Historical Analysis of the
Scottsdale United Methodist Church Property

Prepared by: Donald Hadder, Sr.

Date: June, 2025

Revised by: Donald Hadder, Sr. per comments provided by Douglas B. Sydnor, FAIA

Date: October, 2025

Peer Reviewer

This report was reviewed by Douglas B. Sydnor, FAIA in order to review the information and findings contained herein. This review was completed in September of 2025. The report was revised per the recommendations and comments from this review.

As background information about Douglas Sydnor, he has provided architectural services in the Scottsdale area for 45 years. His work has included historic preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse. He has worked on sites that are on the Scottsdale Historic Register including the 1955 Kiva Craft Center designed by T. S. Montgomery, the 1961 Triangle Building by Ralph Haver, the 1928 Scottsdale Grammar School (also called Loloma School) by Lescher and Mahoney and the 1953 Adobe Apartments.

In addition, Doug was the Founding Chairman if the new Historic Preservation Commission in 1997. He served as Chairman for three years and served an additional three years as a commissioner. He oversaw and managed the drafting of the original Historic Preservation Ordinance and the Archeological Resources Ordinance in 1999.

In preparing his review, Mr. Sydnor visited the site, reviewed the current applicable language of Scottsdale's Historic Preservation Ordinance and reviewed his extensive files on local architects.

His comments provide substantial additional information and help to refine and clarify the report.

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Property Details

- Street Address: 4140 N Miller Road, Scottsdale Arizona, 85251
- MCR Parcel Number: 173-52-001A
- Zoning: C-3 DO (Highway Commercial with the Downtown Overlay)
- Lot Size (Net): 195,846 sq ft
- Number of Main Buildings: 3
- Total Building Area: 35,733 sq ft (18.2% of net lot area)
- Adjacent Properties:
  - West: 4-story apartments / built ca 1992 / 448,320 sq ft net lot area
  - North: 5-story condominium apartments / built in late 1970s / 187,479 sq ft net lot area
  - East: 1-story retail shopping center / built ca 1975 / 344,560 net lot area / 92,621 sq ft building area (26.8% of net lot area)
  - South:
    - Building 1: 1-story commercial / built in 1952 / 36,634 sq ft net lot area / 6,667 sq ft building area (18.2% of net lot area)
    - Building 2: 2-story fire station / built in 2008 / 51,179 sq ft net lot area / 12,746 sq ft building area (24.9% of net lot area)
    - Building 3: 1-story retail building / built in 2004 / 67,980 sq ft net lot area / 14,012 sq ft building area (20.6% of net lot area)
- Street Access: Miller Road on east side and 75th Street (Hinton) on west side

Historical Significance

This property was a small portion (5 acres) of the original homestead property (640 acres) secured by Winfield Scott (namesake of the city) in the late 1880s. By the early 1900s, it was part of the Charles Miller property (namesake of Miller Road on the east side of the site. From the late 1930s until the mid-1950s the site was farmed intermittently.

The Scottsdale Methodist Church bought the property in 1955 and soon thereafter began construction of the first building on the site. This sanctuary and office wing was designed by Flagstaff architect Fred Guirey. The current main sanctuary was completed in 1965 and was designed by Tempe architect Thomas Stuart Montgomery. Additions for classrooms and a kitchen were added to the original sanctuary, which became the fellowship gathering space.

The main education wing to the west of this building was remodeled and rebuilt in 2001 using the design by Vehr Webb Studio Architects of Phoenix, Arizona (Architects Tony Vehr, AIA and Maret Webb, AIA serving as co-leads). They also prepared an overall master site plan update that included a columbarium. The surrounding playground areas were also upgraded in this process. Minor modifications have been made to this building.

In terms of cultural impacts on the surrounding community, this site has been used for dramatic presentations, art fairs, and other such publicly accessible gatherings over its existence. Noted politicians including former Arizona Governor and Senator Paul Fannin, and Scottsdale Mayors Bill Schrader and Bud Tims attended functions at the church. The most noted event was the marriage between actors Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood in the first sanctuary building in December of 1957.

This church has also functioned as the 'mother' church for three other local Methodist congregations. It also owned for about 20 years the original building of the Ascension Lutheran Church, which is adjacent to the current property and owned by the City of Scottsdale.

Any basis for considering including this site to be added to a local historic register would be focused upon the following considerations:

- The two main buildings are more than 50 years old.
- One of the three buildings, the 'newest' sanctuary, was designed by a local architect who designed two other buildings in Scottsdale that have been placed on the local register (Craftsman Court (1955) and First Church of Christ, Scientist (1962-71))
- There have been some notable local personalities associated in a general way with this facility.

- A singular event of public notoriety occurred at the site soon after the original buildings had been constructed.

As a counter to these considerations:

- The two main buildings on the property are showing signs of deferred maintenance, particularly in regard to the roofs and the mechanical and electrical systems. The cost to bring these into compliance with current standards would be excessive and beyond the capacity of the owner.
- The sanctuary building designed by T. S. Montgomery is an example of the modernism and refined detailing (particularly with concrete) of the architect. However, it does not have the boldness of some of his other designs and even on some lists of his work has not been included. The interior does not have the richness in decoration that several other of his church designs have, yet retains a highly controlled patterning for which he is well known.
- The older sanctuary building retains the sense of mid-century modernism that was common at the time it was built. It, however, is a very inefficient building, which was common in the relatively light-weight type of building that commonly built in the area during the mid-1950s.
- Although there have been a few notable local personalities at the property, the significance of their lives was not derived by their association with the property.
- The nearby Valley Ho Hotel has gained greater recognition as where Robert and Natalie Wagner stayed after they were married, so this event has shared significance with another property.
- Many local residents are not even aware that this church exists. Being built so far from the streets has led to the facility being 'hidden'.
- Given a review of the City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Ordinance (#3242) adopted July 13, 1999 and specifically ARTICLE VI – SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICTS, Sec. 6.113 Criteria: the existing Scottsdale United Methodist Church 1956 Sanctuary and Office structures do not appear to have special historic significance as they do not possess the integrity of design, materials, and association required. Criteria that is associated with events or significant persons, distinctive character or method of construction, yielding historic information, or having features that convey significance in Scottsdale's historic context do not apply. It has been found that the 1965 Main Sanctuary, 1965 Entry Ramada and Spire, the 1981 Bell Tower, and the 2001 Classroom Building do have some integrity with its character, scale, proportions and crafted detailing such as the fascia and exterior window patterns. The quality of construction is reflected in the sanctuary's cast-in-place concrete walls and columns and the coffered soffit of the ramada, the 8x4x16 concrete masonry units with horizontally raked joints of the classroom building, and the stepped wood fascia detail on the sanctuary. The 1965 entry ramada does provide a landmark focal point on the church campus given its height and creative and visually pleasing profile. Being located near the center of the site, though, it has

marginal visual presence from the local streets. For these reasons, the sanctuary/ramada and classroom structures are being retained in the proposed site plan without substantial modification.

It is our recommendation that this facility not be considered for an historic designation but that its history be documented for future reference.

Relationship to Nearby Historic Properties

The United Methodist Church is not located adjacent to any designated historic properties. The only adjacent property of similar age is the City of Scottsdale Community Design Studio. This originally was built as the Ascension Lutheran Church in 1952, just a few years earlier than the initial construction on the Scottsdale Methodist property. For about 20 years this property was owned by the Scottsdale Methodist Church, which used it for youth and drama activities. It also housed an art supplies store, a Bible store and a restaurant. This property has been owned by the City of Scottsdale for about 30 years. It also has had many modifications and upgrades while retaining its original structure.

The nearest buildings on Scottsdale's historic register are City Hall and the Civic Center Library, which were designed by noted architect Bennie Gonzales and initially completed in 1968. Both of these buildings have had extensive modifications.

This property is located just east of what had been the site of Scottsdale High School, of which the first portions built in 1923-24 were designed by Leasher & Mahoney, a prominent Arizona architectural firm. The school property immediately west of the church property was purchased in the early 1950s and initially was built as the Winfield Junior High School. By the mid-1950s it had been incorporated into the high school and functioned as the social sciences, English and languages, and vocational portions of the high school. The high school closed in 1983 and was torn down in the early 1990s.

At the time the initial Scottsdale Methodist Church buildings were constructed, the site was at the very edge of town development. To the north and east, the land was used for farming and scattered groups of homes that had been built in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A decade after the church had moved to this site, there was substantial suburban development for a mile to the north and for a mile-and-a-half to the east.

Of further note, some of the original buildings at the prior location of the Scottsdale Methodist Church, which was located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Marshall Way in the Old Town area, still exist, though highly modified. The church occupied this site from 1929 to 1956.

Proposed Development of the Property

The proposed changes to the Scottsdale United Methodist Church property include the construction one 1 or 2 multifamily buildings on roughly the eastern half of the site. This construction would replace the large parking area and the oldest buildings on the site. The new buildings would be oriented toward the Miller Road frontage and would enclose a new parking court serving the residential uses.

Two existing buildings would remain on the site: the main sanctuary building along with its entry ramada in the north central portion and the education building along with its associated outdoor play areas in the southwest quadrant. The exterior of the main sanctuary building would remain virtually intact. The roof would need to be replaced and extensive upgrades and modifications to the interior would need to be made in order for it to be safely occupied and repurposed to serve the future needs of the church as well as function for community serving uses. The main public access to the church would be reoriented to the west side using the existing parking area as the main point of entry. The essence of the original design would be retained, particularly on the exterior.

The educational building would remain virtually intact both outside and on the interior.

Chronology of the Property

I. In July of 1888, Chaplain Winfield Scott filed papers to homestead 640 acres next to the recently completed Arizona Canal. The area he homesteaded is now bordered by Chaparral Road on the north side, Hayden Road on the east side, Indian School Road on the south side and Scottsdale Road on the west side. His brother George arrived on the property in 1989 to clear the land, build the irrigation lines and start the farm.

II. In the late 1890s or early 1900s, Winfield Scott sold a portion of his land to Charles Miller. This land was generally located at the northwest corner of Indian School Road and Miller Road. (Note: Miller Road in Scottsdale is named after Charles Miller.)

III. On March 17, 1909, Charles and Ella Miller, along with several others, dedicated a 33-feet wide half-street right-of-way for Indian School Road.

IV. The Scottsdale Methodist Church was organized by the Methodist Episcopal Church South on January 6, 1924.

V. There were 18 Charter Members in the newly organized congregation.

VI. The first services of the congregation were held at the recently completed Scottsdale High School built in 1923-24 (at Indian School Road and 73rd Street).

VII. The first building the new church occupied as a dedicated facility was located at the northwest corner of 1st Street and Scottsdale Road (the site is currently occupied by the Buca de Beppo restaurant). The church bought the building from Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Graves for $4,500. Betty owned and managed the Graves Guest Ranch, which was located at the northwest corner of Indian School and Scottsdale Roads and was one of the earliest tourist accommodations in the community. The building had formerly been occupied by the McComb Brothers General Store.

VIII. The first building was sold in 1929 for $5,000 in order to facilitate the relocation of the church to a larger site.

IX. The new church site was located at the northwest corner of Marshall Way and Main Street. The first service held at this new location was on October 27, 1929.

X. In 1933, the Wesley Hall building was built next to the church sanctuary. This building was made adobe blocks that were made from materials donated by Wilford Hayden. Wilford's farm was on the north side of McDowell Road between Miller and Granite Reef Roads. Hayden Road in Scottsdale is named after Wilford.

XI. On January 15, 1940, The Salt River Valley Water Users Association (later the Salt River Project) transferred the rights to various electric lines and easements over to the Central Arizona Light and Power Company (later Arizona Public Service Company). This was pursuant to an agreement made on February 28, 1928. In particular, it included a power line along Miller Road.

XII. Local artist and community activist Wesley Segner redecorated the sanctuary with a 'Western' motif in 1947-48. This was also when a great number of Old Town buildings

were modified to have a 'Western' character as part of the Chamber of Commerce theme of 'The West's Most Western Town'.

XIII. On January 15, 1948, C. W. Miller (husband of Beatrice) sold 10 acres along Scottsdale Road to Ella Murle McKnight. (Note: McKnight Road just east of City Hall was named after her family.)

XIV. On March 19, 1948, C. W. Miller sold another 40 acres along Miller Road to Ella Murle McKnight.

XV. A stained-glass cross composed of multiple panes was installed at the church as part of its 25th Anniversary celebration.

XVI. On August 8, 1951, Ella Murle McKnight sold 20 acres to the Scottsdale Unified School District for the expansion of the Scottsdale High School site. (Note: the original school built on this property was the Winfield Junior High School. This was later incorporated into the high school campus.)

XVII. In the early 1950s, noted actor Bobby Driscoll performed in a play produced by the church.

XVIII. On February 7, 1952, Ella Murle (McKnight) Foley sold property at the northeast corner of Indian School Road and 75th Street to the Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church of Scottsdale.

XIX. On April 20, 1953, Ella Murle McKnight Foley sold the land at the northwest corner of Indian School Road and Miller Road to Jew Jackson Song. (Note: The Song family arrived in Scottsdale around 1929 and operated a general store and later Mexican Imports for decades.)

XX. The church bought 5 acres of land on the northeast edge of town near what is now the northwest corner of Indian School Road and Miller Road in February of 1955. There was an error on the original deed, so a corrected one was recorded on May 22, 1955. This property was bought from Ella Murle McKnight Foley.

XXI. The property at the corner of Main Street and Marshall Way was sold for $59,027.13. The sale was completed on August 1, 1956 and the last service at this location was held on August 26, 1956. The person who bought this property was Garnet Davy Grosse, a local artist who came to Scottsdale in the early 1920s and was a leading organizer of the local artist community for three decades. (This site is currently occupied by Bouten and Foley Interiors and Casa de Artistas.)

XXII. The new building at the new church site was designed by Fred M. Guirey. J. R. Porter was selected as the contractor to build the new church building. The original agreement was to not exceed a cost of $74,000, but the contract was signed on April 10, 1956 for the amount of $79,978. The ground breaking ceremony was held on April 1, 1956. This building was completed by the end of 1956.

XXIII. Beginning in April of 1957, children's classes were held at Joyce and Wesley Segner's nearby Crafts Village (located about 1,000 feet north of the new church). This arrangement lasted until early 1960.

XXIV. Actors Natalie Wood and Robert Wagner were married in the new sanctuary in December of 1957. They stayed at the newly completed Valley Ho resort hotel, where their wedding reception was held.

XXV. In July of 1958, Mrs. Pauline Tims was hired as the church secretary. Her husband, Bud Tims, was a local dentist who later became a significant Mayor of Scottsdale and then a Arizona State Corporation Commissioner.

XXVI. Future Councilmember and Mayor, William 'Bill' Schrader attended the Scottsdale Methodist Church and donated dried manure to help start the lawns at the new church facility.

XXVII. A new education building was built in late 1959 at a cost of $85,000.

XXVIII. Paul Fannin and his wife Elma attended Scottsdale Methodist Church in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Paul was Governor of Arizona from 1959 to 1965 and then was a US Senator for Arizona from 1965 to 1977.

XXIX. The Paradise Valley Methodist Church was organized as a 'daughter' church in November of 1961.

XXX. The parking lot was paved in 1962 in conjunction with the paving of Miller Road on the east side of the property.

XXXI. On October 6, 1963, the South Scottsdale Methodist Church (also the Valley Plaza Methodist Church and the Los Arcos United Methodist Church) was organized as a 'daughter' church.

XXXII. On October 2, 1963, the Scottsdale Methodist Church bought the adjacent Ascension Lutheran Church property at the northeast corner of Indian School Road and 75th Street to use as a youth center at a cost of $88,000. (Note: By the mid-1970s, this property was used to generate income and housed the Simmon's Art Supplies store, a Bible store, a restaurant operated by local business woman Jaqueline, and the Mission Bazaar.)

XXXIII. Construction for the new sanctuary of the Scottsdale Methodist Church began in May of 1964. The Hal Grammar Construction Company was hired to build this large new building for a cost of $550,000. The architect of the building was Thomas S Montgomery, who had designed other notable buildings in the area and churches across the Valley. The colonnade along the sides of the main sanctuary and chapel were inspired by the concrete railings of pre-WW II highway bridges across southern Arizona. The first service in the new sanctuary was held on April 4 1965.

XXXIV. On April 25, 1974, the church dedicated additional right-of-way for the expansion of Indian School Road.

XXXV. The bell tower in the east parking area was installed in 1981.

XXXVI. In early 1982, the North Scottsdale United Methodist Church was organized as another 'daughter' church.

XXXVII. On November 30, 1992, the church again dedicated additional right-of-way along Indian School Road.

XXXVIII. On January 26, 1993, the church dedicated an easement for a power line along the southern edge of the property to the Arizona Public Service Company.

XXXIX. On October 3, 1996, the church rededicated right-of-way for 75th Street on the west side of the property.

XL. In 2001, the classroom building in the southwest quadrant of the site was completely remodeled and rebuilt.

XLI. On January 5, 2005, the church and the adjacent drug store dedicated landscape and maintenance easements along their common property lines.

Short Biography of the Architect Fred M. Guirey, FAIA

(Note: The following text is from 'Mid-Century Marvels: Commercial Architecture of Phoenix 1945-1975', authored by the City of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office and Ryden Architects, Inc. in 2010.)

"Fred Guirey, FAIA, was born in 1908 in Oakland, California. He studied at the University of Arizona before transferring to the University of California, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture in 1933. He began his career as a draftsman and landscape engineer for the Arizona Highway Department, working for the state from 1935 to 1942. Preferring to design buildings rather than roads, he was hired as a draftsman for Gilmore & Varney, then started his own firm in 1946. After a distinguished career, Guirey was conferred the rank of Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1969. The firm's credits include the original Harmon Branch of the Phoenix Library, the Superlite Block building, and the Deer Valley Service Center for Arizona Public Service. The firm designed the Western Savings Branch in Sun City and the Valley Center (as the local associate of Welton Becket & Associates), as well as the 1966 remodel of the Christown branch of the Valley National Bank. Guirey and his associates also designed McClintock Hall and the Art and Architecture Buildings at Arizona State University, plus a fraternity house on ASU's 'Greek Row'. In Scottsdale, we also know him for a series of projects at Scottsdale Memorial Hospital (now Honorhealth) Osborn Campus; and the 1958 Messinger Mortuary Chapel Addition, which is diagonally across the street intersection of Miller Road and Indian School Road from the First United Methodist Church. Firm names were Guirey and Jones; Guirey and Associates; Guirey Srnka & Arnold; Guirey Srnka Arnold & Sprinkle; and GSAS."

Short Biography of the Architect T. S. Montgomery

Thomas Stuart Montgomery was born in 1917. His early career was based in the Washington, D.C. area and worked at Ring Engineering Co. for ten years. He was an architect and project manager for the design and construction of garden and multi-story apartments, hotels, and office buildings.

In 1948, T. S. Montgomery moved to Tempe and began his practice in the area. His office was located in Scottsdale from 1954 to 1957, when he moved it to Tempe into the historic Harry Walker building at 118 E. 7th Street.

Note: Architect Craig Walling, AIA, of Tempe, Arizona worked with Montgomery for the last four months of his life, and then completed his unfinished projects upon his passing, including the 1962 First Church of Christ Scientist in Scottsdale, Arizona. Montgomery's widow Susie worked for Mr. Walling as his Office Manager, and his later firm Florence & Walling, until 2007 at the age of 88. She expressed pride in her late husband's legacy of public and residential architecture, but especially of the many beautiful churches he designed. His body of work represented more than 200 projects and included multi-family, religious, higher education, commercial, and municipal facilities.

Among his designs built in and near to Scottsdale are:

- 1955-1958: Craftsman Court and the adjacent Glassart Studio
- 1958: Loloma Vista apartments
- 1960-61: Saint Barnabas on the Desert Episcopal Church, Paradise Valley
- 1962: First Church of Christ Scientist, Scottsdale
- 1965: Scottsdale Methodist new sanctuary
- 1964: Parish Hall at St. Barnabas on the Desert, Paradise Valley
- 1967: Scottsdale Baptist Church

He also designed three buildings on the Arizona State University campus and an addition to the Heard Museum.

T. S. Montgomery was known for his well-crafted mid-Century modern designs. He was particularly noted for the detailed and precise use of concrete and block materials. His designs incorporated geometric patterns, depth variations between confined and expansive interior spaces, and the simple and exposed use of materials.

T. S. Montgomery died in the year 1970 in Tempe, Arizona at the relatively young age of 53.

Short Biography of the Vehr Webb Studio Architects

Vehr/Webb Studio Architects is an architectural firm that has designed owner-occupied commercial, religious and residential projects in Arizona since 1986. Architects Tony Vehr (Paul A. Vehr III) and Maret Webb are partners in business and in life. Tony and Maret both graduated from the University of Arizona in 1980 with Bachelor of Architecture degrees.

Brief Descriptions of Existing Buildings & Structures

The following are brief descriptions of the architectural designs and details of the various buildings and structures on the Scottsdale United Methodist Church property:

- The Site: The original site when acquired in the mid-1950s was a bare field that was formerly farm land. At the time constructions was started there were no remnants of earlier farming visible. Also, at this time the site was beyond the developed areas of the small town of Scottsdale. The land slopes very gently from west to east, draining toward the nearby Indian Bend Wash.
- 1956 Sanctuary and Office Wing: Construction on this site occurred just a couple years after the adjacent Ascension Lutheran Church building had been completed to the southwest. This building is located near the center of the site along the southern edge. The sanctuary is oriented north/south with the entrance being at the north end. The office wing at the northwest corner of the sanctuary was built in conjunction with the sanctuary. A kitchen was attached at the southeast corner as well. A detached "Social Hall" was located southeast and apart from the kitchen. There is a large window-wall on the east side of the sanctuary but the windows on the west side are small and located high and just below the eave. Some of the details that contribute to the mid-century character of this building are the operable steel-casement windows, particularly on the office wing; the stepped fascia along the eaves; the use of local flagstone veneers; the predominant use of concrete block construction for exterior walls; and the asymmetrical geometric posts on the north façade. The original tall cross on the north façade was removed at some point. There is not insulation in the walls or ceilings and it is likely that as with many contemporary buildings in the area the foundations do not meet current standards. The parking area for this stage of the church was surfaced with gravel and accessed from a dirt Miller Road. The sewer system at this time used septic tanks.
- 1960(?) Classroom Wing: Sometime between the construction of the 1956 and 1965 sanctuaries, the Social Hall was removed and a full wing was built east from the kitchen. This wing matches the massing and dimensions of the office wing and used similar windows on the north wall, but is generally less articulated than the office wing.
- 1965 Main Sanctuary: This sanctuary is oriented on an east-west axis perpendicular to the first sanctuary. The new entrance was located basically opposite of the entrance of the earlier sanctuary. This sanctuary has an "L"-shaped meeting space with a 'chapel' extending south from the chancel area, providing a secondary entrance point. This building is similar in construction and appearance to many other local churches built in

the mid-1960s with an "A"-frame type of peaked roof formed by glue-lam wood beams and a wood-faced ceiling, in this case with heart-wood redwood. The main walls and columns of the building are made of cast-in-place concrete that was formed with triangular shapes. Stained glass slit windows are placed along the north wall and stained-glass windows were added to the windows on the east side of the narthex (entry foyer) space. Similar slit windows were placed along portions of the south wall as well. The current entry doors were installed after the original construction and were carved in Mexico. The hanging lights in the meeting spaces are a unique mid-century design that establish much of the ambience of the space. Extensive use of wood slats provide additional contrast to the concrete walls in the chancel and chapel spaces and connect visually with the wood ceiling. The carpet down the main aisles has been replaced at least once. The tall cross in the chancel space was a later addition. A columbarium was added on the exterior of the building at the southwest corner in the 1990s. The parking areas east and west of the sanctuary were paved with asphalt in conjunction with this structure and were accessed from a recently paved Miller Road (which was the first road in Scottsdale to have a landscaped median). The sewer system for this phase was converted from a septic system to a sewer line system that connected with a recently completed sewer main down Miller Road.

