

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

HABS _____		HAER _____	Loc _____	Ser. No. _____	SHL No. _____	NR Status _____
UTM:	A _____			C _____		
	B _____			D _____		

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Carter Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church of Fresno (Map Reference No. 30)

2. Historic name: Emmanuel Lutheran Church

3. Street or rural address: 1115 U Street

City: Fresno

Zip Code: 93721

County: Fresno

4. Parcel number: 466-021-03

5. Present Owner: Carter Memorial Church

Address: 1115 U Street

City: Fresno

Zip Code: 93721

Ownership is: () Public (X) Private

6. Present Use: Church

Original Use: Church

SP: 220

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: Collegiate Gothic

7b. Briefly describe the present *physical appearance* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Emmanuel Lutheran Church is located .68 mile northeast of the Fresno County Courthouse on the northwest corner of Mariposa and U streets. The one-story detached church structure nominally has an "L" shaped footprint measuring approximately 103' in width by 107' in depth, with 10,088 square feet of usable space. The church is masonry, laid up Flemish bond with red and Indian red brick above a plastered plinth in the Collegiate Gothic style. The gable roof design is high pitched with celadon grey slate roofing. Eaves are clipped. Milled ogee exterior trim is painted white. Exterior structural materials are natural in finish. Building composition is asymmetrical. An elevated classroom building, with a full basement cafeteria and kitchen below, extends from the rear of the sanctuary creating the L footprint. The classroom building is terminated by a smaller cross-gabled wing paraphrasing the sanctuary form. A three-story bell tower rises from the counter of the L plan. A louvered belfry and crenelated parapet detail the upper tower. Classrooms are accessed at the base of the square tower through 2:4-lite French doors set in a pointed-arch terra cotta Gothic surround. A larger and more elaborate terra cotta Gothic-style sanctuary entrance has a quoined surround, Gothic window tracery and plank doors with flat-iron straps. Flanking the entry are piers, brick buttresses, also evident on side elevations. Heavy, exposed timber scissor trusses are carried by the pier system. The sanctuary interior is outfitted simply with painted plaster walls, walnut brown tongue and groove ceiling decking and stunning original stamped metal hanging chandeliers. Two Corinthian columns support an antiphonal balcony. The sanctuary originally seated 375 parishioners. Original pews, however, have been replaced. Fenestration is regular and traditionally spaced, consisting of both steel sash and wood sash with leaded panes. Chancel windows are contemporary stained glass in abstract geometric designs. The church has survived 65 years with a high degree of architectural integrity, having sustained only minor evolutionary changes over time. The site includes a 16-vehicle parking lot. SETTING: Emmanuel Lutheran Church relates well to adjacent turn-of-the-century housing stock and other religious facilities in a proposed historic district, including St. John's Cathedral and the Assembly of God complex. Landscaping is very mature, well maintained and notable for a magnificent Deodar Cedar on the property.



- 8. Construction date
Estimated: () Factual: (1929)
- 9. Architect: Charles E. Butner
- 10. Builder: Irwin & Hopkins
- 11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage: 130' Depth: 150'
or approx. acreage: .45 acre
- 12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s):
June 1994

13. Condition: Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Poor () Deteriorated () No longer in existence ()

14. Alterations:

15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land (X) Scattered buildings () Densely built-up ()

Residential (X) Industrial () Commercial (X) Other:

16. Threats to site: None known () Private Development () Zoning () Vandalism (X) Public Works Project ()

Other:

17. Is the structure: On its original site? (X) Moved? () Unknown? ()

18. Related features:

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site):

