
Sedgwick Co.,
Kansas
UTM Coordinates:
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