- 1965 Entrance Ramada: The ramada cover at the entrance to the main sanctuary was built contemporary with the sanctuary. The base is poured-in-place concrete that used detailing similar to the main columns interior to the sanctuary and are topped by a 'waffle' concrete ceiling (a common technique of the mid-1960s). The unique tower roof on top of the concrete base was built on the ground and then lifted on top of the base. This is the iconic symbol of the church facility.
- 1981 Bell Tower: This structure is located in the east parking lot and likely was installed to provide some visual awareness of the church from the street (an issue that continues at the current time). The clocks have not worked since the early 2000s and the design of this structure, although unique in its own, has no design connection with any other structures on the site. The congregation has no sentimental or visual attachment to this structure.
- 2001 Classroom Building: The current classroom building, which occupies much of the west end of the site, was completed in 2001. This was a total rebuild/remodel of a classroom building that was built in the early 1960s. It uses low-pitched roofs, horizontally-scored masonry joints, and clerestory windows to connect with the mid-century design of the other buildings. In addition to the building, the adjacent playground yards were completely reworked with a contemporary styled wall enclosing them. This is the only building that has fire sprinklers on the site.

Historic Photographs of Scottsdale Methodist Church

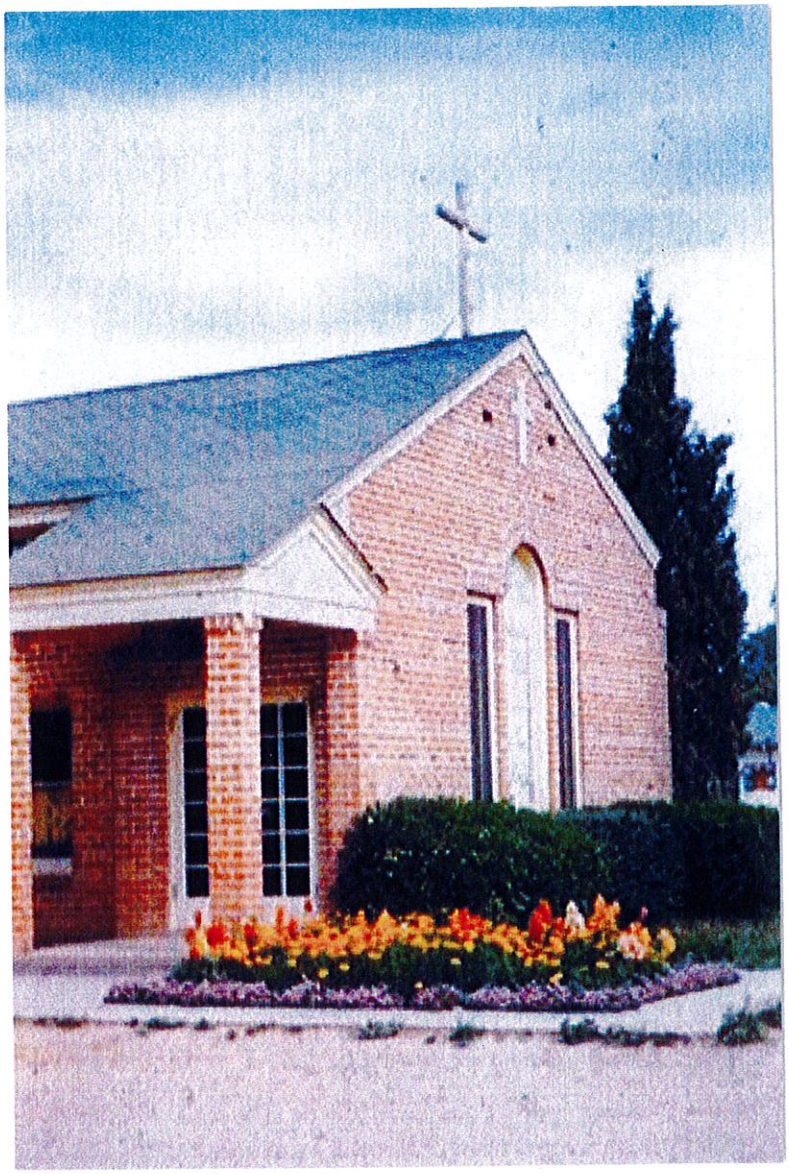


Photo H1: This photo shows the 1929-1956 Scottsdale Methodist Church building that was located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Marshall Way in Old Town Scottsdale. Some parts of this structure may still exist within the current buildings on the site.

Photo H2: Photo of the site the current church was built on just prior to construction in 1955. Camelback Mountain is in the distance and Scottsdale high School buildings are on the left.

Photo H3: The newly constructed church buildings ca 1956 looking southeast. Note single family homes on the property across Miller Road on the left. The Song home was under the trees behind the right end of the sanctuary building. Parking was on the dirt lot.

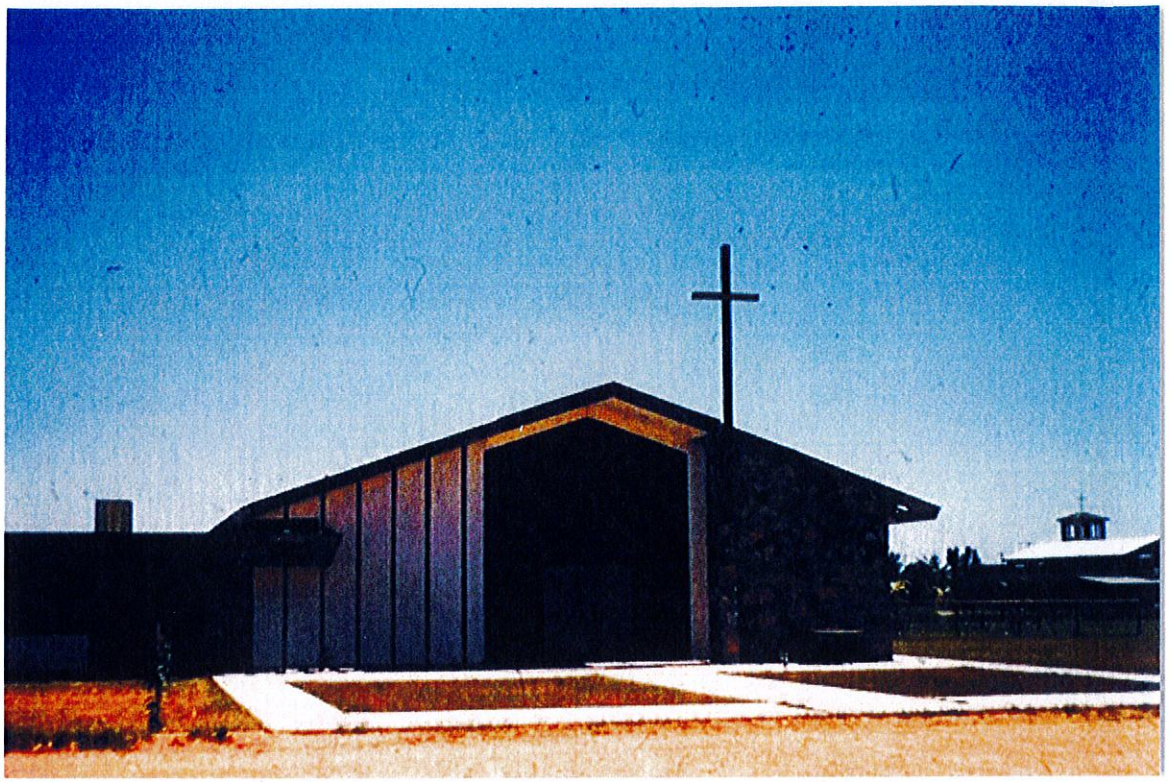


Photo H4: The newly completed Scottsdale Methodist Sanctuary ca 1957. Note the Ascension Lutheran Church in the background on the right.

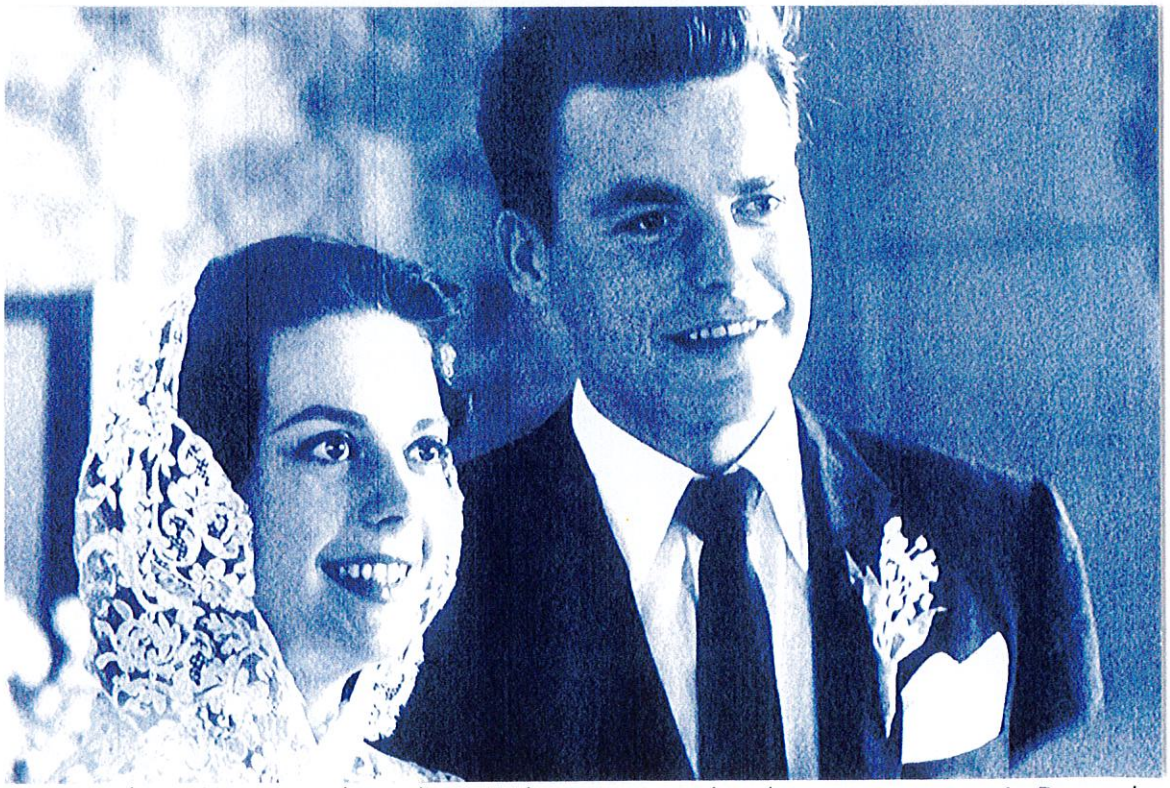


Photo H5: Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood were married in the new sanctuary in December of 1957. Note stone wall in the left side background.

Photo H6: Construction on the roof of the new sanctuary in 1965, looking eastward. Note homes across Miller Road and intersection with Indian School Rd. on the right.

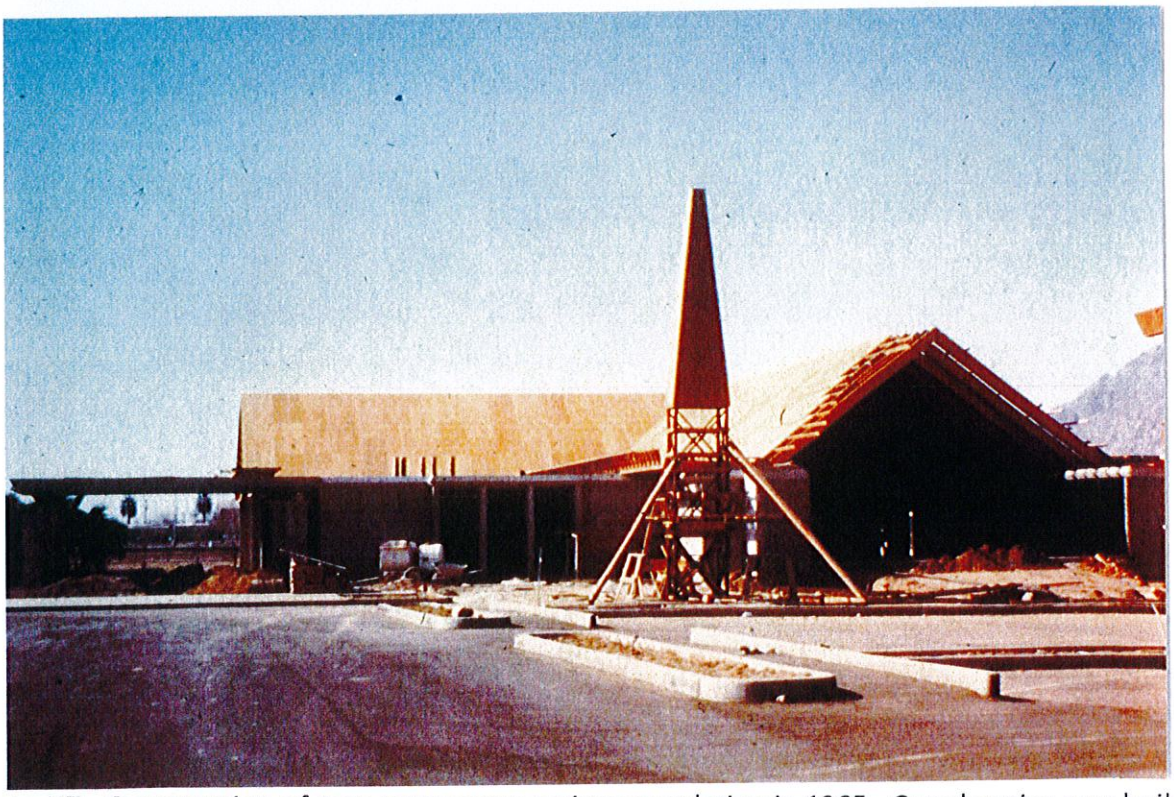


Photo H7: Construction of new sanctuary nearing completion in 1965. Cupola spire was built at ground level and then hoisted into place. (looking west)

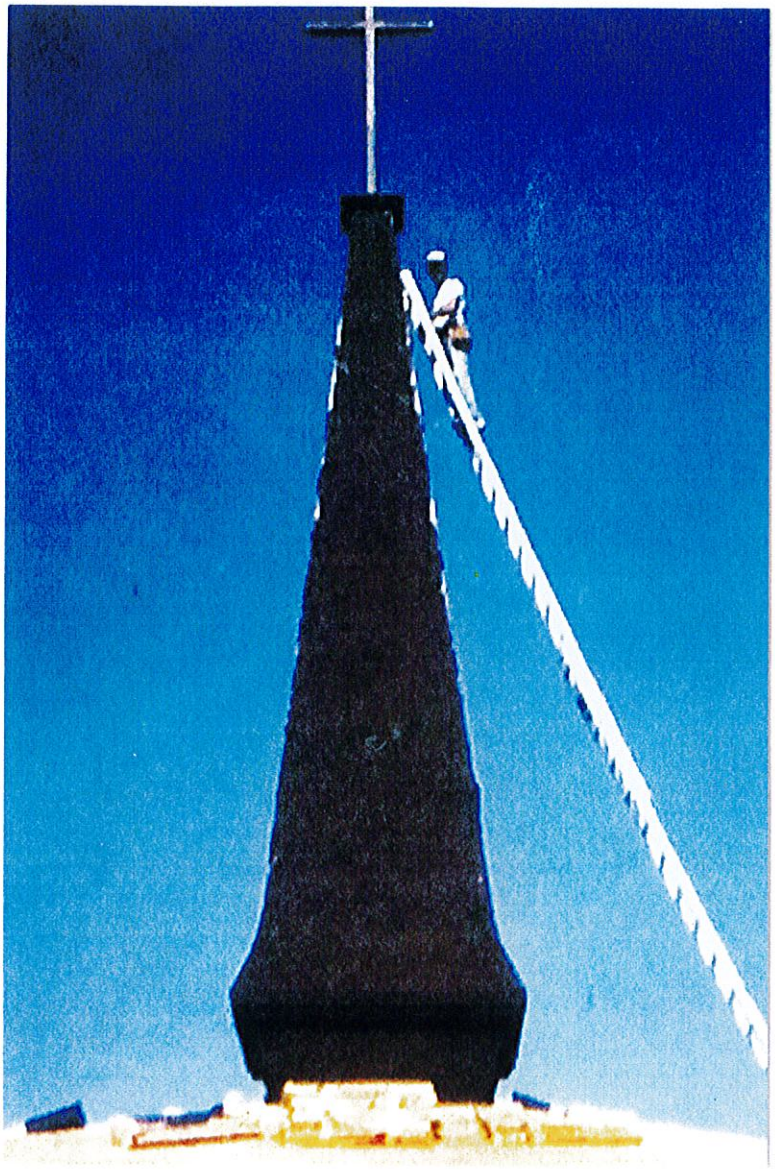


Photo H8: Completing the cupola spire after it had been lifted into place.

Photo H9: Interior of new sanctuary at time of dedication in 1965 looking west toward the pulpit and choir area.

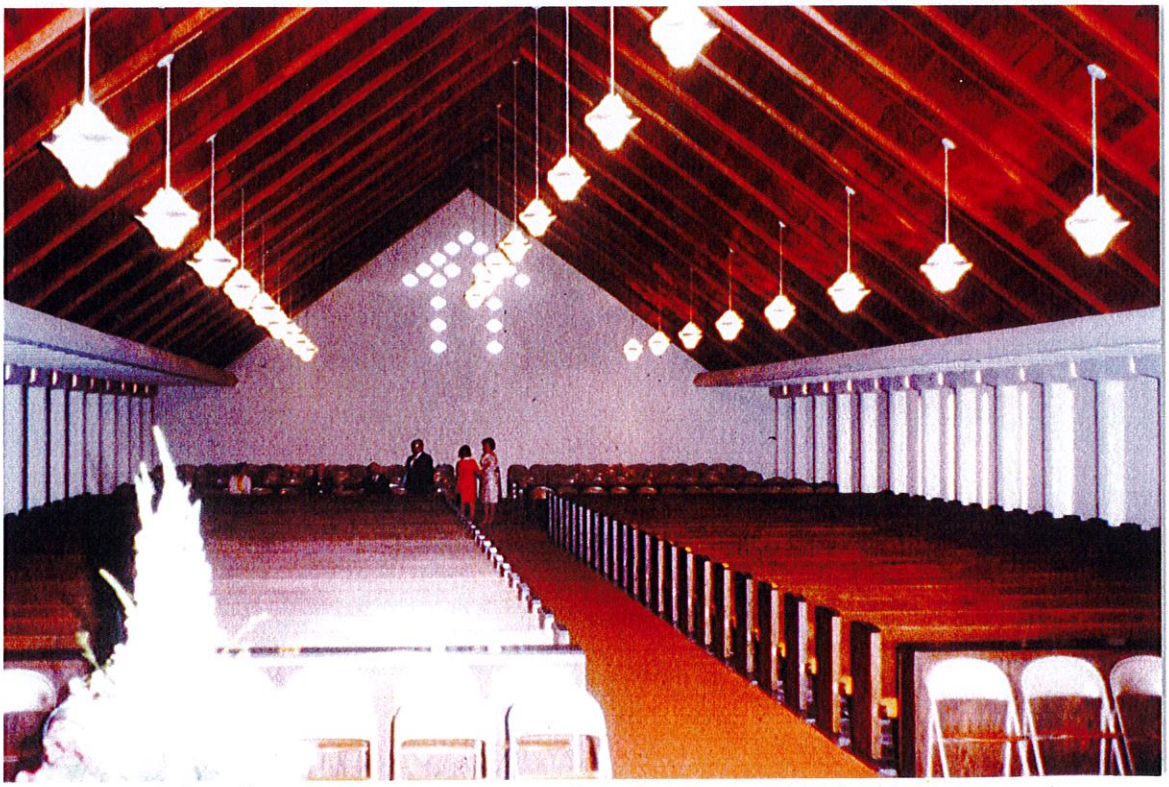


Photo H10: Interior of new sanctuary at time of dedication in 1965 looking east to the rear of the space.

Photo H11: New sanctuary nearing completion in 1965. Note the newly paved parking area and Camelback Mountain in background to the right. (looking west)

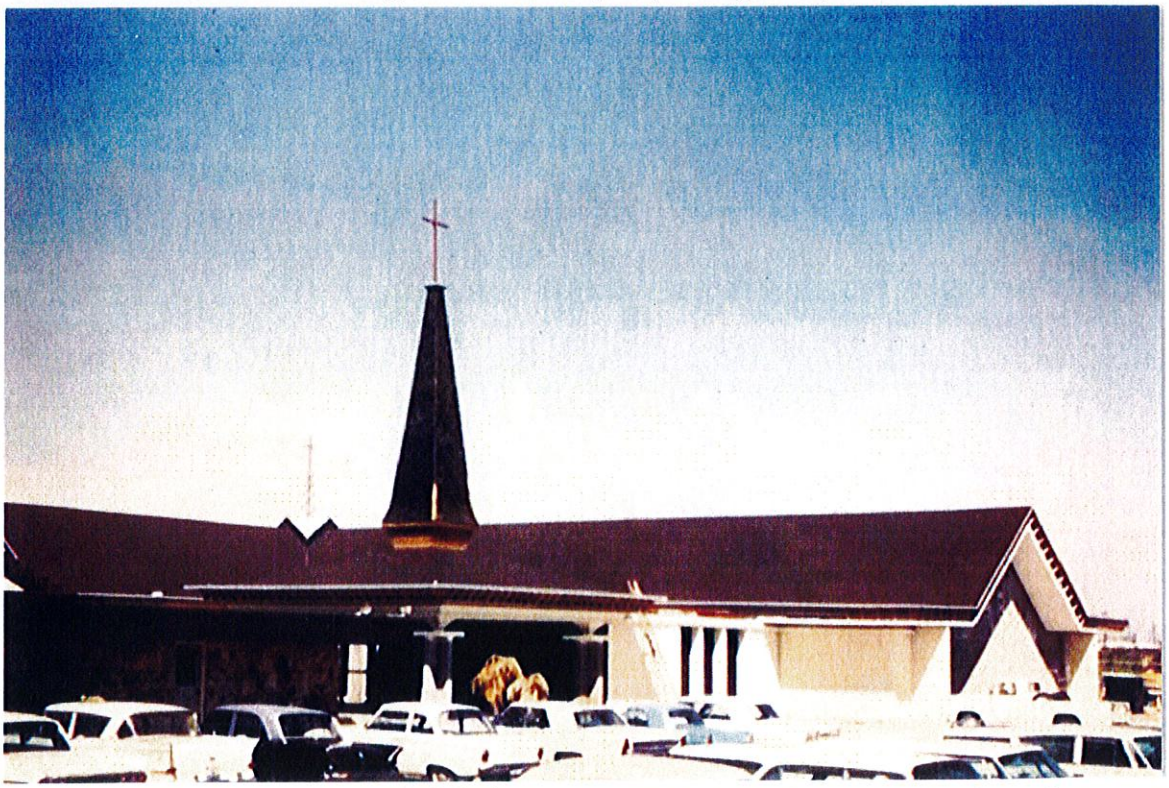


Photo H12: New sanctuary at time of dedication in 1965. Note that eave details and stucco on east end are not completed. (looking northwest)

Photo H13: Construction on new education wing west of the first sanctuary building (ca 1959). Note Ascension Lutheran Church in background on the right. (looking southwest)

Photo H14: Aerial photo of Scottsdale Methodist Church campus around 1970. Note the north portion of the east parking area was not yet fully paved. The west end of the property remained unimproved. Scottsdale High School was located adjacent to the west (left) and 75th Street did not exist. Note the Ascension Lutheran Church, Shell gas station and Song home south of the church. Miller Road was completed (with some of the first medians installed in Scottsdale) and the property across Miller Road had been cleared.)