Emmanuel Lutheran Church was completed on October 8, 1929. The building campaign for the new structure, which cost \$30,500, was led by the Reverend Mr. Edward J. Rudnick who, by 1936, had built a congregation numbering 600 parishioners. First services for twenty-two Lutheran settlers, who would officially establish Emmanuel Lutheran Church on March 9, 1890, were conducted in 1889, by the Reverend Mr. J.H. Theiss. These early services were held at St. Paul's Methodist Church. Under the pastoral leadership of the Reverend Mr. Samuel Hoernicke, the congregation purchased the old Christian Church structure and moved it to Ventura and L, where worship services were conducted for 33 years. In 1925, under Mr. Rudnick, the congregation purchased the Mariposa and U site. Rudnick was born in Buffalo, New York, on October 31, 1881. He trained at Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He later served on the faculty at Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. Rudnick settled in California in 1908. Prior to accepting a pastoral call to Fresno in 1922, he organized congregations in San Bernardino, Riverside and Chino. He also established Lutheran missions in Redlands and Banning. His first pastoral appointments were in Santa Ana and Banning. He was a widely published essayist on religious themes and conducted services in English and German. The design of the church is the work of Charles E. Butner (1888-1957). Butner was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on July 31, 1888. He completed his education at the University of Pennsylvania in 1911, studying under legendary Beaux-Arts architect and educator Paul Cret. He initially worked in New York at the Russell Sage Foundation, for which architect Grosvenor Atterbury and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. were then designing Forest Hills Gardens, a socially progressive suburban community. In 1914 Butner and his former college classmate Edward Glass (1886-1954) formed the firm of Glass & Butner in Fresno. The young firm secured many substantial residential and commercial commissions until the advent of World War I, when Butner joined a U.S. Army Aero Squadron and served in France as a pilot. In 1919 Glass & Butner opened a branch office in San Francisco. Winning a design competition for a War Memorial Veterans Building in San Francisco, the two architects saw their grand proposal fall to controversy arising from regional architectural politics. Glass and Butner dissolved their partnership in the early 1920s. Glass remained in San Francisco, Butner in Fresno. During the early Depression years Butner moved to Salinas. Butner quickly became a prominent civic leader in Salinas and built a thriving architectural practice in the Monterey Bay Area. Unlike many Beaux-Arts trained architects, Butner adapted well to the Modern Movement as it took hold after World War II. One of his distinctive works from this period was Mel's Drive-In Restaurant, a classic period piece published in 1952. Charles E. Butner managed the firm until his death on June 10, 1957. The construction of the church was completed by Irwin & Hopkins, General Contractors. Little is known about William (See Continuation Sheet 1 of 1)

Locational sketch map (draw & label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):

NORTH ▲

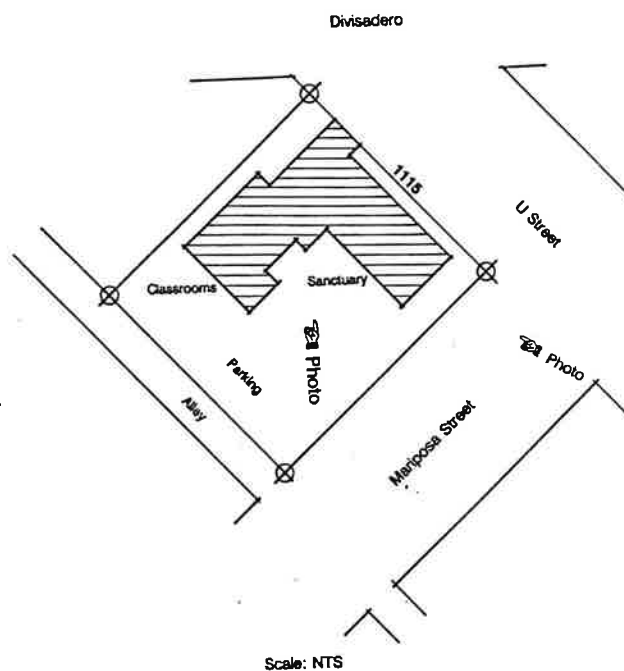
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

Architecture (1) Arts & Leisure ()
Economic/Industrial () Exploration/Settlement ()
Government () Military () Religion (2)
Social/Education (3)

21. Sources: (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews interviews and their dates). Fresno Grantor-Grantee Index, Certificate of Completion (Book 1024, p. 221). Chicago Title Deed Index. USGS Quad Maps. 1939 Land Use Survey. Fresno Water Plats. Fresno Parcel Maps. Sanborn Insurance Maps. Powell Index. Ben Walker Index. Fresno Bee Index (Letter, 5-4-50). Woodward Index. FCL Suhler Index. Fresno City Directories, 1928-31. Building Permits #7936, 4-29-29. Fresno Death Records, Book 12A, Page 69. FB (10-5-29, 1B)(11-28-36, p. 2A)(4-21-40, p. 6A)(9-28-68). FMR (12-8-28, p. 11)(10-7-29, p.5). Exile.