Current Site Photographs

Photo S1: Scottsdale United Methodist Church looking west from across Miller Road.

Photo S2: View from southeast corner looking northwest. Note the cell tower on top of parking area light pole.

Photo S3: Photo from the center of parcel on the east side looking west (just south of main entry off of Miller Road).

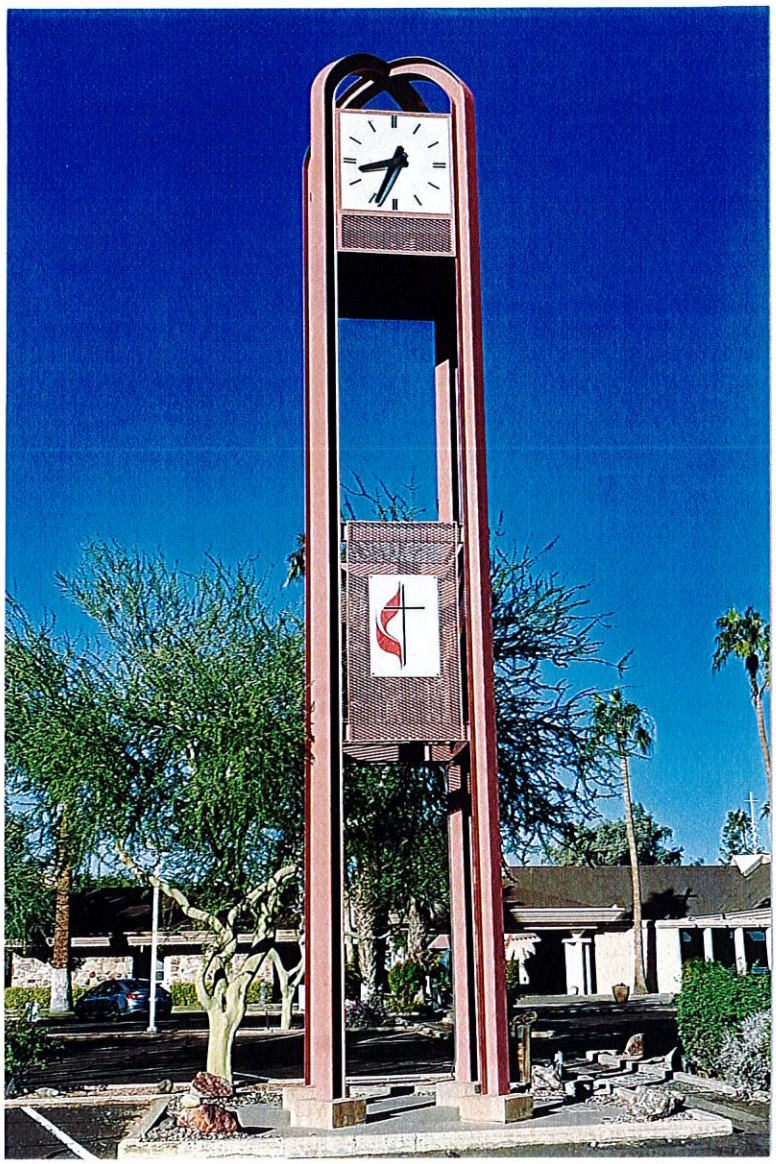


Photo S4: The clock tower in the east side parking area (south of main entry drive), looking west. This is built with steel I-beams.

Photo S5: Looking at church property from the northeast corner to the southwest.

Photo S6: Looking north from the south boundary at the center of the property. Education building is behind fenced play areas. 5-story condos in far background.

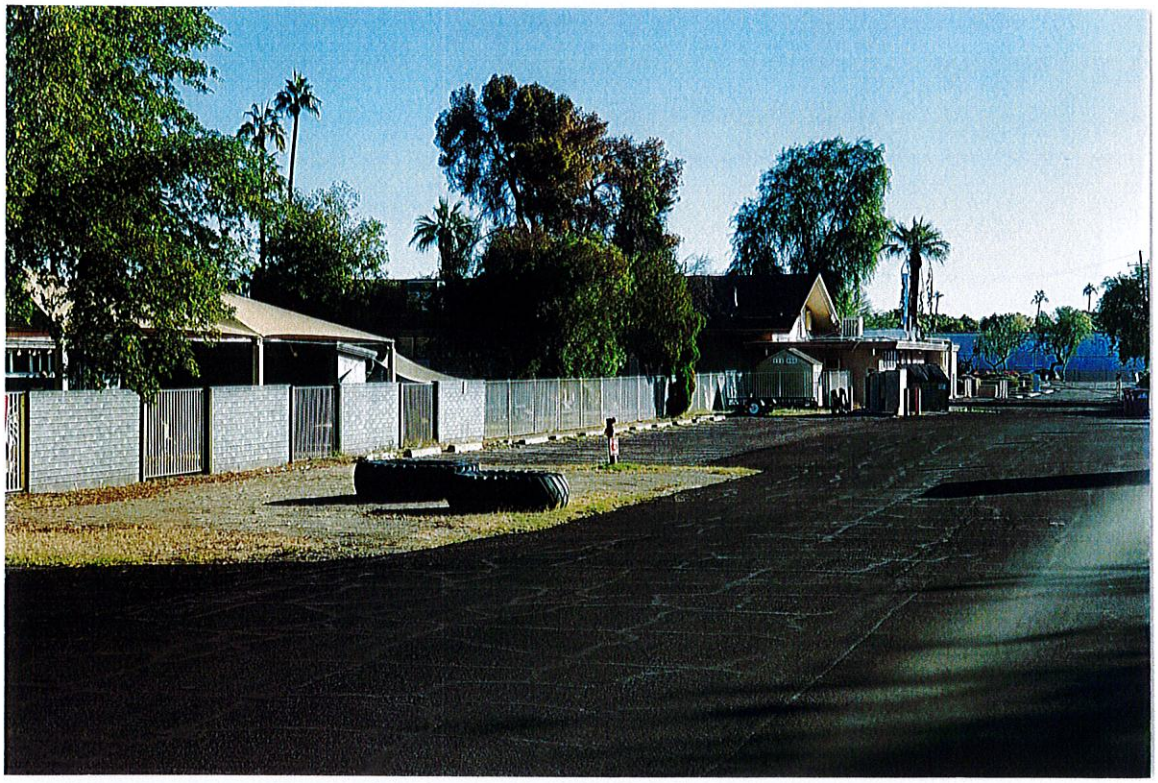


Photo S7: Looking to the northeast from the southwest corner of the property. Fire station and city building are to the right outside of picture.

Photo S8: Photo from west side of property looking at entrance to day school.

Photo S9: Photo from west side of property looking at play areas and parking area.

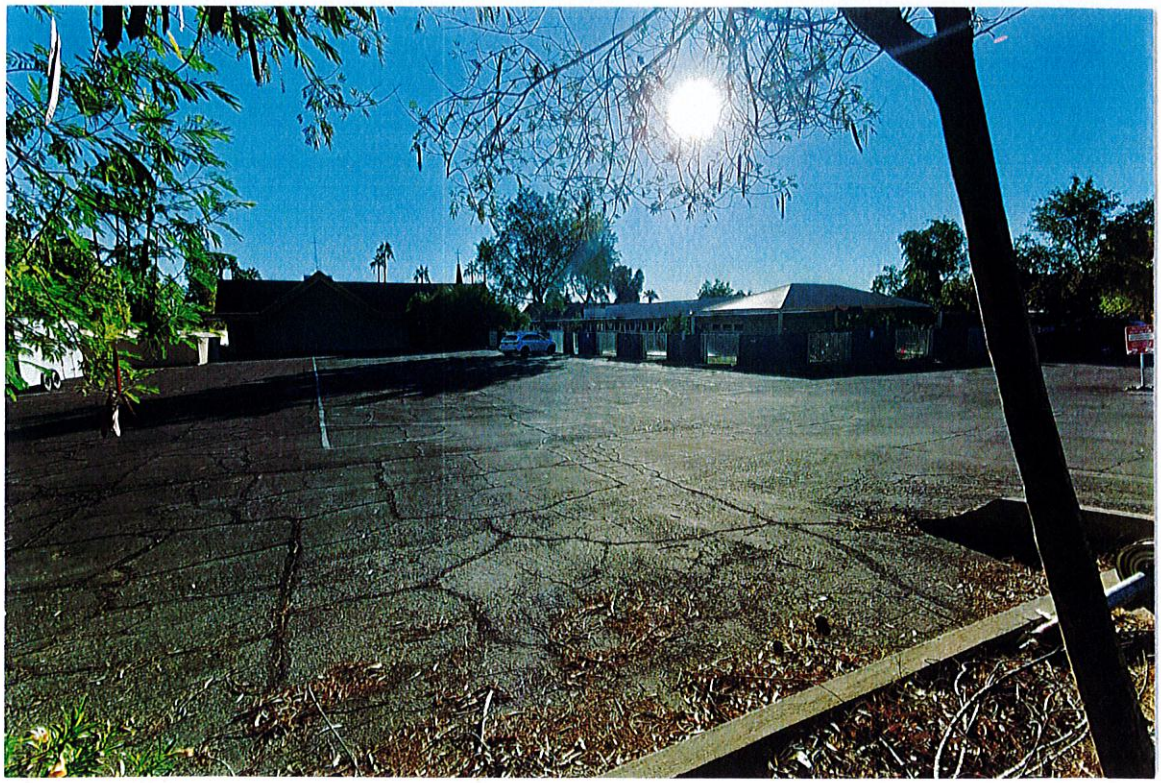


Photo S10: Photo from northwest corner looking southeast. West end of new sanctuary and play areas are visible.

Photographs of Original Sanctuary Building and Its Wings

Most of this building complex was completed in 1956. The southeast wing was remodeled and expanded in the 1980s and some interior areas behind (south) of the original sanctuary have been remodeled. The office wing has been partially remodeled, but remains mostly intact from the original construction. The original sanctuary has become a fellowship and event facility and is largely intact from its original construction.

Photo OS1: Northeast corner of the office wing. Note the flagstone veneer and the canted eave detail.

Photo OS2: Southeast corner of office wing. Note the stone veneer and steel casement windows. Side entrance to original sanctuary at corner.

Photo OS3: East side of original sanctuary. Note large steel casement windows and that floor is not elevated much above the lawn area (typical for 1950s construction).

Photo OS4: Southeast corner of kitchen/classroom wing. Note small windows mounted high and plain walls. Utility access to campus is along the south wall to the left.

Photo OS5: North side of the kitchen/classroom wing. Steel casement windows matching the office wing were installed.

Photo OS6: Southwest corner of original sanctuary looking north to walkway separating education wing and new sanctuary in background.

Photo OS7: Steel casement window on north side of office wing. The center sections of left and right panels are operable, which was common to allow ventilation of evaporative coolers.

Photo OS8: Close-up of steel case windows on the east side of the original sanctuary. These panels were not operable.

Photo OS9: Steel casement windows at southwest corner of office wing.

Photo OS10: Corner where office wing connects to original sanctuary building.

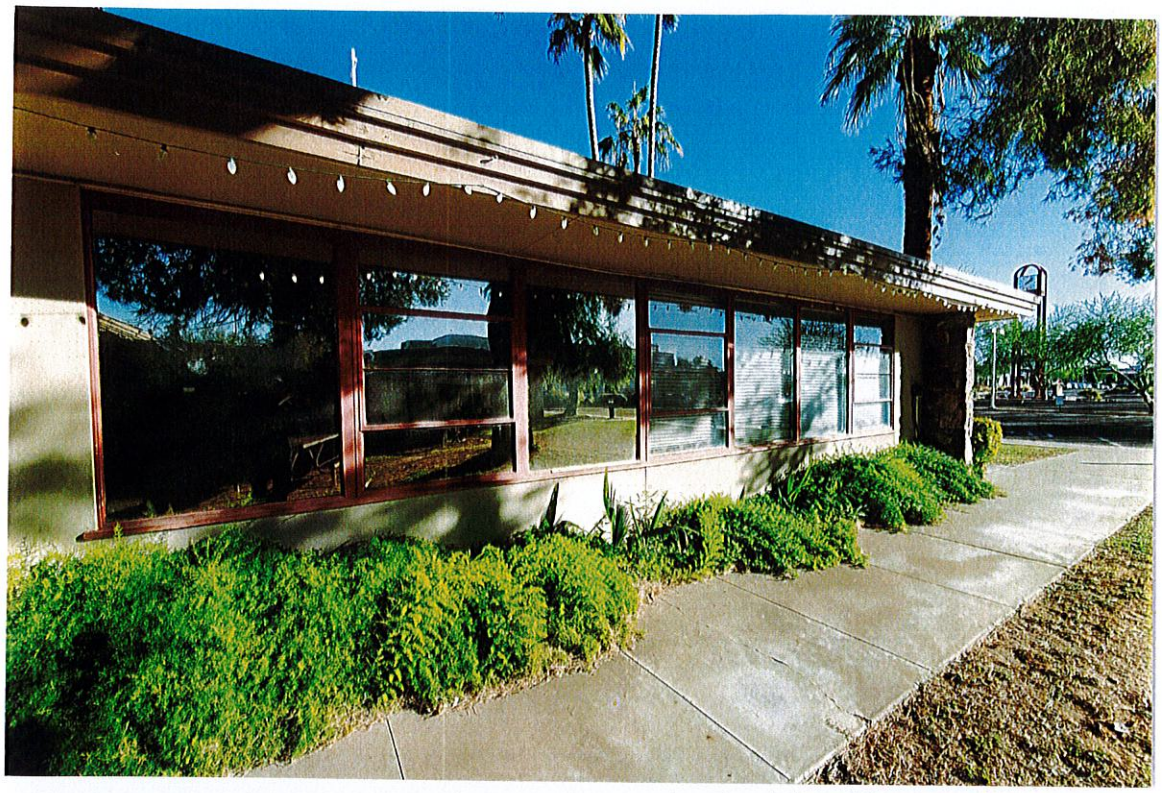
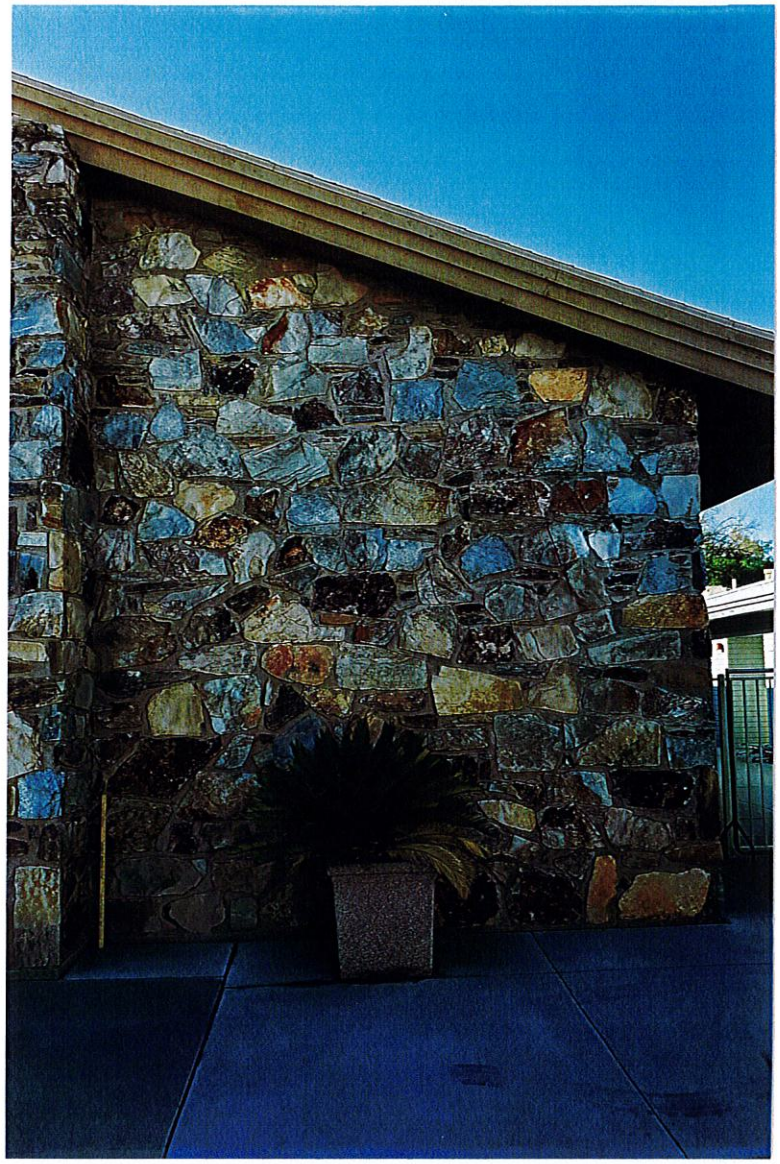


Photo OS11: Long Steel casement windows on the south side of the office wing.

Photo OS12: Close-up of stone veneer on east end of office wing. This was a popular application in the late 1950s. Stone appears to be schist from desert mountains.

Photo OS13: North (entrance) end of the original sanctuary building. Note the use of stone veneer, vertical wood slat columns and triangular windows (original cross next to entry has been removed).



Photos OS14: Close-up of the stone veneer on the north side of the original sanctuary.

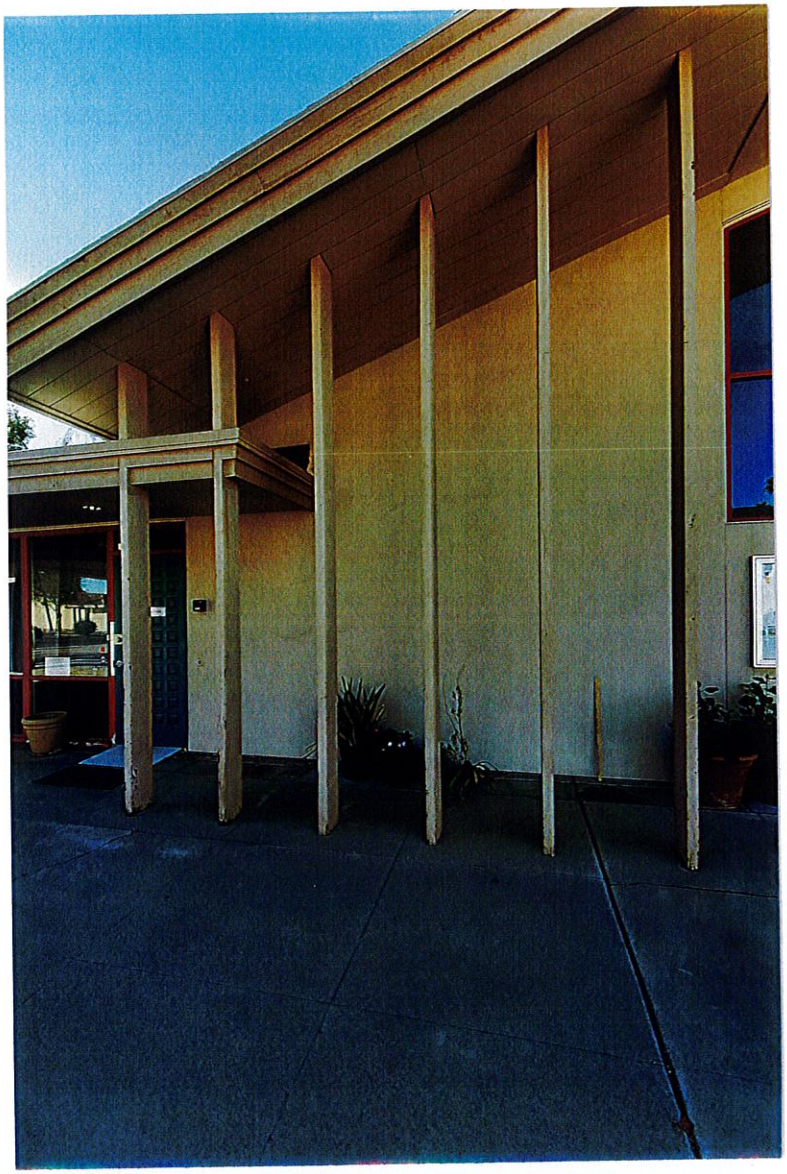


Photo OS15: Close-up of vertical wood slat columns on north side of sanctuary. These visually tie the sanctuary and office wings roofs together.

Photo OS16: Interior of the original sanctuary looking south to stage area. Notice uplighting on the sides and high windows on the west (right) side.

Photo OS17: Interior of the original sanctuary looking north to the main entrance and foyer.

Photo OS18: Close-up of stone veneer that flanks the stage area in the original sanctuary space.

Photographs of the New Sanctuary

The new (1965) sanctuary for the Scottsdale Methodist Church was designed by T. S. Montgomery. This building was not unique in design and concept and shared many features such as a sloped roof, exposed roof beams, narrow slot windows and a relatively low front entrance with many contemporary churches in the 1960s. It nevertheless has several dominant features that reflect the design character of Mr. Montgomery:

- There are several design details that are done in repetition including the interior roof segments,
- The colonnades along the edges of the two main spaces in the sanctuary,
- The rows of slot windows along both the north and south sides of the building, and
- The dramatically flared capitals on the corners of the pulpit/dais space inside and the welcoming ramada at the entrance.

There is relatively little decoration or fine detailing in this building, which is somewhat different than in some of Mr. Montgomery's other church designs and reflects the simplicity of many Methodist churches. The walls, columns, and some flat roofed areas are constructed with well-finished concrete while the interior roof surfaces are made of clear redwood, which was popular at the time the building was erected and difficult to acquire now.

The carved front doors were not installed with the original construction of the building nor was the stained glass insert on the east side of the entry foyer. A pipe organ was installed a decade or so after the original construction but has since been removed. The built-out cabinetry for the pipes was not removed. These are the most notable changes from the initial construction of the building. Most of the ducting for air conditioning and heating was placed under the floor and the mechanical spaces are underneath the front of the sanctuary space.

Photo NS1: The northeast corner of the new sanctuary building. The end panel appears to be composed of concrete panels placed over wood frame and then stuccoed.

Photo NS2: The northeast corner of the new sanctuary looking along the north wall.

Photo NS3: The east end of the new sanctuary.

Photo NS4: The southeast corner of the new sanctuary with the foyer on the left.

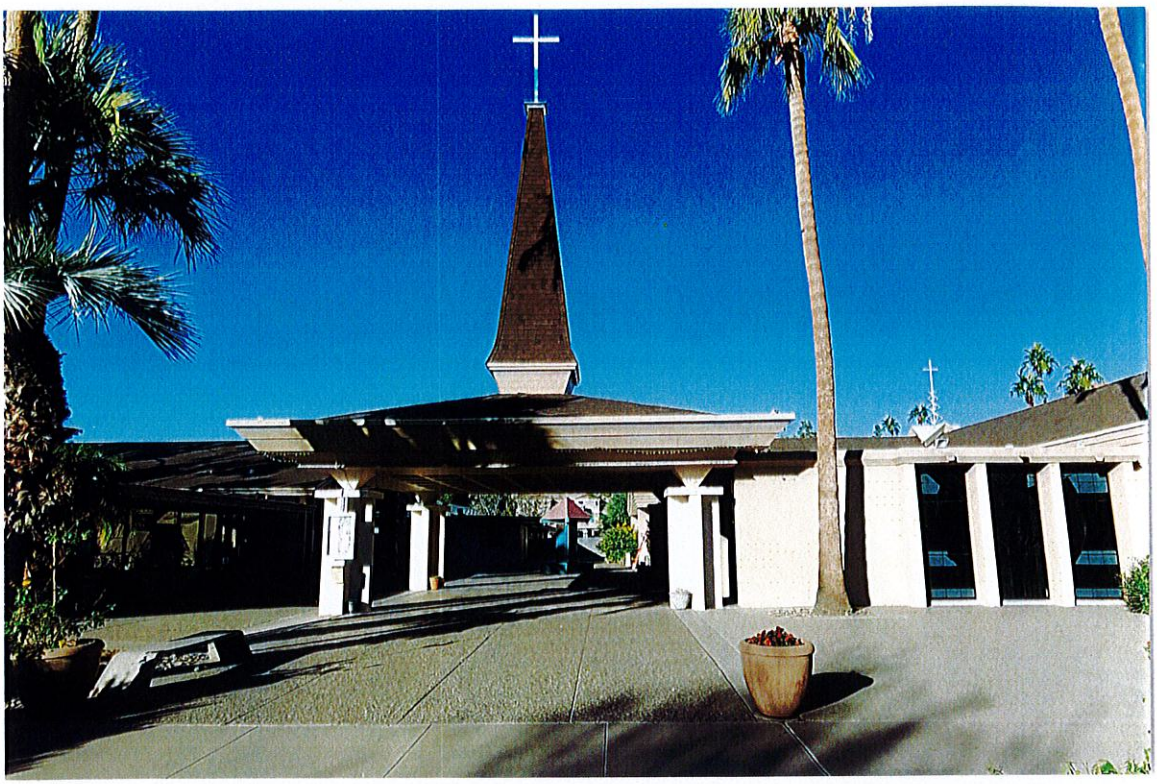


Photo NS5: The entry ramada with the spire on top. This is the most eye-catching part of the exterior and dominates the entry courtyard.

Photo NS6: The entry ramada looking from the southeast.

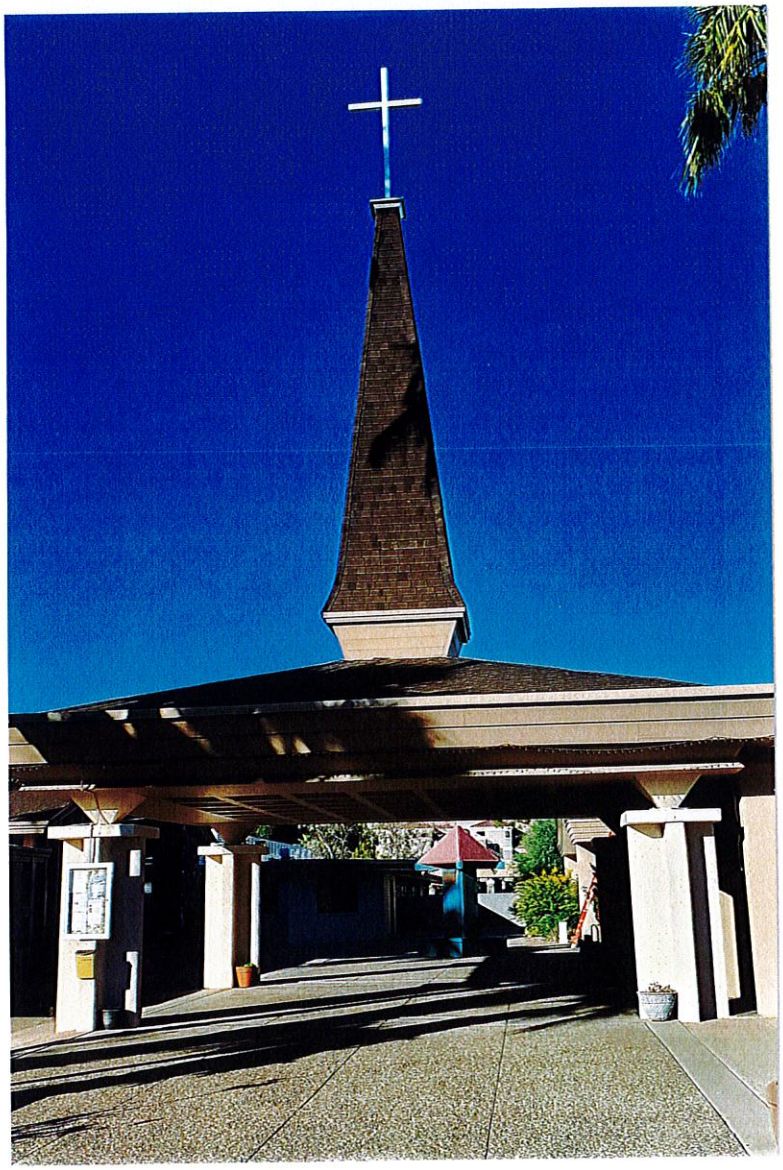


Photo NS7: Close-up of the entry ramada. The addition of the lighted information board required the use of exterior conduit due to the solid concrete structure.

Photo NS8: The west end of the new sanctuary building. The wrought-iron fence encloses access to the lower mechanical spaces.

Photo NS9: The northwest corner of the new sanctuary building and the service access.

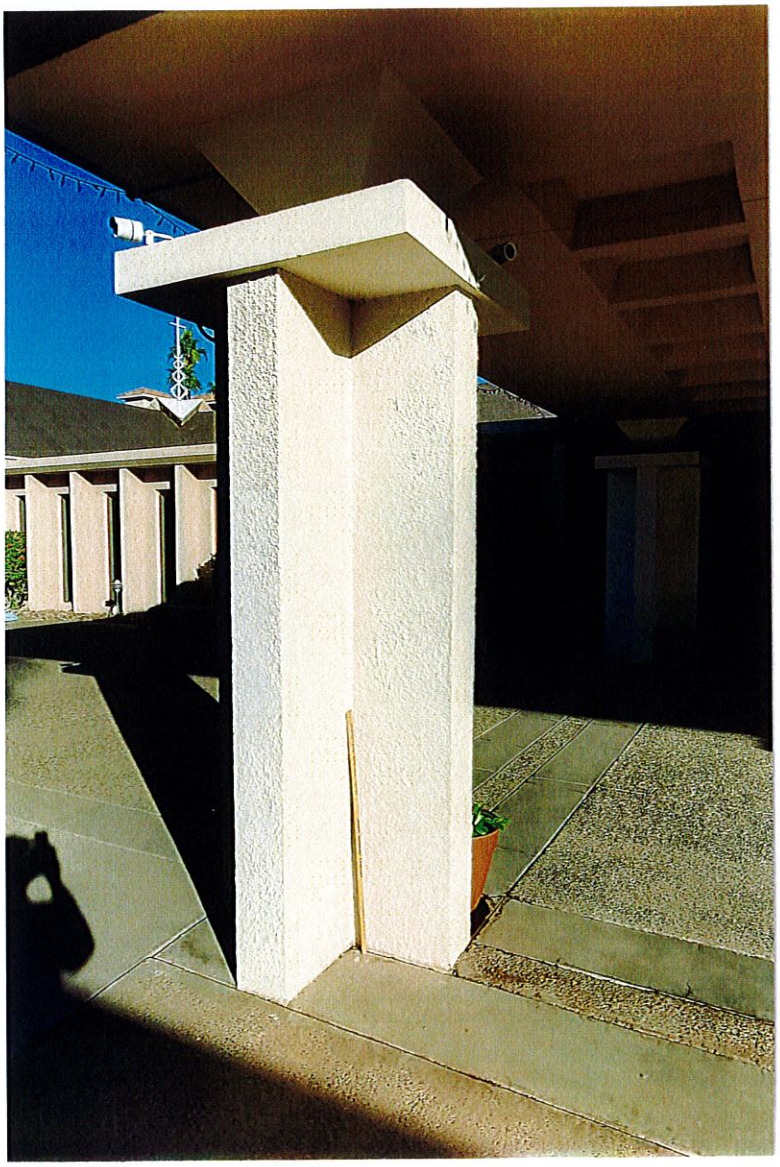


Photo NS10: Column detail at the entry ramada. The exposed aggregate pavement was common in the 1960s and 1970s.

Photo NS11: Close-up of ceiling of entrance ramada. The "waffle" type concrete roof structure was common in the early to mid-1960s.

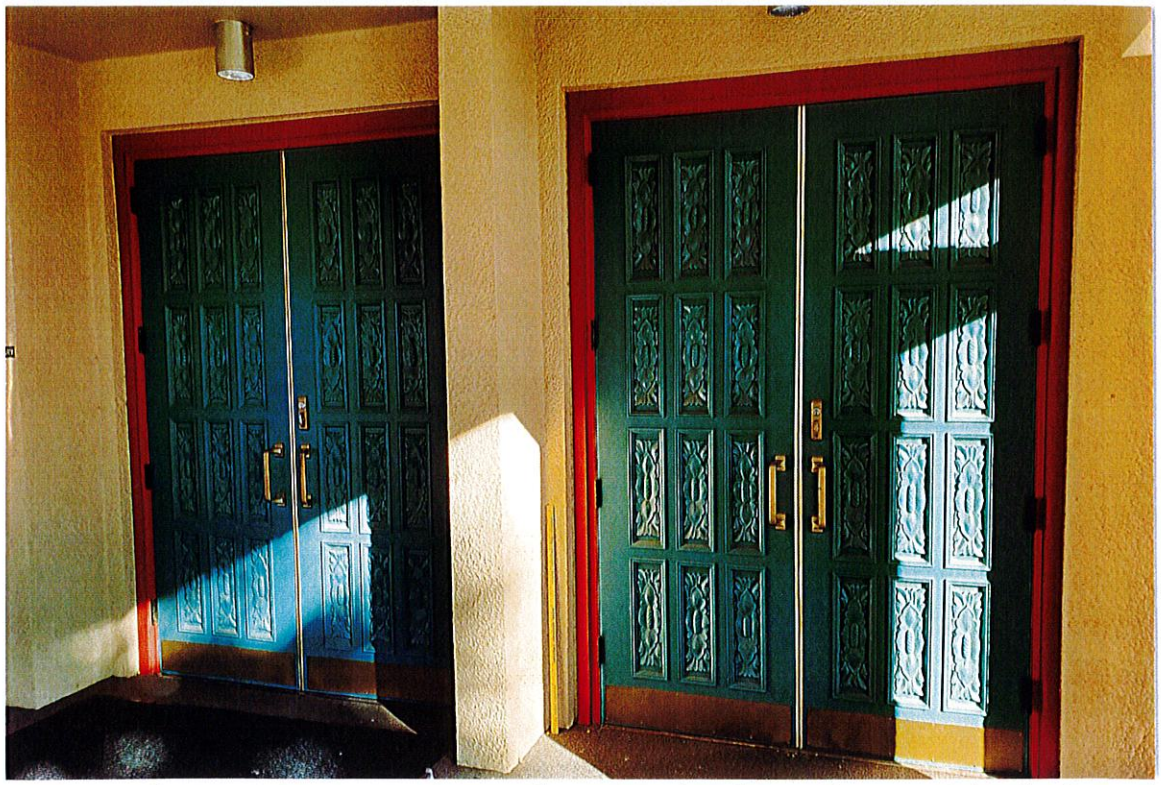


Photo NS12: The exterior entrance doors. These were hand carved on special order from the Tucson area.

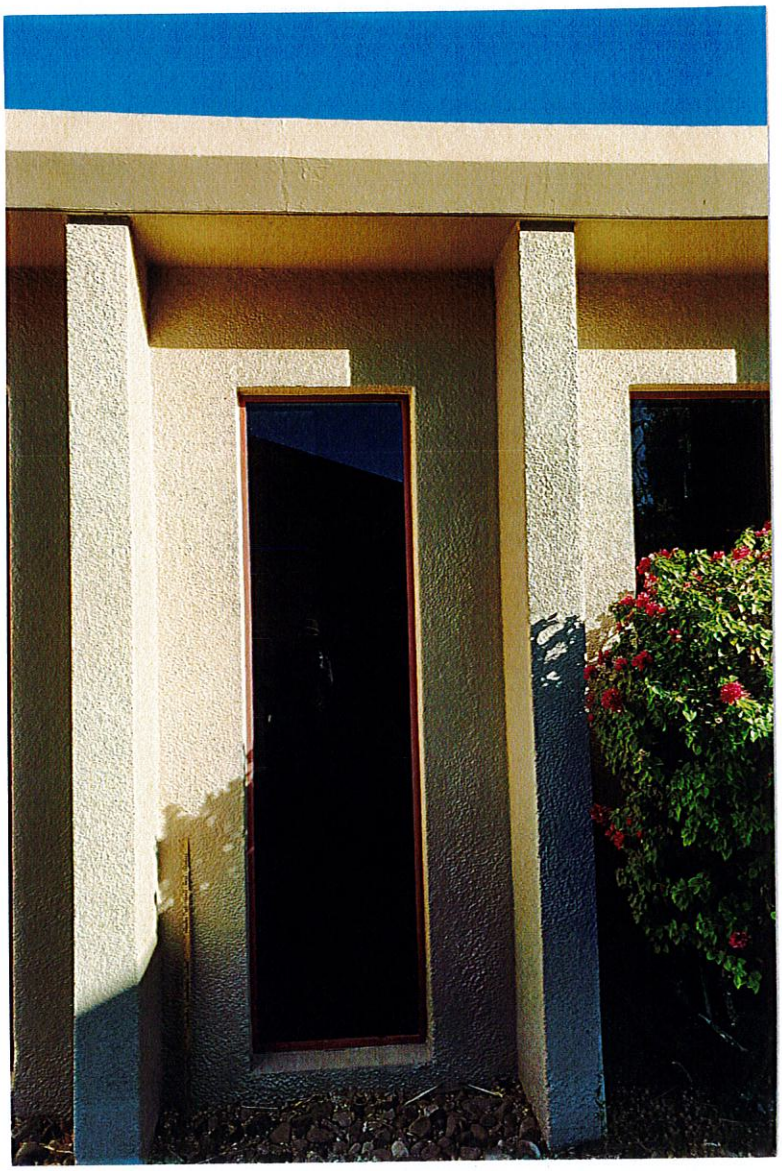


Photo NS13: Along a hallway on the south side of the new sanctuary building the exterior wall is composed of a rhythm of narrow windows placed in 'shadow boxes' between 'buttress' walls that project for the main wall. This reduces sun exposure on the windows in the summer months.

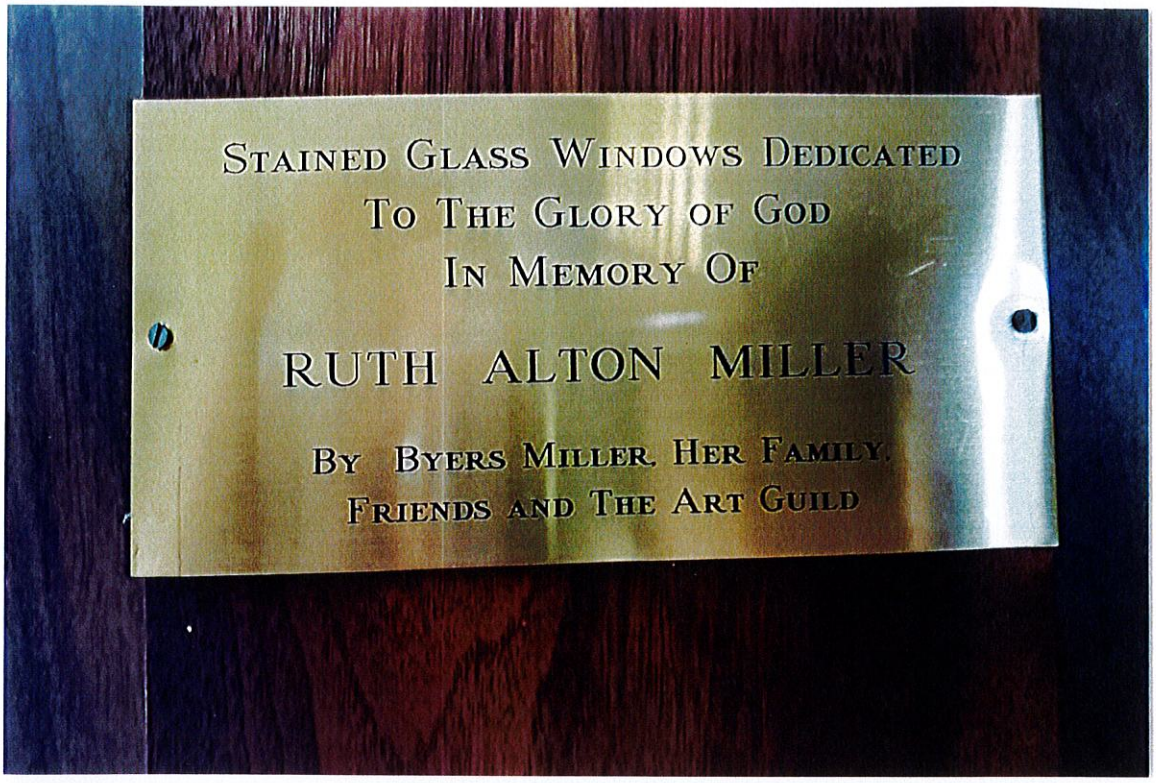


Photo NS14: Dedication plague for the stained-glass windows in the entrance foyer.

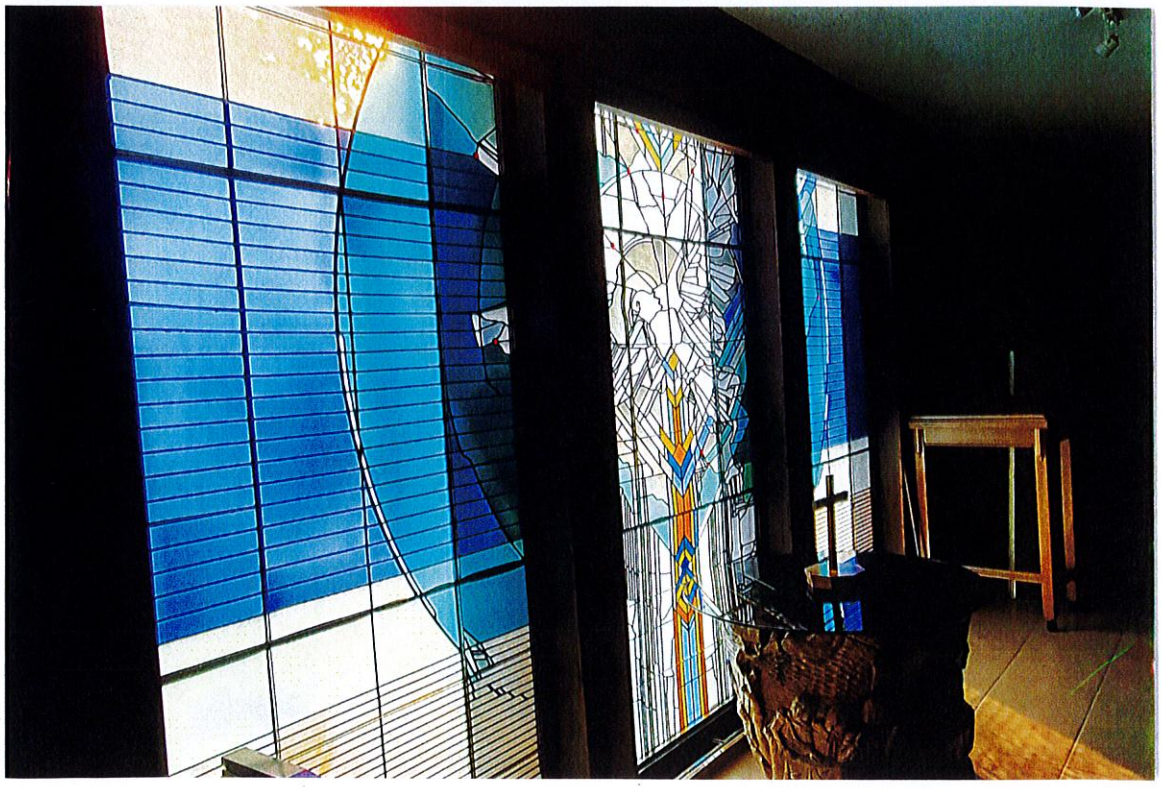


Photo NS15: The stained-glass panels placed inside the east windows of the foyer space.

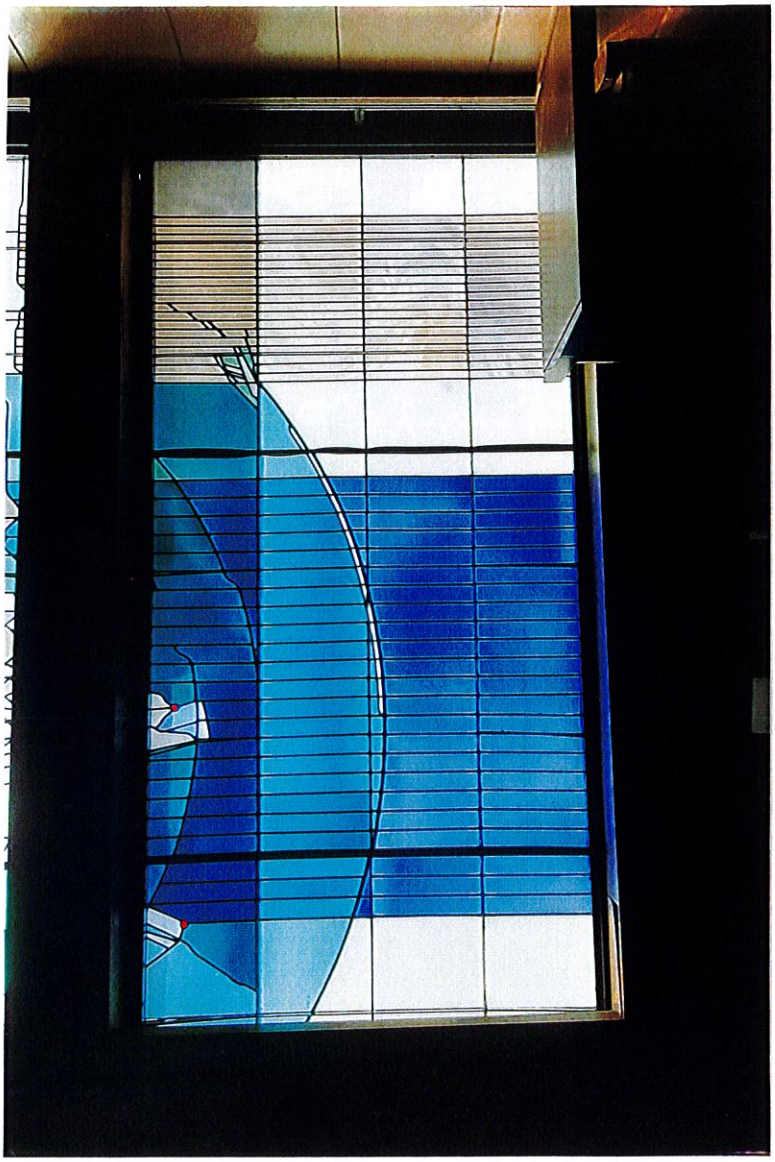


Photo NS16: The left end stained-glass panel.