22. Date form prepared: August 31, 1994

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Scale: NTS

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY CONTINUATION SHEET

Sheet 1 of 1

Common name: Carter Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church of Fresno (Map Reference No. 30)

Historic name: Emmanuel Lutheran Church

Street or rural address: 1115 U Street

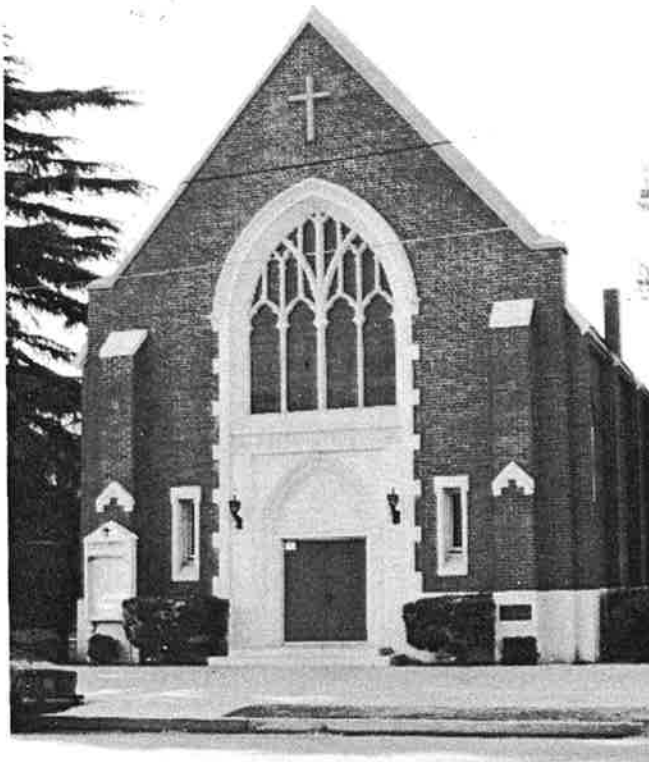
City: Fresno

Zip: 93721

County: Fresno

SIGNIFICANCE 19 (continued)

Hopkins, but Thomas C. Irwin (1870-1945) was born on Cape Jack, Ontigonish, Canada. Upon settling in Fresno in 1911, he founded his contracting firm, later known as T.C. & W.H. Irwin. During his career he was president of the Builders Exchange and constructed both large buildings and schools in the region. In 1965, Emmanuel Lutheran Church announced construction of a new \$500,000 plant on East Floradora and North Angus, designed by architects Schoewald Thomas Harris Bode & Blayney. In 1968, after a lengthy legal battle, the Carter Memorial African Methodist Episcopal congregation purchased the old Emmanuel Lutheran Church, with their first services held September 29, 1968. The Carter Memorial African congregation occupies the facility to this day. CONTEXT: This property is important architecturally because it represents an outstanding example of a Collegiate Gothic style religious building in the community. The church structure appears eligible for listing in the Local Official Register of Historic Resources with architectural and social significance. Both vernacular and architect designed buildings adapting Gothic detailing on turn-of-the-century and post 1920s-era Period Revival religious and education facilities were common ornamental types built throughout California and Fresno during the early decades of the 20th century. There are few surviving local examples of this calibre, many having been demolished over the last half-century. The property embodies a type (religious facility), period (early Depression era) and method of construction (masonry), and displays structural and material integrity. It has architectural distinction and is the work of a master builder and a master architect. Additionally it is associated with two prominent cultural groups in local history.



Front Elevation