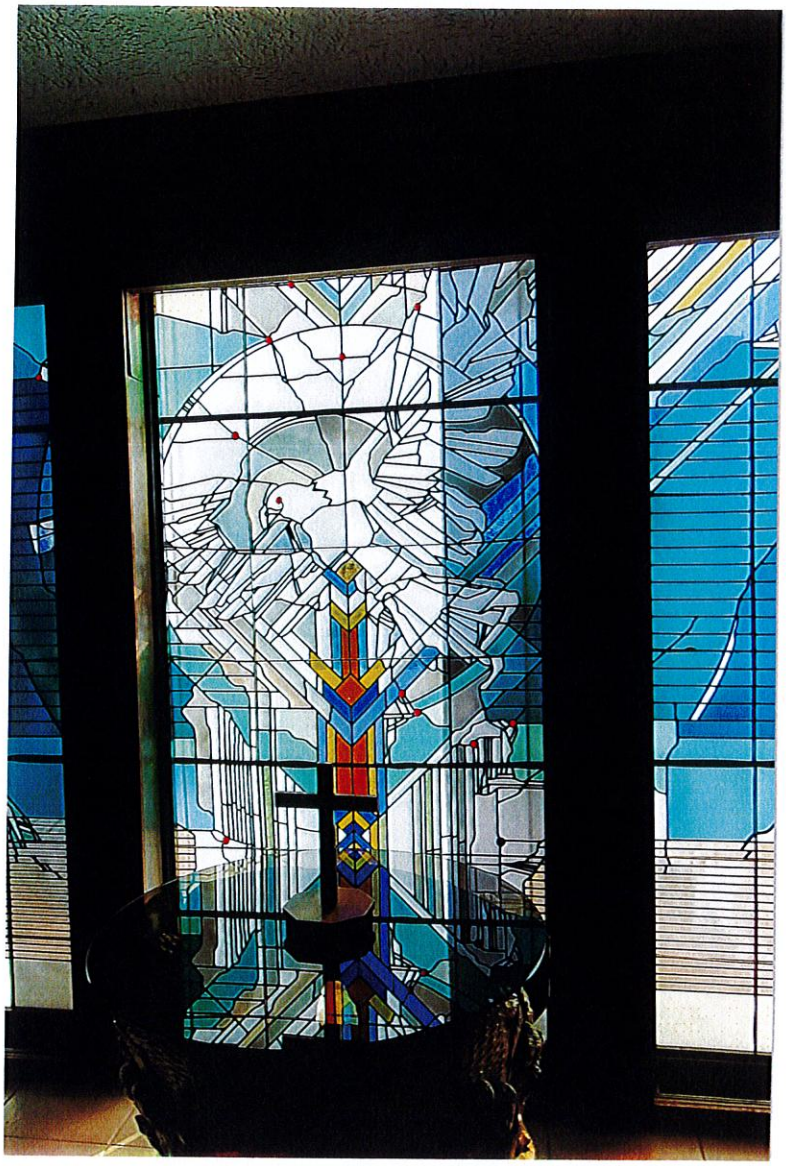


Photo NS17: The center stained-glass panel.

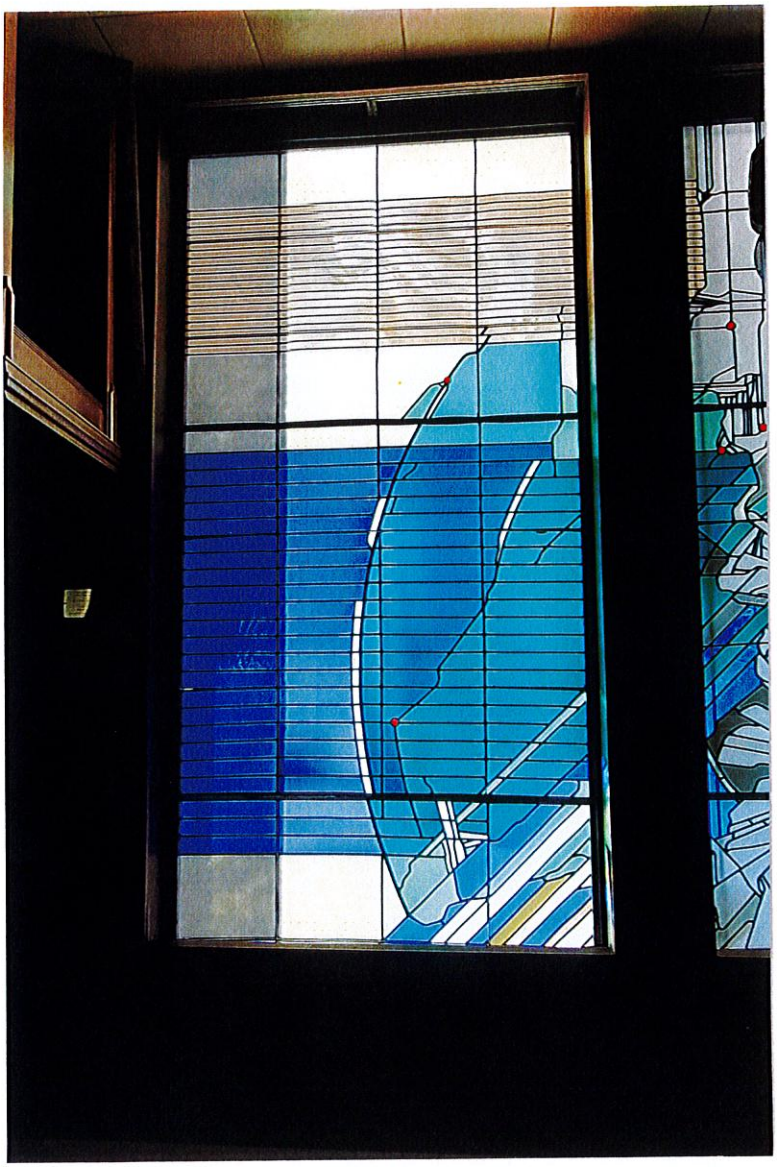


Photo NS18: The right-side stained-glass panel.

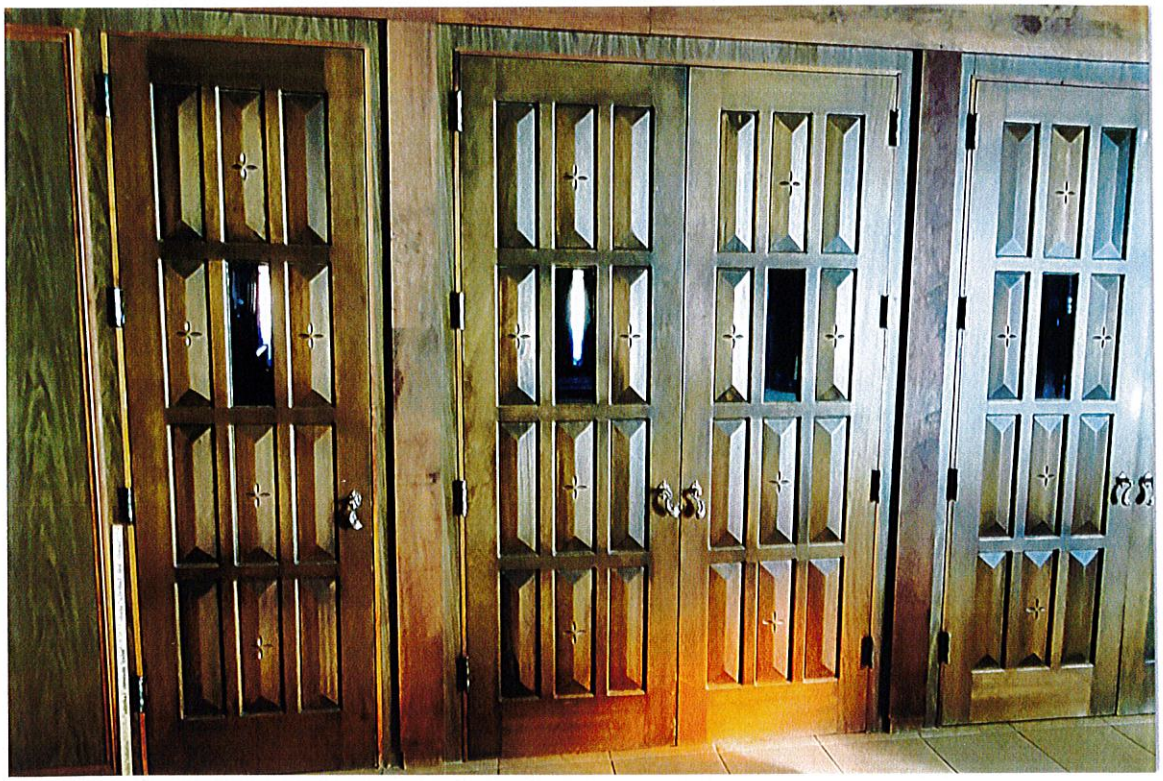


Photo NS19: The interior entry doors to the main sanctuary space.

Photo NS20: The hallway along the south side of the new sanctuary building that connects the two main entrances and leads to the restrooms and a kitchenette/meeting space.

Photo NS21: The exterior entrance doors in the southwest quadrant that lead to the chapel worship space. These are similar in construction to the interior entrance doors to the main sanctuary space.

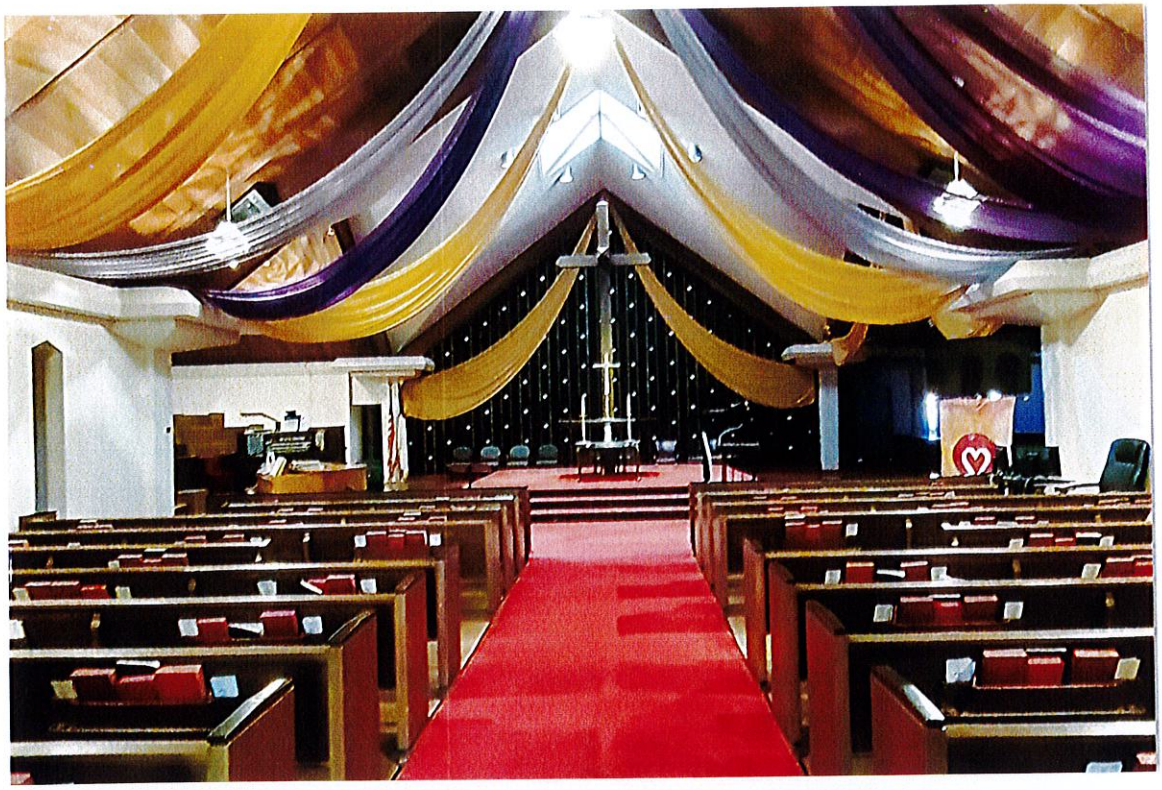


Photo NS22: Chapel space looking north. Decorations added to celebrate 100th Anniversary of the congregation.

Photo NS23: Colonnade on the side of the chapel. According to the architect, these were modeled after 1930-40s bridge railings from southern Arizona.

Photo NS24: Corner column detail where chapel and main sanctuary spaces meet at pulpit/dais area. The 'V' shaped projection runs along the top of the walls and columns around the interior spaces. Notice single flute in center of column.

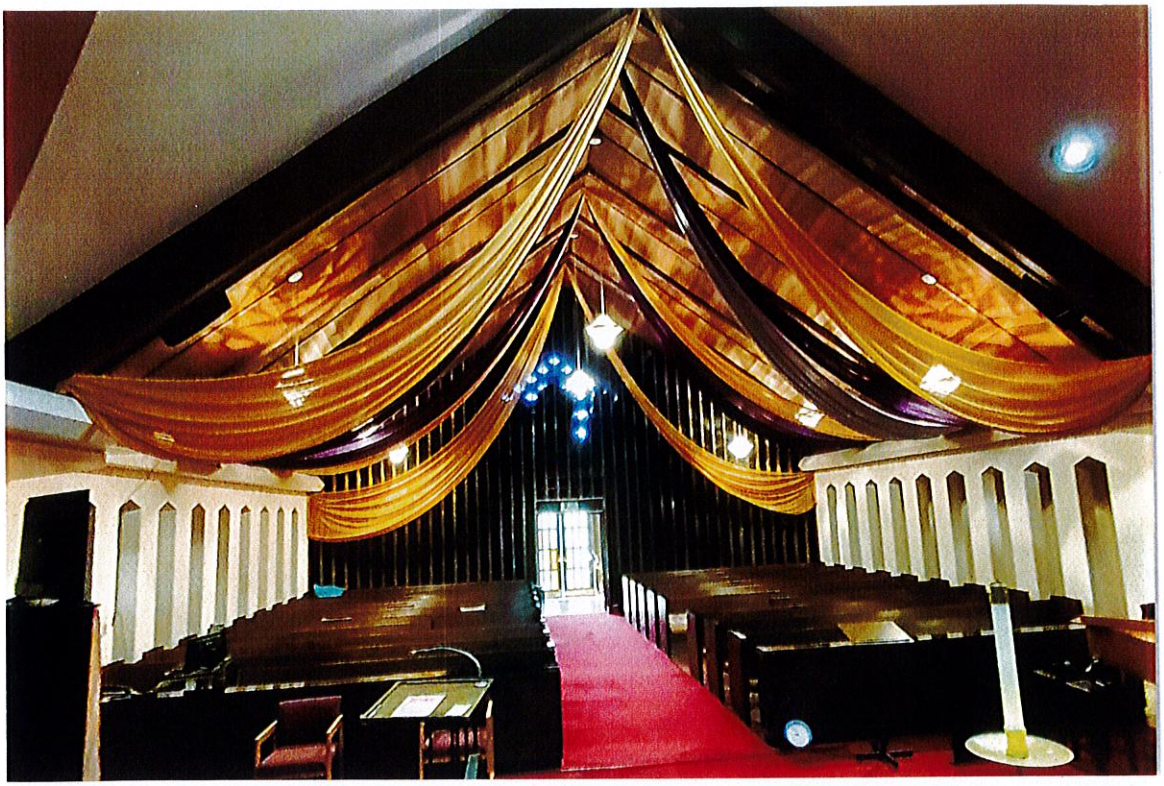


Photo NS25: Chapel space looking south from dais to entrance. The redwood ceiling is visible.

Photo NS26: Looking west toward choir area from the dais. The pipes for the organ have been removed.

Photo NS27: Close-up of the choir area. The hanging light fixtures are original to the building and are very distinctive.

Photo NS28: Decorative wood slat treatment on wall north of the dais.

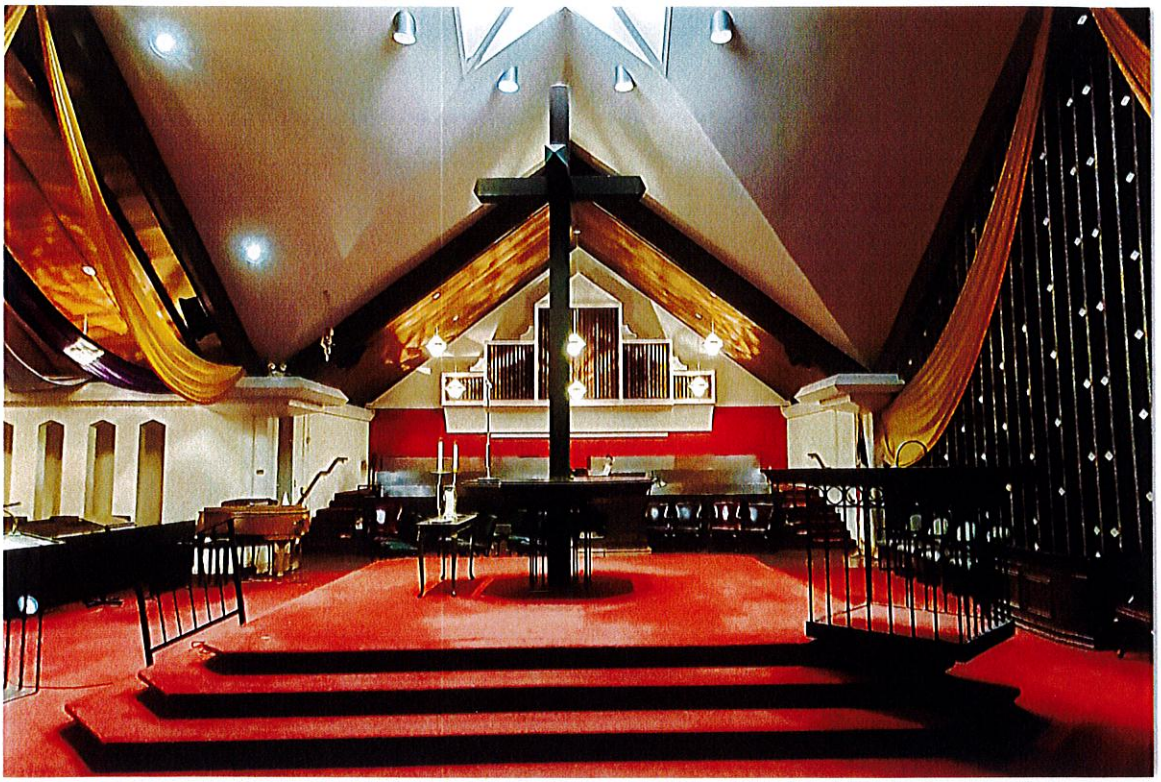


Photo NS29: Photo of dais platform with central wood cross. Return air vents are through the step risers and underneath.

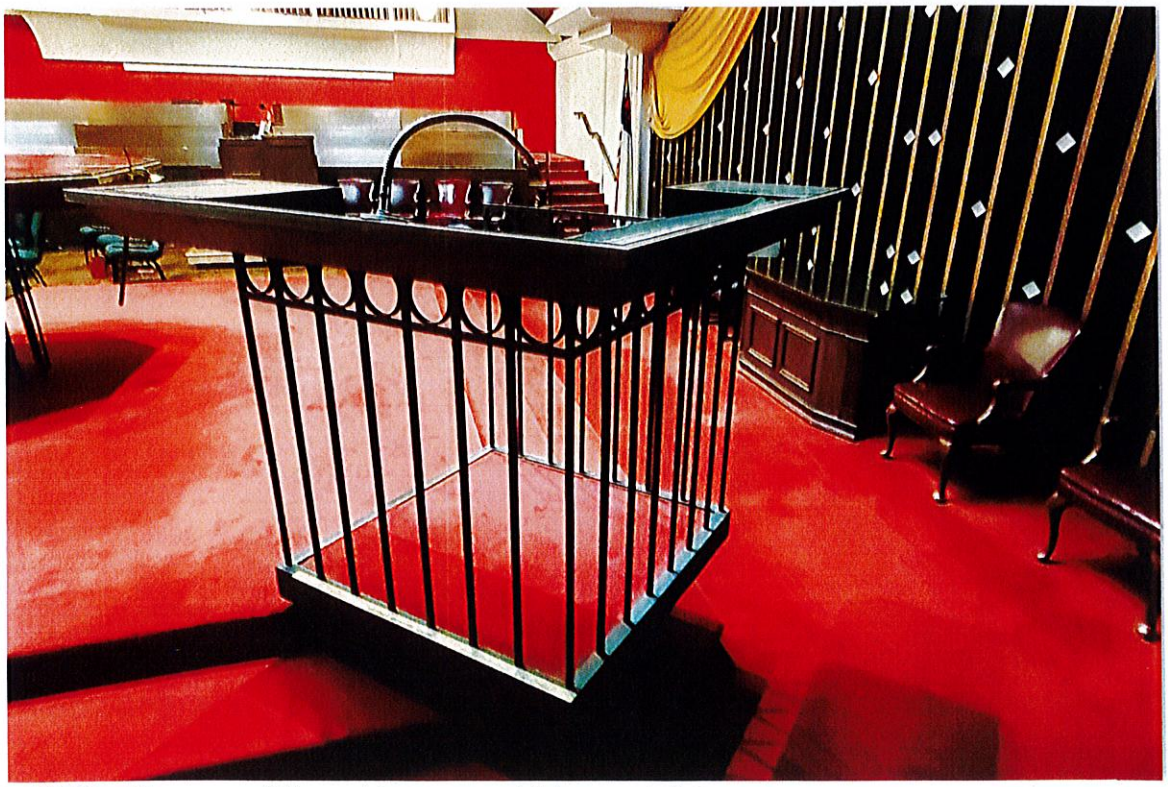


Photo NS30: Close-up of the custom wrought-iron pulpit.

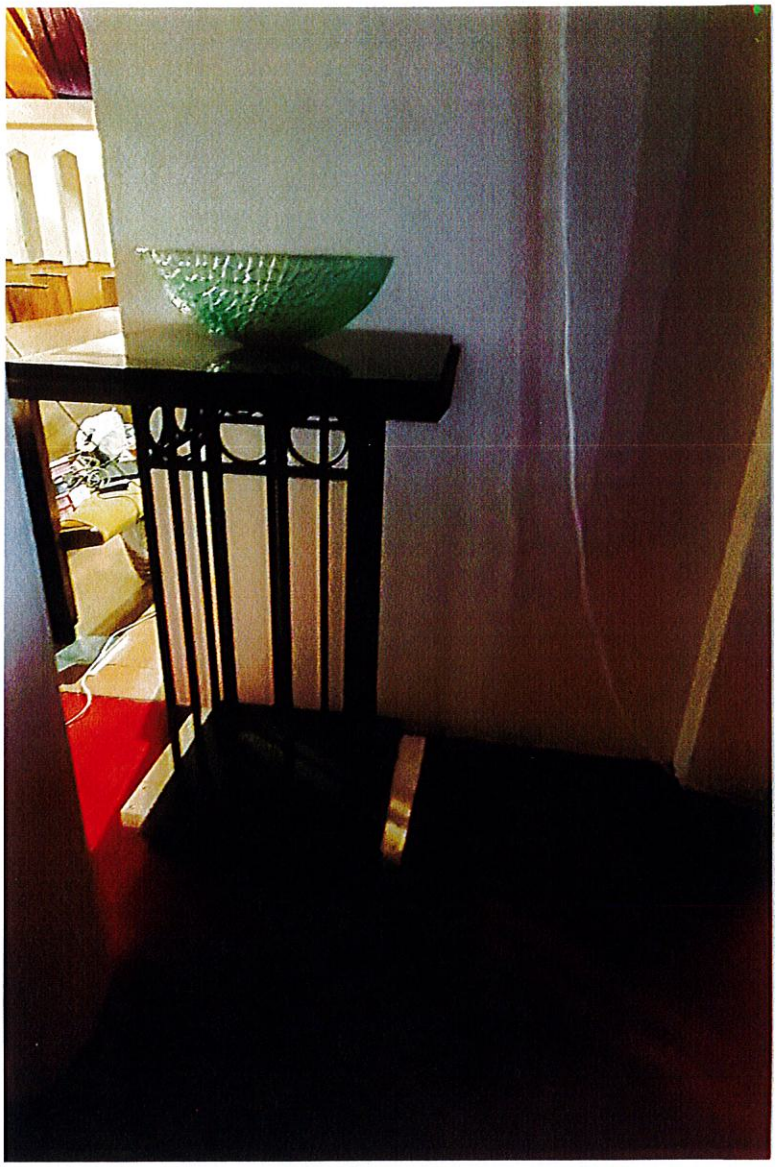


Photo NS31: Close-up of the portable baptismal font basin designed to match features on the dais platform.

Photo NS32: Close-up of the north-side sanctuary colonnade. Lights are placed in the gaps between the "T" columns under the ceiling.

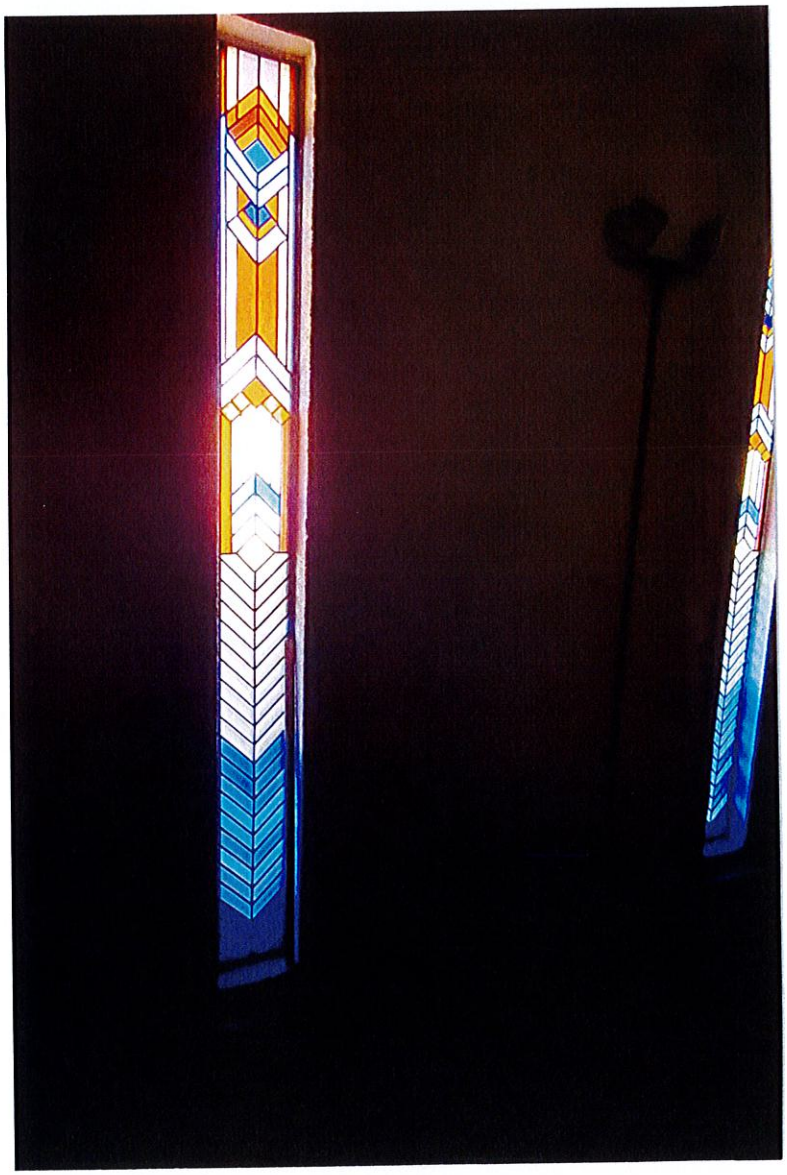


Photo NS33: Close-up of the stained-glass slot windows on the north side of the sanctuary.

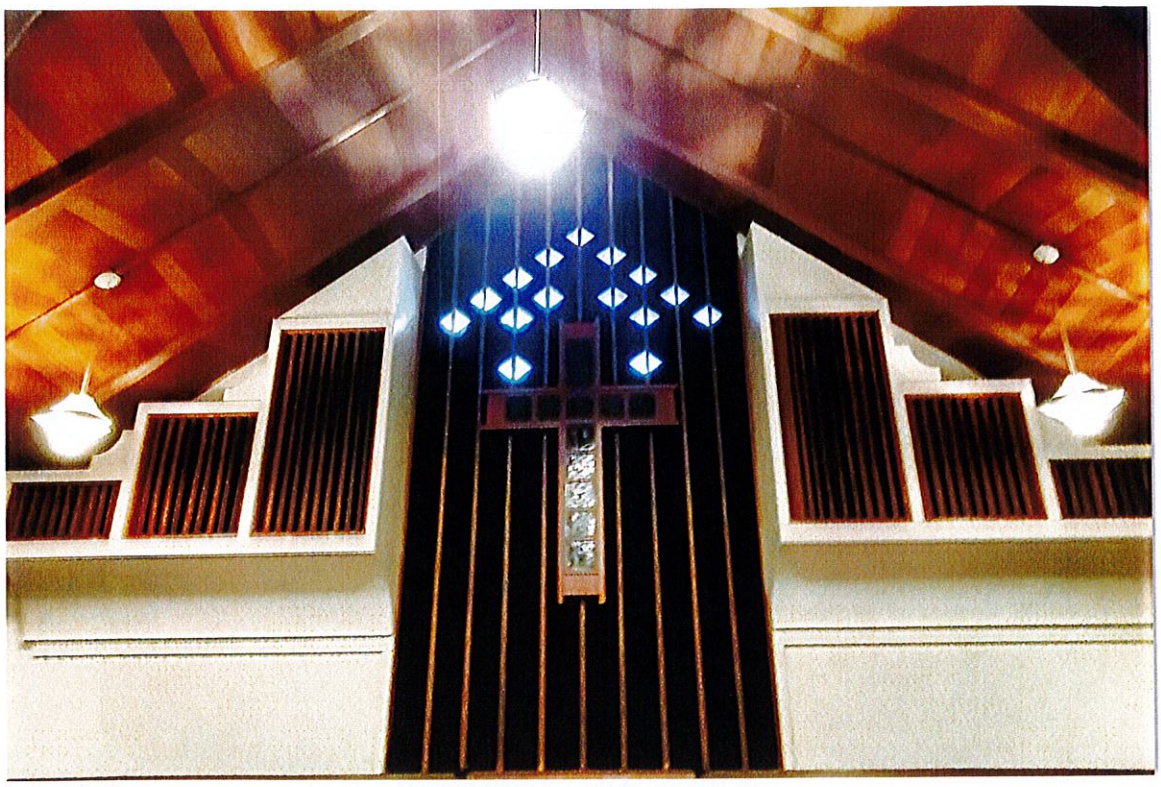


Photo NS34: East end wall of the main sanctuary space. Again, the organ pipes have been removed. The stained-glass cross is in its third placement.

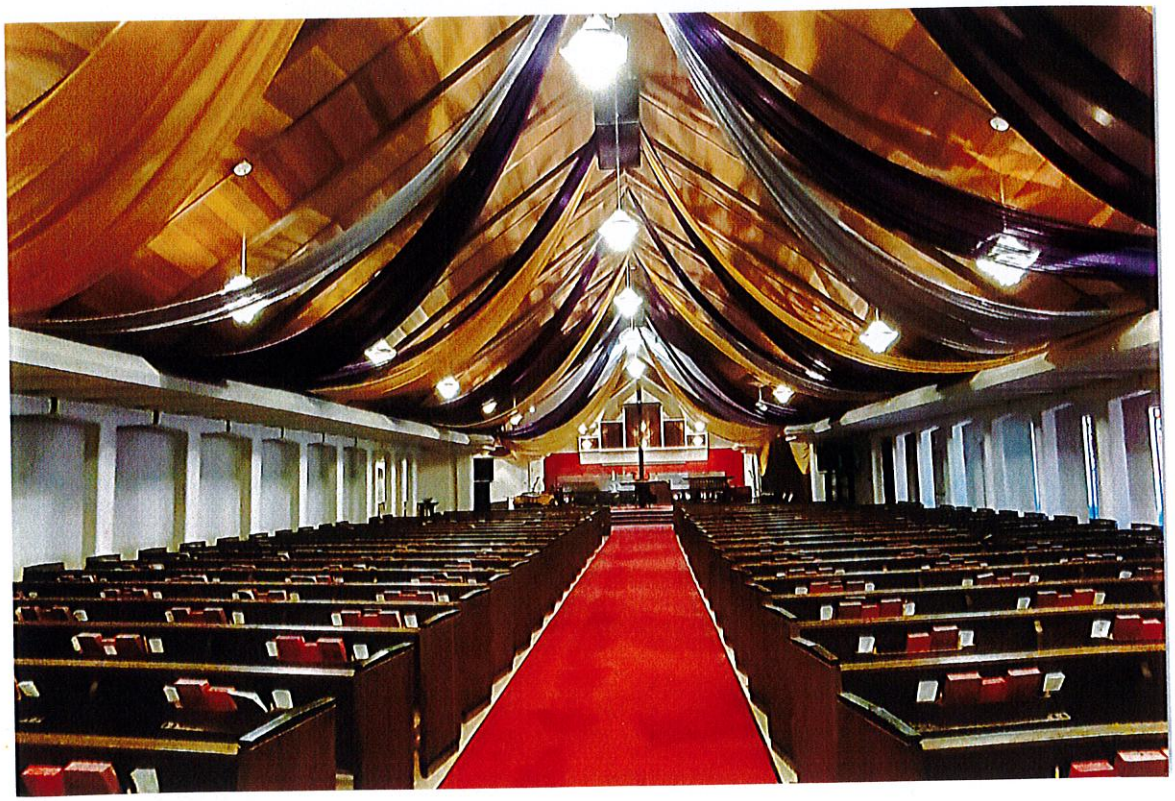


Photo NS35: Looking west down the main sanctuary space toward the dais.

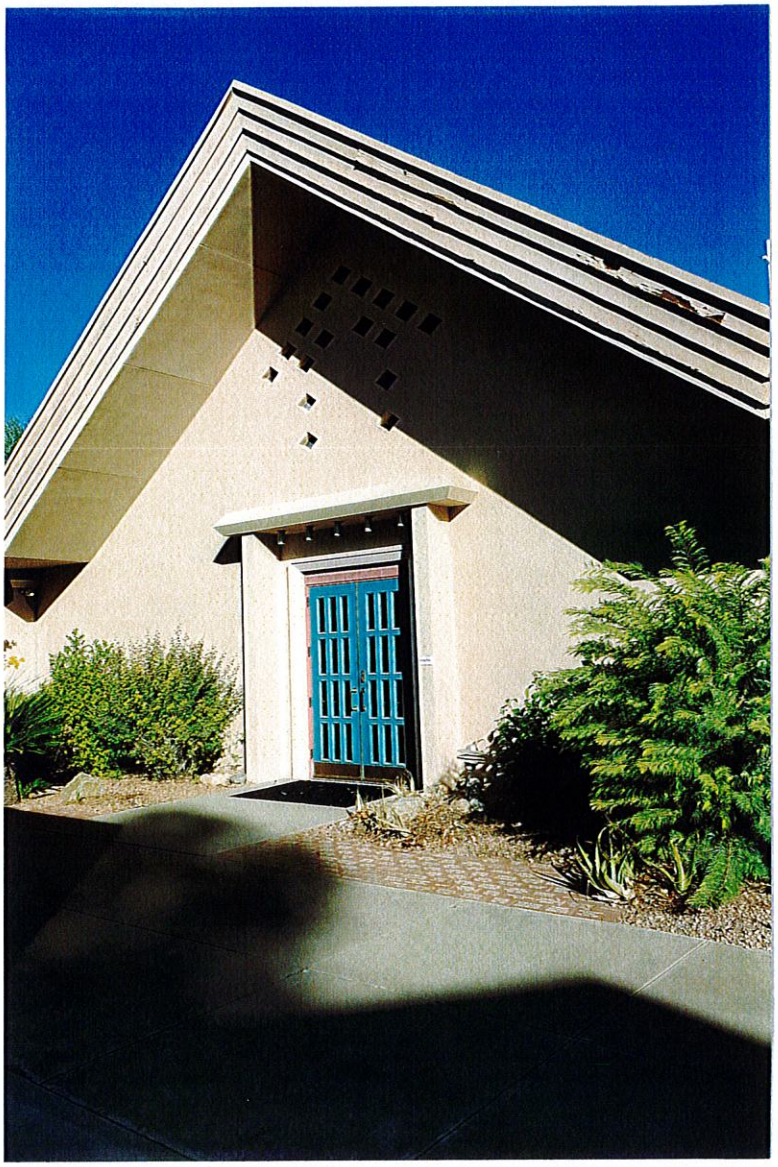


Photo NS36: Outside entrance to the chapel space (southwest quadrant of the new sanctuary building).

Photo NS37: Roof eave details where the chapel roof meets the restroom/foyer part of the building.

Photographs of the Education Building

The current education building is the second one on the property. The first one, built in 1959, was attached to the northwest corner of the original sanctuary building. This building was removed and replaced by a larger and separated one in 2000. The new building was accompanied by substantially larger outdoor play areas.

Photo E1: The photograph shows the southern façade of the new education building along with the fenced play are in the foreground.

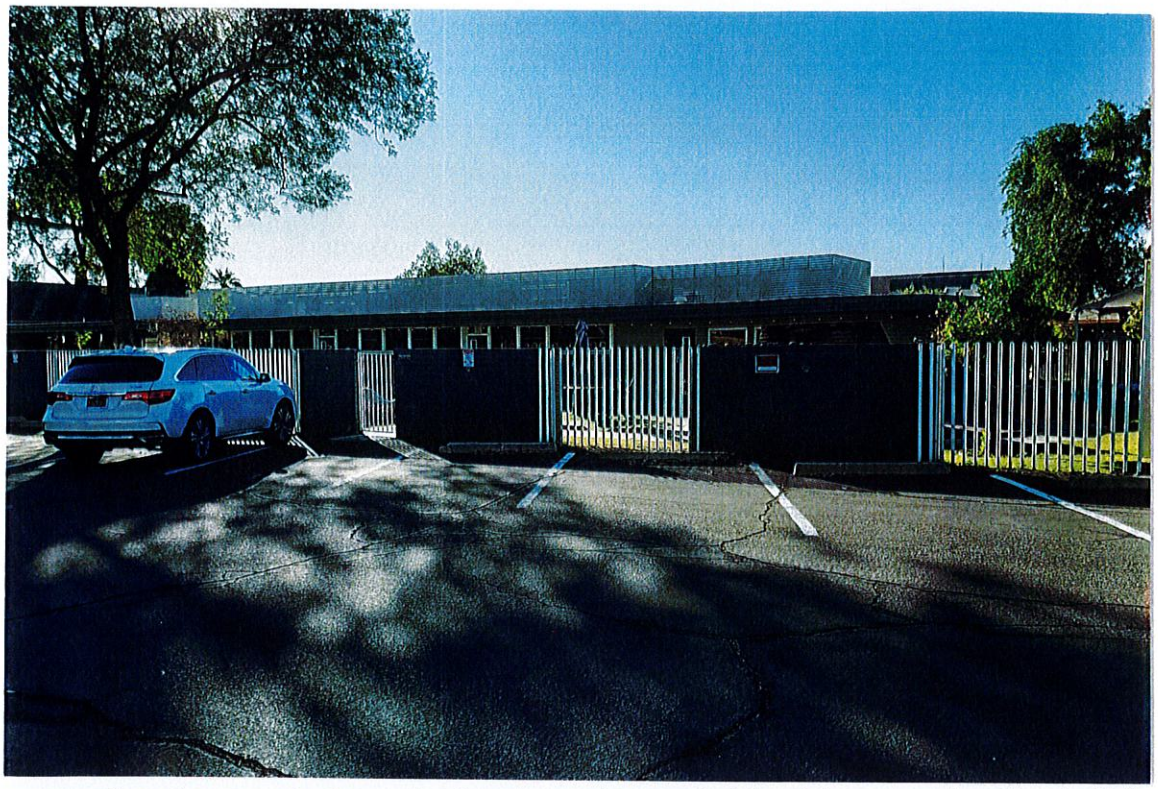


Photo E2: This photograph shows the façade on the north side of the new education building. Note the larger windows on this side than on the southern side. The fence for the play area is also more substantial.

Photo E3: The north side of the new education building as seen from the northeast corner of the play area.

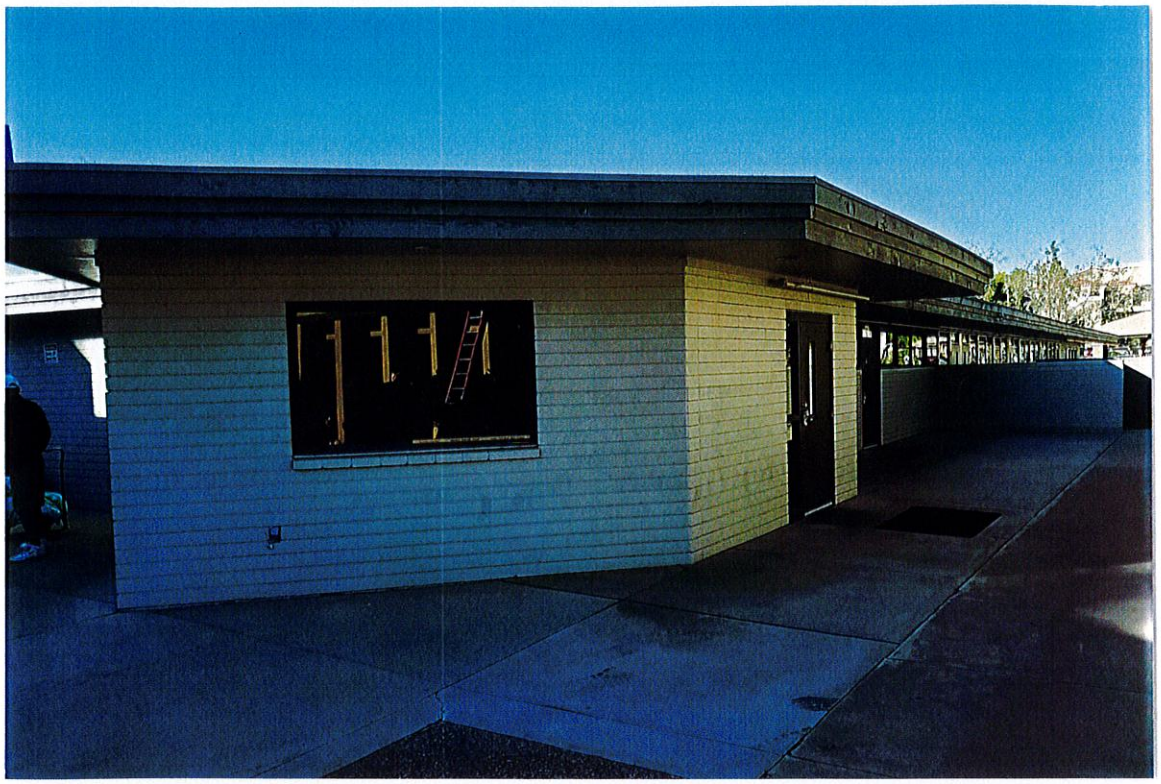


Photo E4: The northeast corner of the new education building looking west-southwest.

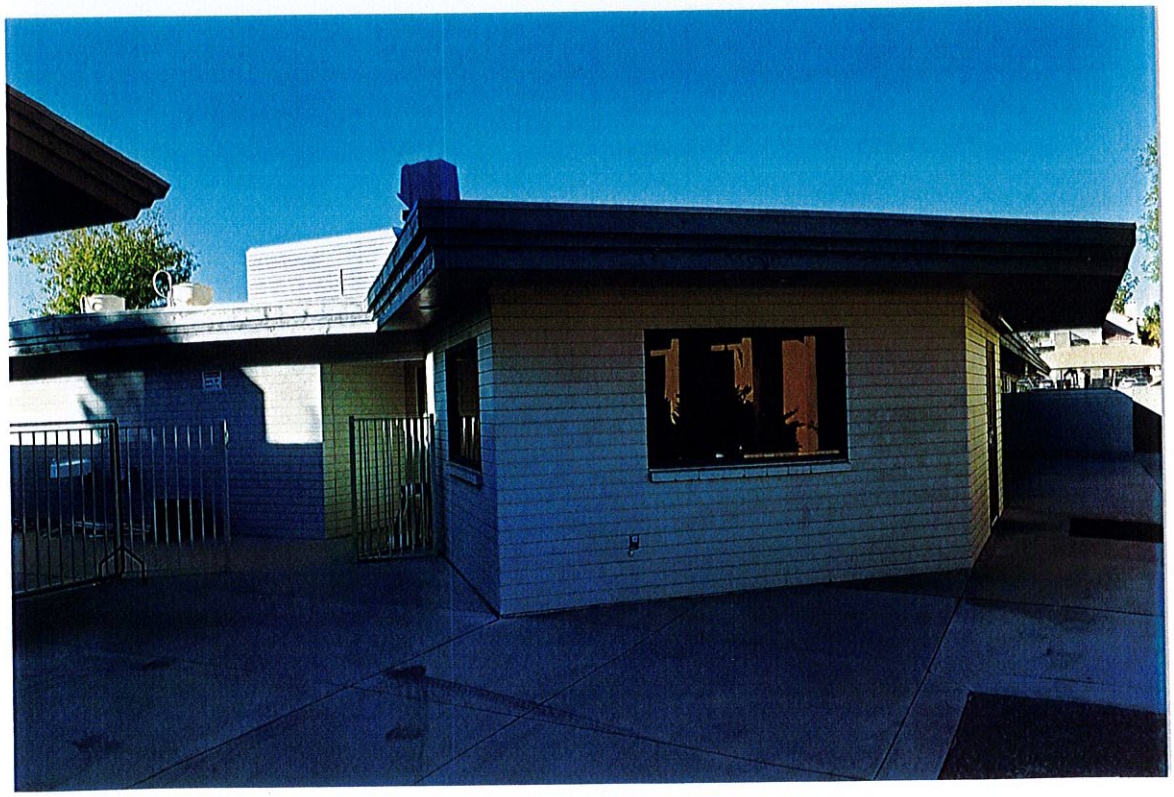
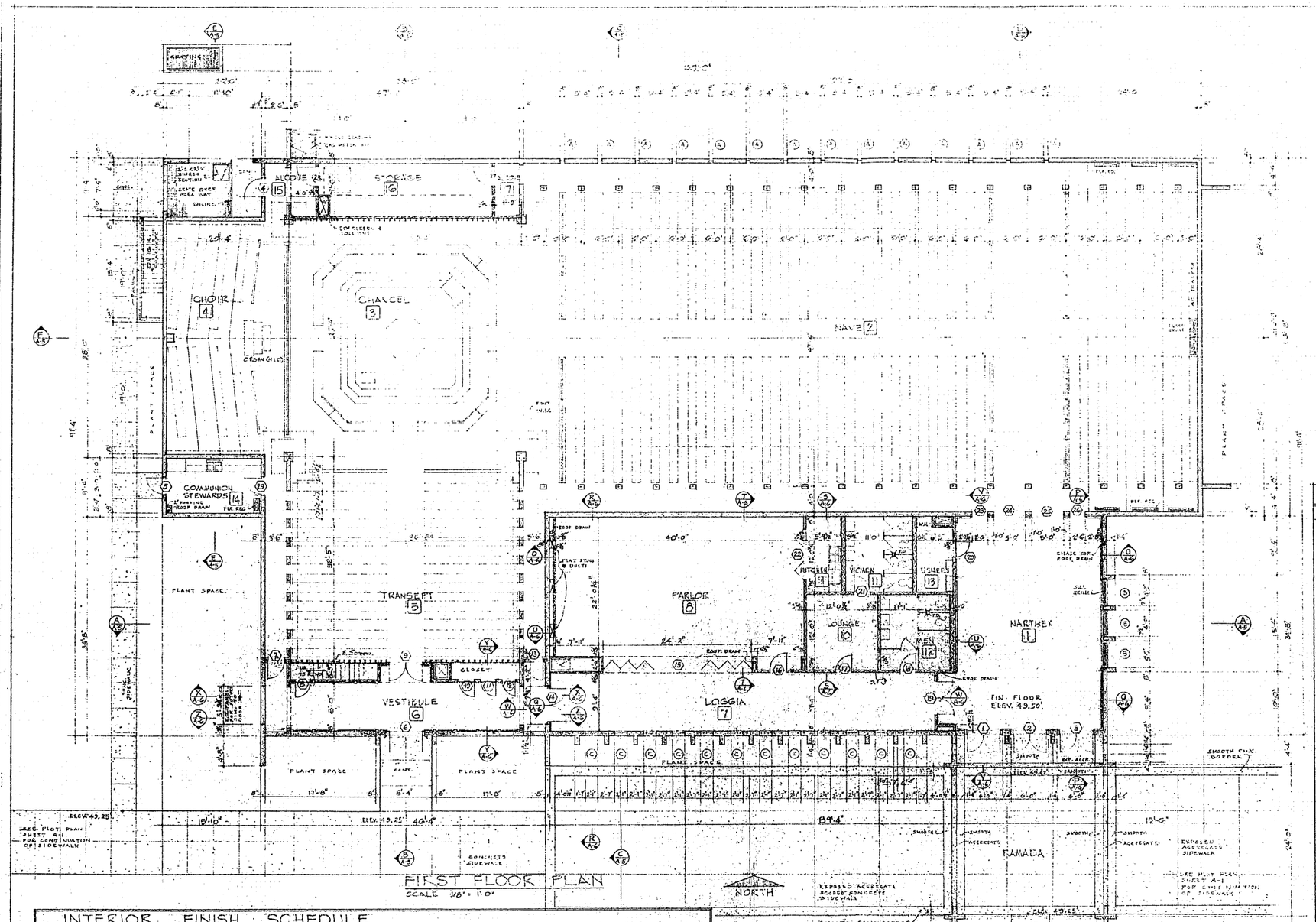


Photo E5: The east end of the new education building.

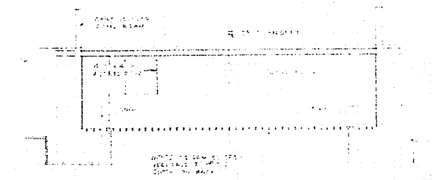
Historic Building Plans

The following section is of copies from the original design plans for

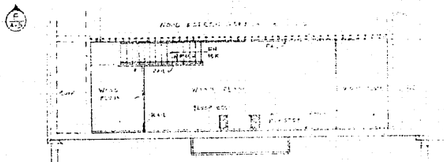
N
DETAIL OF CHANCEL STAIRS
ORIENTATION PLAN
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST
CHURCH UNITED
440 NORTH MILLER ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
FRED A. GRIMLEY, AIA
SITE PLAN
1



FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



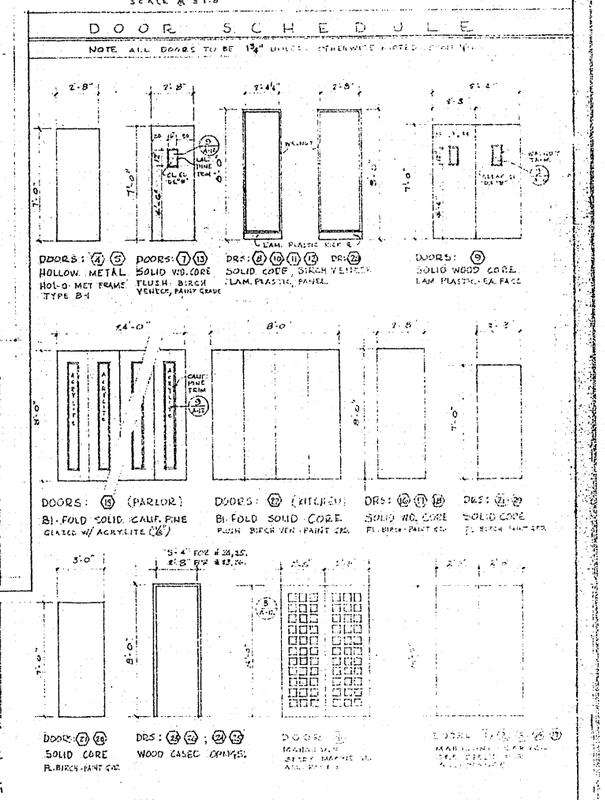
ORGAN CHAMBER PLAN



ANTIPHONAL ORGAN LOFT PLAN
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

DOOR SCHEDULE

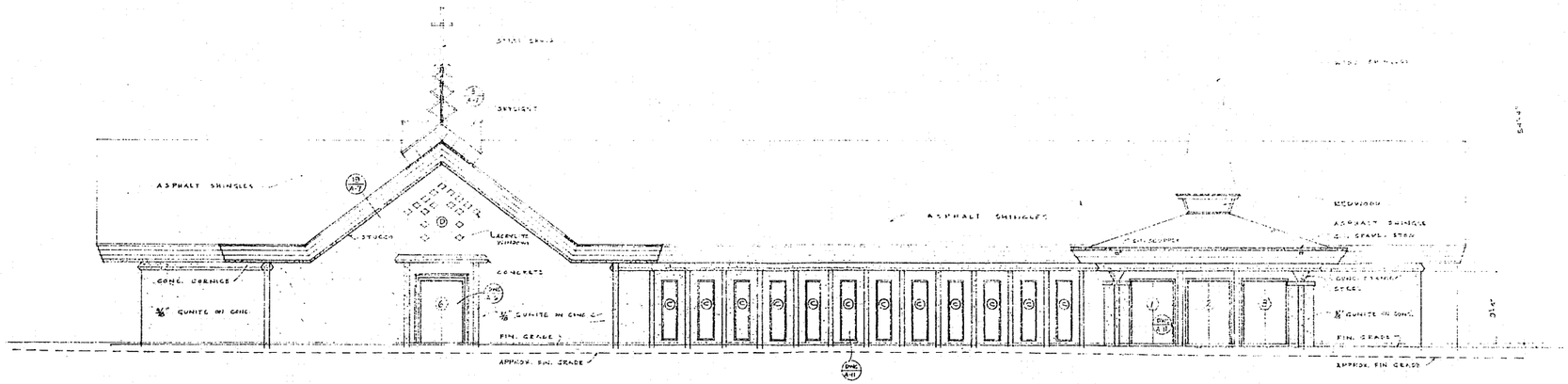
NOTE: ALL DOORS TO BE 1 3/8" UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



INTERIOR FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER	ROOM NAME	FLOOR	BASE	WALLS	CEILING	CLG. HEIGHT	REMARKS
1	NARTHEX	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	WOOD - PLASTIC LAM.	WOOD & PLASTIC LAM. PANELS	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-1 3/4"	
2	NAVE	CONCRETE (CARPET)	—	CONC., GUNITE, AC. PLAS.	WOOD	VARIES	(CARPET N.I.C. SIDE ISLES & CENTER ISLE)
3	CHANCEL	CONCRETE (COLORED)	—	WOOD	5/8" GYP. BOARD	VARIES	WOOD STEPS & PLATFORM - (CARPET N.I.C.)
4	CHOIR	CONCRETE (COLORED)	WOOD	GUNITE	WOOD	VARIES	WOOD STEPS & PLATFORM - (CARPET N.I.C.)
5	TRANSEPT	CONCRETE (COLORED)	—	CONC., GUNITE, WOOD	WOOD	VARIES	(SIDE ISLE & CENTER ISLE CARPET N.I.C.)
6	VESTIBULE	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	WOOD - PLASTIC LAM.	WOOD & PLASTIC PANELS CONC., GUNITE	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	7'-4"	
7	LOGGIA	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3 1/2"	
8	PARLOR	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3 3/4"	
9	KITCHEN	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3 1/4"	
10	LOUNGE	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3 1/4"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
11	WOMEN'S TOILET	CERAMIC TILE	CERAMIC TILE	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3 1/4"	
12	MEN'S TOILET	CERAMIC TILE	CERAMIC TILE	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3 1/4"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
13	USHERS CLOSET	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	PLASTER	8'-1 1/4"	
14	COMMUNION STEWARDS	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	CONCRETE	7'-4"	
15	ALCOVE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER, CONC., GUNITE	PLASTER	8'-0"	
16	STORAGE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER & CONCRETE	PLASTER	8'-4 7/8"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
17	ALCOVE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER, CONC., GUNITE	PLASTER	8'-3"	
18	ORGAN CHAMBER	WOOD	WOOD	CONCRETE, GYP. BOARD	5/8" GYP. BOARD	VARIES	
19	ANTIPHONAL ORGAN LOFT	WOOD	WOOD	ACOUSTICAL PLASTER ON CONCRETE, WOOD	WOOD	VARIES	

NEW BOLIVAR PLANNING INC.
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH



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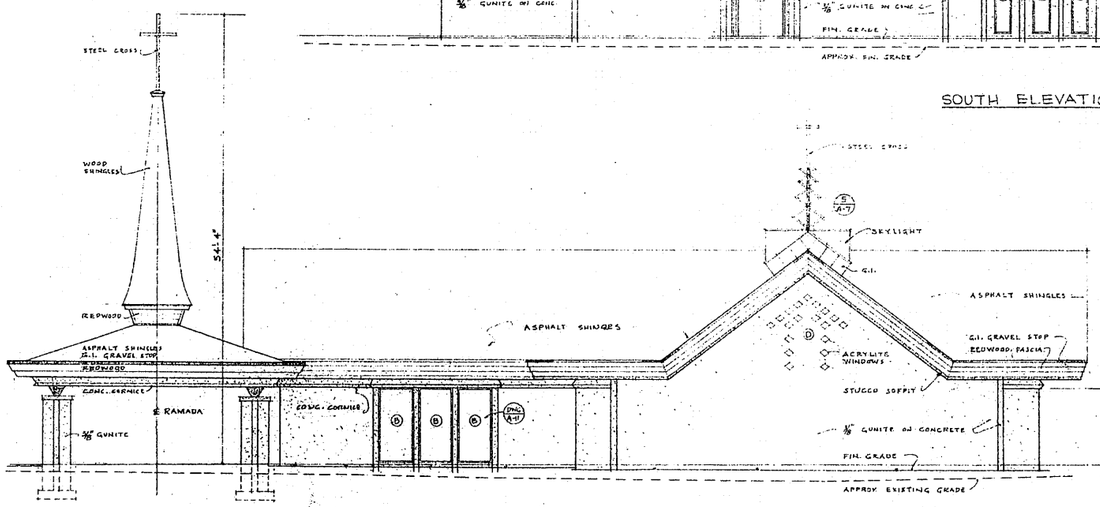
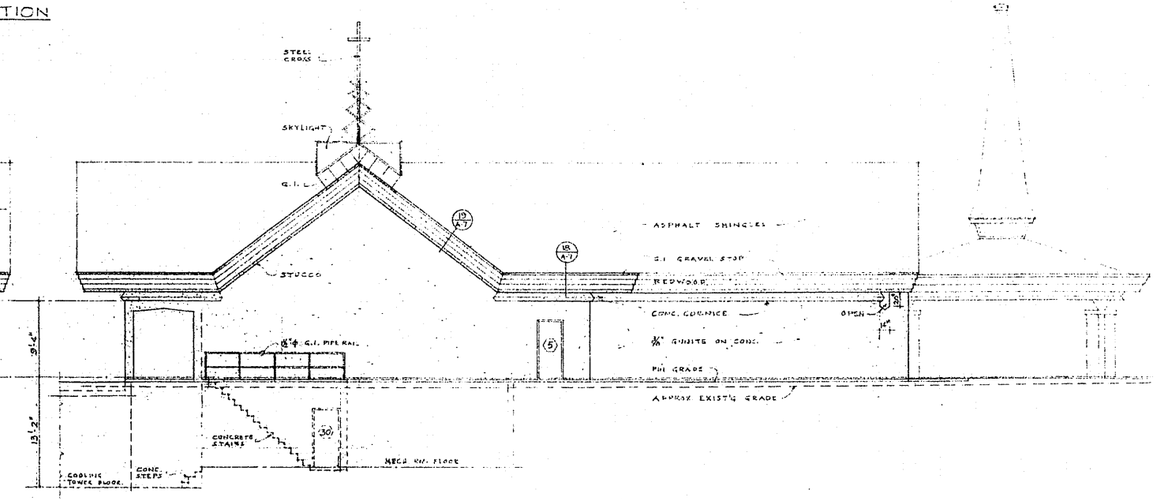


EAST ELEVATION



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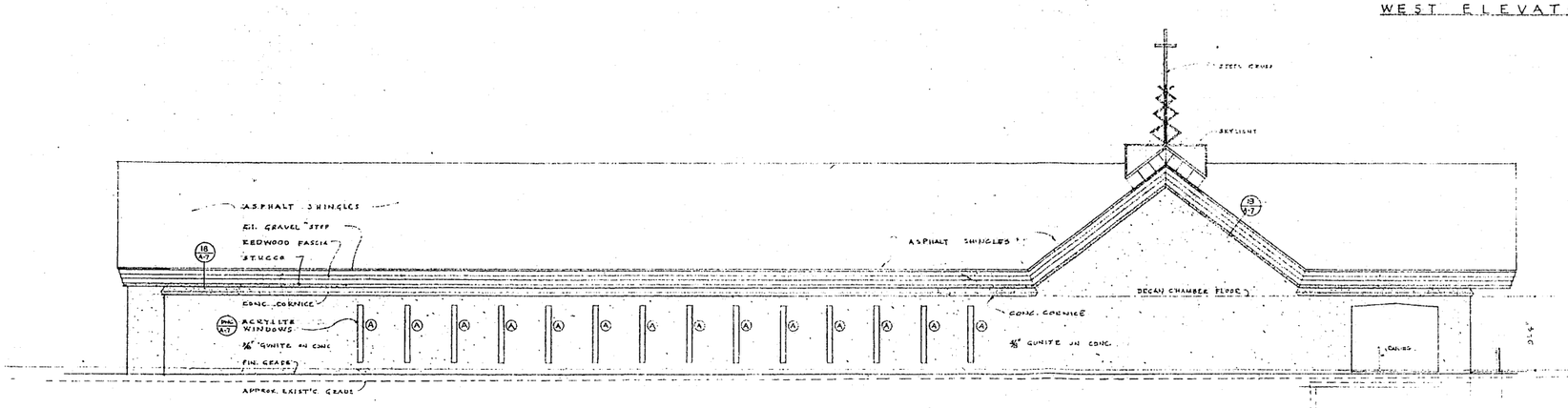


NORTH ELEVATION

ALL ELEVATIONS ARE AT SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

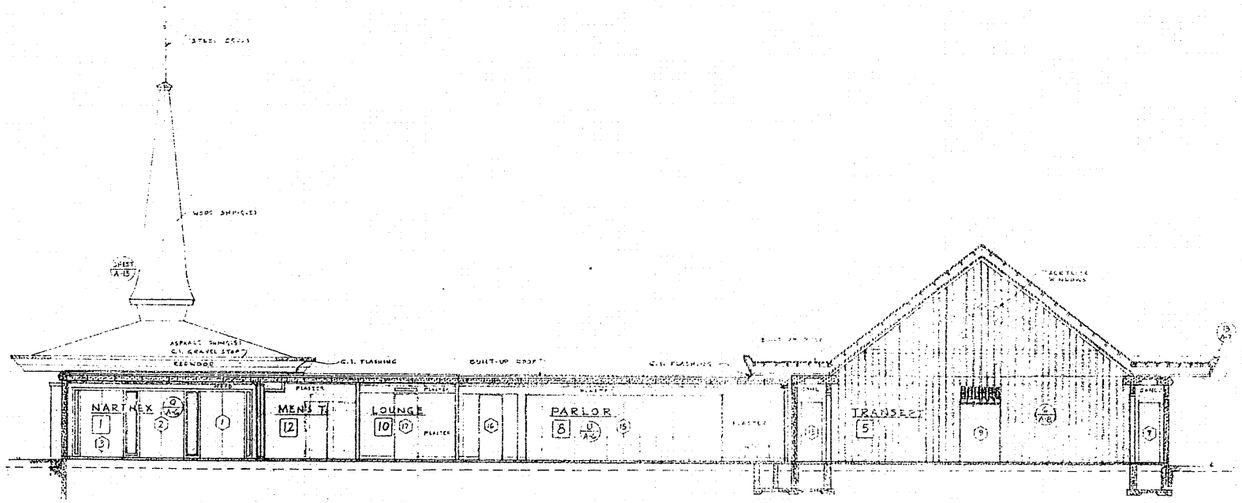
NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR:

SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH

9101 NORTH MILLER ROAD SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

BUILDING ELEVATIONS

A.4



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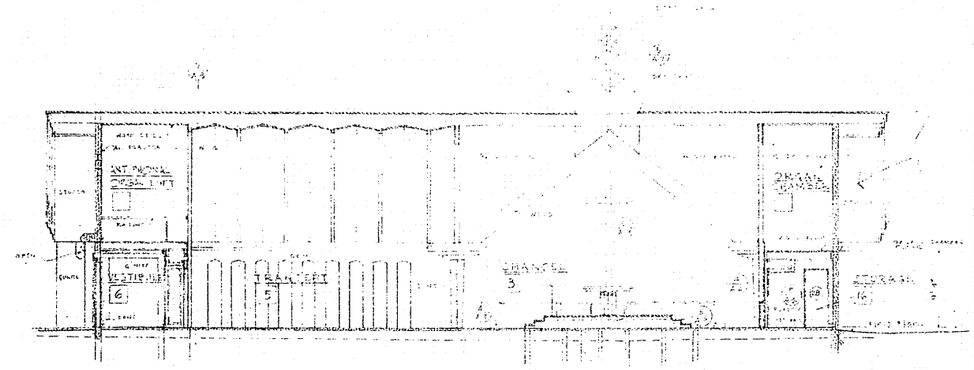

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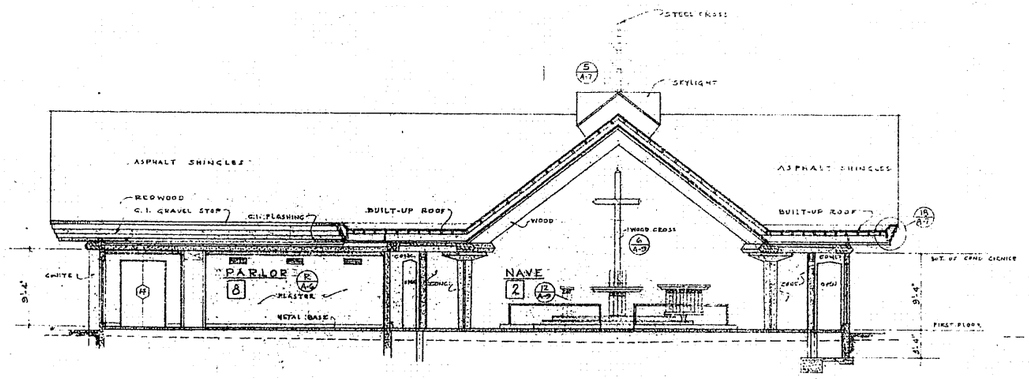

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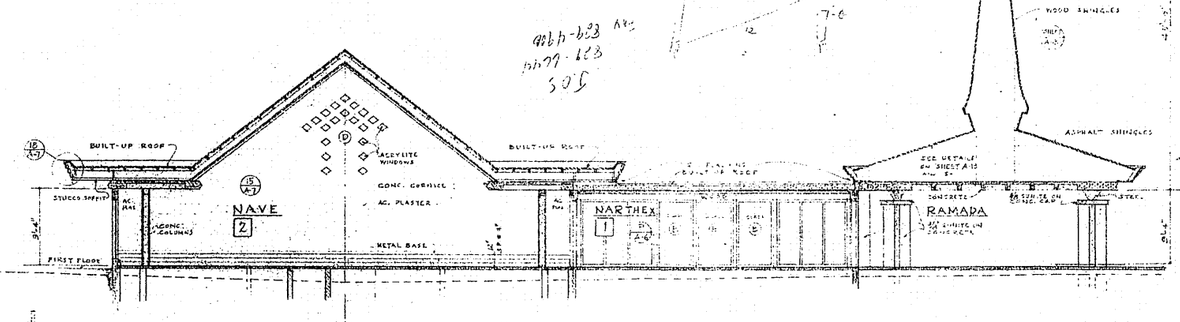

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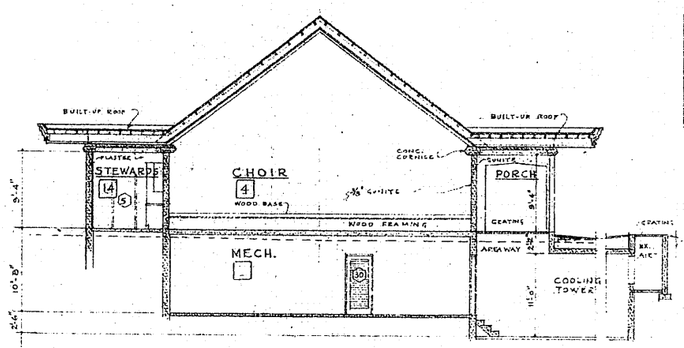

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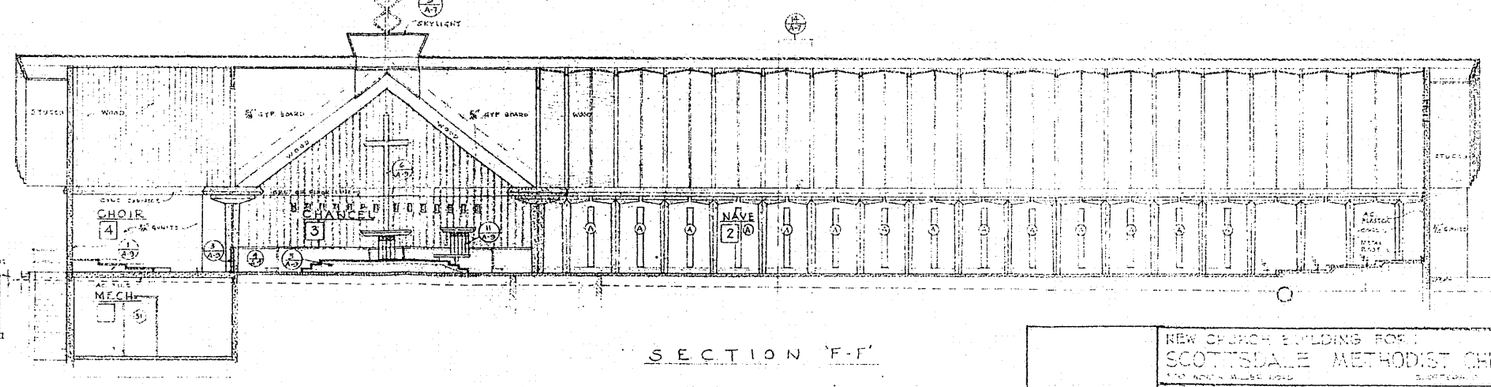
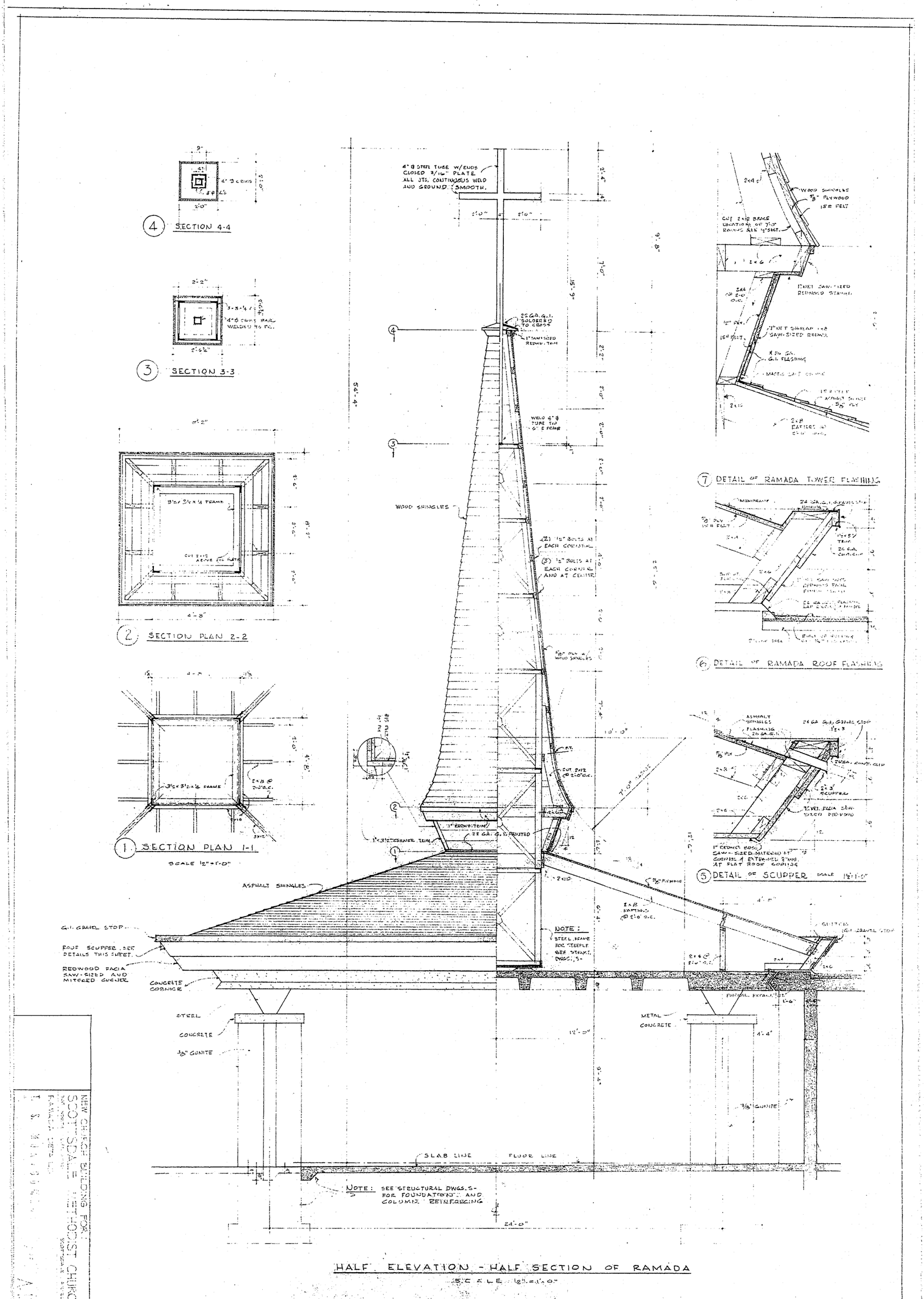
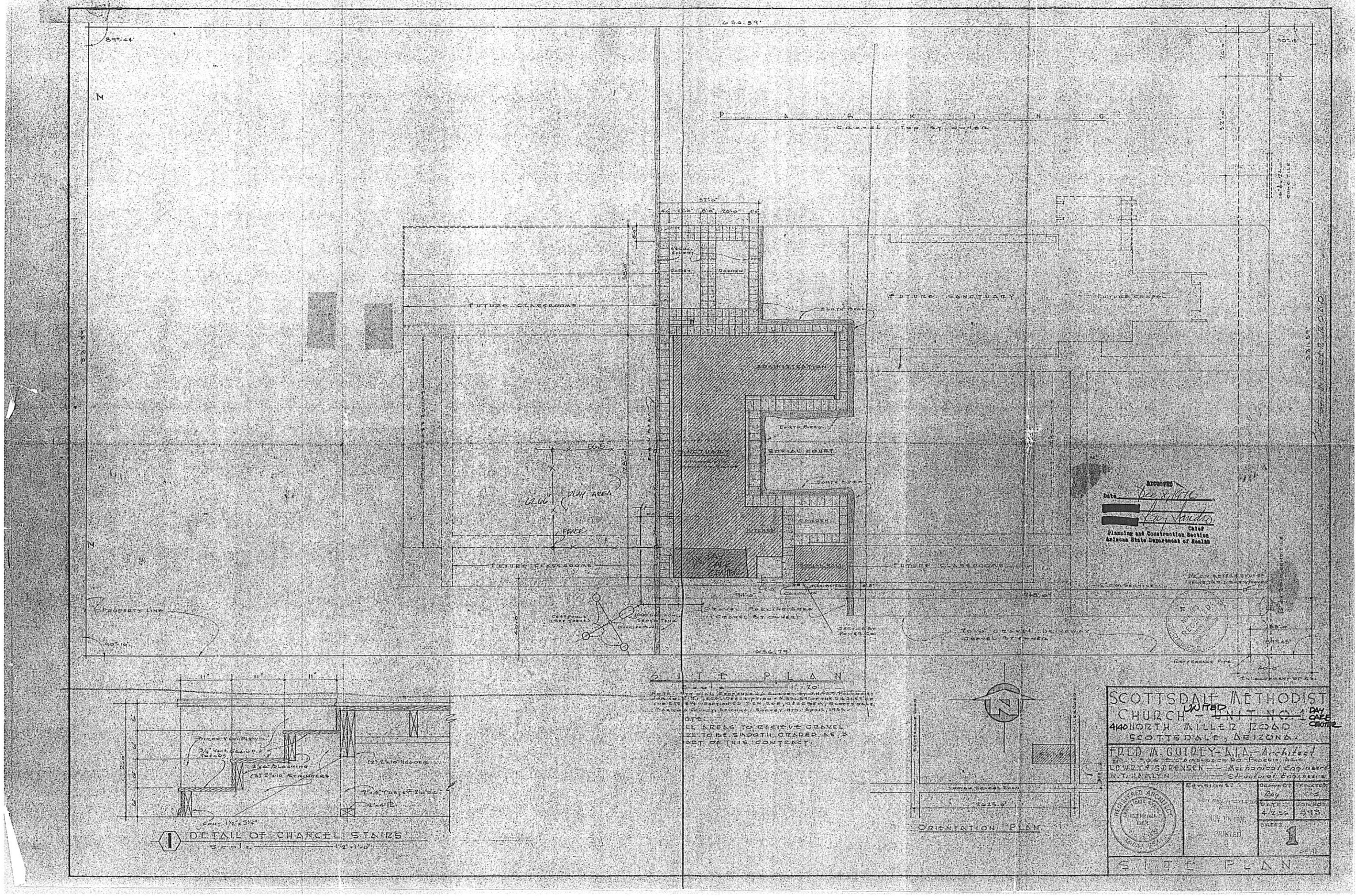


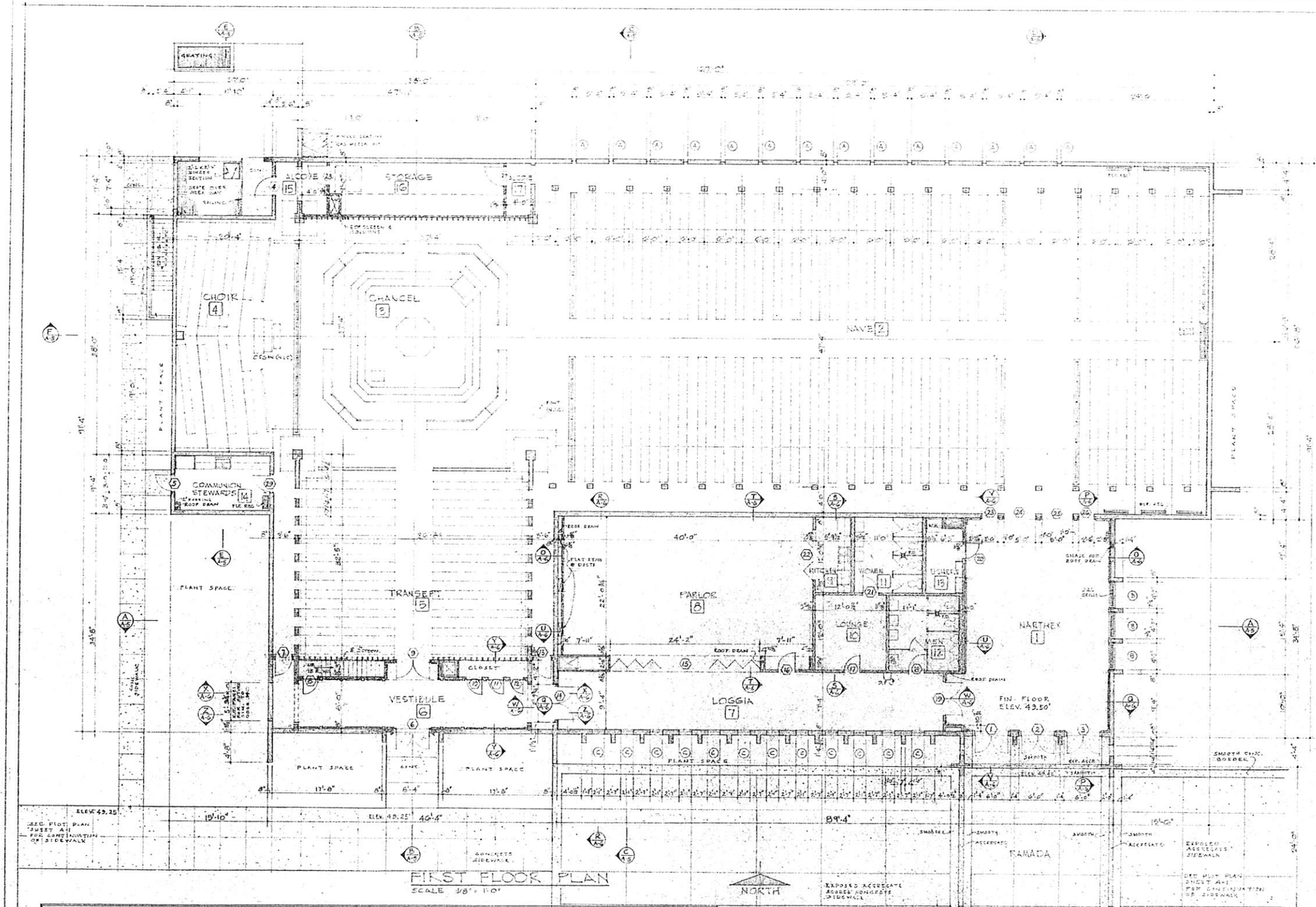
SECTION 'F-F'

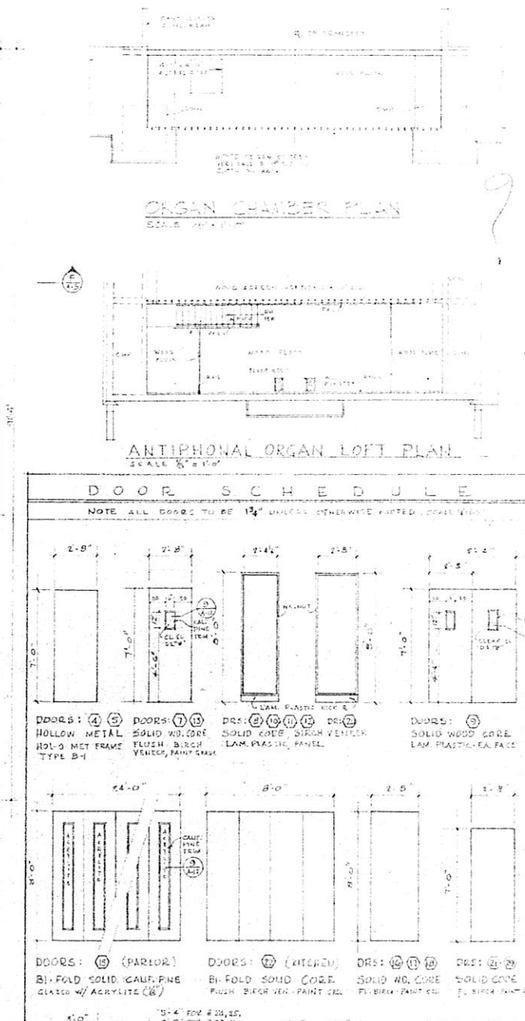
NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR:
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH

BUILDING SECTIONS


4 SECTION 4-4
3 SECTION 3-3
2 SECTION PLAN 2-2
1 SECTION PLAN 1-1
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
4" ø STEEL TUBE W/ ENDS CLOSED 3/16" PLATE. ALL JTS. CONTINUOUS WELD AND GROUND SMOOTH.
22 GA. G.I. SOLDERED TO CROSS
1" SAWN SIZED REDWD. TRIM
WELD 4" ø TUBE TO 6" I FRAME
WOOD SHINGLES
(2) 1/2" BOLTS AT EACH CORNER
(3) 1/2" BOLTS AT EACH CORNER AND AT CENTER
CUT 2x12 @ 2'-0" O.C.
1" x 3" CORNER TRIM
22 GA. G.I. PAINTED
ASPHALT SHINGLES
G.I. GRAVEL STOP
ROOF SCUPPER. SEE DETAILS THIS SHEET.
REDWOOD FACIA SAW-SIZED AND MITERED CORNER
CONCRETE CORNICE
STEEL
CONCRETE
3/8" GUNITE
NOTE: STEEL FRAME FOR STEEPLE SEE STRUCT. DWGS. S-
METAL
CONCRETE
SLAB LINE
FLOOR LINE
NOTE: SEE STRUCTURAL DWGS. S- FOR FOUNDATIONS AND COLUMN REINFORCING
24'-0"
7 DETAIL OF RAMADA TOWER FLASHING
6 DETAIL OF RAMADA ROOF FLASHING
5 DETAIL OF SCUPPER SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
HALF ELEVATION - HALF SECTION OF RAMADA
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR: SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH
A-13


N
PARKING
Gravel Top by Owner
FUTURE CLASSROOMS
FUTURE SANCTUARY
FUTURE CHAPEL
ADMINISTRATION
SOCIAL COURT
PLAY AREA
FENCE
FUTURE CLASSROOMS
PROPERTY LINE
Gravel Paving (Gravel by Owner)
Gravel Driveway (Gravel by Owner)
SITE PLAN
DETAIL OF CHANCEL STAIRS
ORIENTATION PLAN
APPROVED
Date Dec 8, 1976
Chief
Planning and Construction Section
Arizona State Department of Health
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH UNITED
UNIT NO. 1
DAY CARE CENTER
4140 NORTH MILLER ROAD
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
FRED M. GUIDEY - A.I.A. - Architect
LOWELL SORENSEN — Mechanical Engineer
W.T. HARLYN — Structural Engineer
REGISTERED ARCHITECT
Revisions
Drawn by Ray
Date 4/2/56
Job No. 393
Sheet 1
SITE PLAN

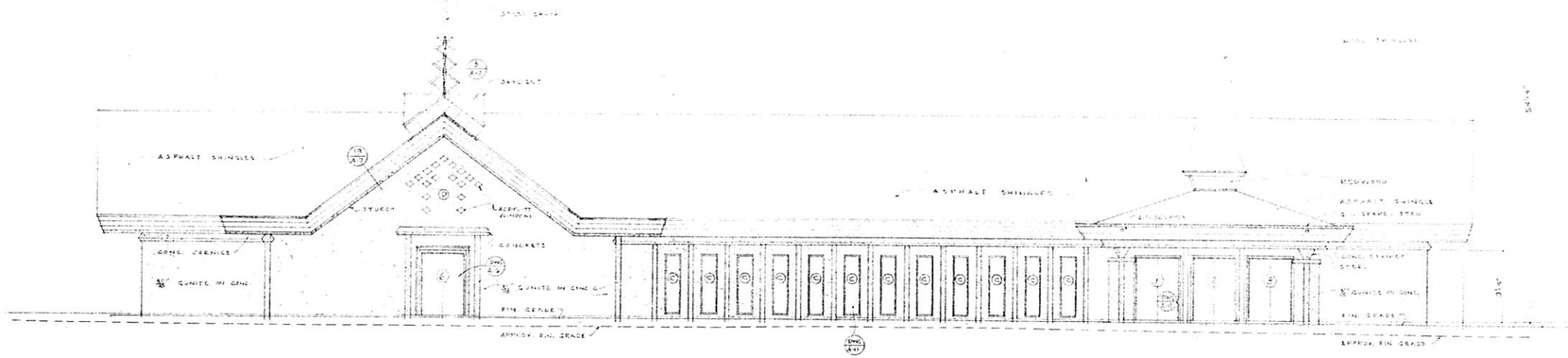




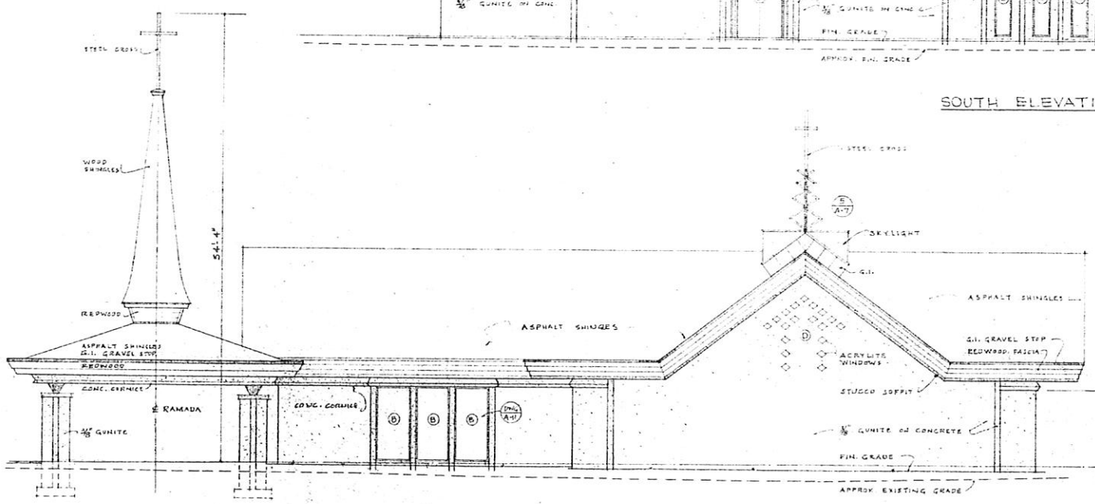
INTERIOR FINISH SCHEDULE

NUMBER	ROOM NAME	FLOOR	BASE	WALLS	CEILING	CLG. HEIGHT	REMARKS
1	NARTHEX	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	WOOD-PLASTIC-LAM.	WOOD & PLASTIC LAM. PANELS	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3¼"	
2	NAVE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	—	CONC., GUNITE, AC. PLAS.	WOOD	VARIES	(CARPET N.I.C. SIDE ISLES & CENTER ISLES)
3	CHANCEL	CONCRETE (COLORED)	—	WOOD	⅝" GYP. BOARD	VARIES	WOOD STEPS & PLATFORM - (CARPET N.I.C.)
4	CHOIR	CONCRETE (COLORED)	WOOD	GUNITE	WOOD	VARIES	WOOD STEPS & PLATFORM - (CARPET N.I.C.)
5	TRANSEPT	CONCRETE (COLORED)	—	CONC., GUNITE, WOOD	WOOD	VARIES	(SIDE ISLE & CENTER ISLE CARPET N.I.C.)
6	VESTIBULE	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	WOOD - PLASTIC LAM.	WOOD & PLASTIC PANELS CONC., GUNITE	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-4"	
7	LOGGIA	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3¼"	
8	PARLOR	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3¼"	
9	KITCHEN	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3¼"	
10	LOUNGE	CONCRETE (CARPET N.I.C.)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE WOOD CORNICE	9'-3¼"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
11	WOMEN'S TOILET	CERAMIC TILE	CERAMIC TILE	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3¼"	
12	MEN'S TOILET	CERAMIC TILE	CERAMIC TILE	PLASTER	ACOUSTICAL TILE	9'-3¼"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
13	USHER'S CLOSET	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	PLASTER	8'-1¼"	
14	COMMUNION STEWARDS	VINYL TILE	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER	CONCRETE	7'-4"	
15	ALCOVE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER, CONC., GUNITE	PLASTER	8'-6"	
16	STORAGE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER & CONCRETE	PLASTER	8'-4⅞"	CEILING FURRED & DUCT
17	ALCOVE	CONCRETE (COLORED)	METAL-FLUSH	PLASTER, CONC., GUNITE	PLASTER	8'-3"	
18	ORGAN CHAMBER	WOOD	WOOD	CONCRETE, GYP. BOARD	⅝" GYP. BOARD	VARIES	
19	ANTIPHONAL ORGAN LOFT	WOOD	WOOD	ACOUSTICAL PLASTER ON CONCRETE, WOOD	WOOD	VARIES	

NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR:
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH
8500 NORTH HAYDEN ROAD SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
FIRST FLOOR PLAN & SCHEDULES
T. S. MONTGOMERY
ARCHITECT



SOUTH ELEVATION



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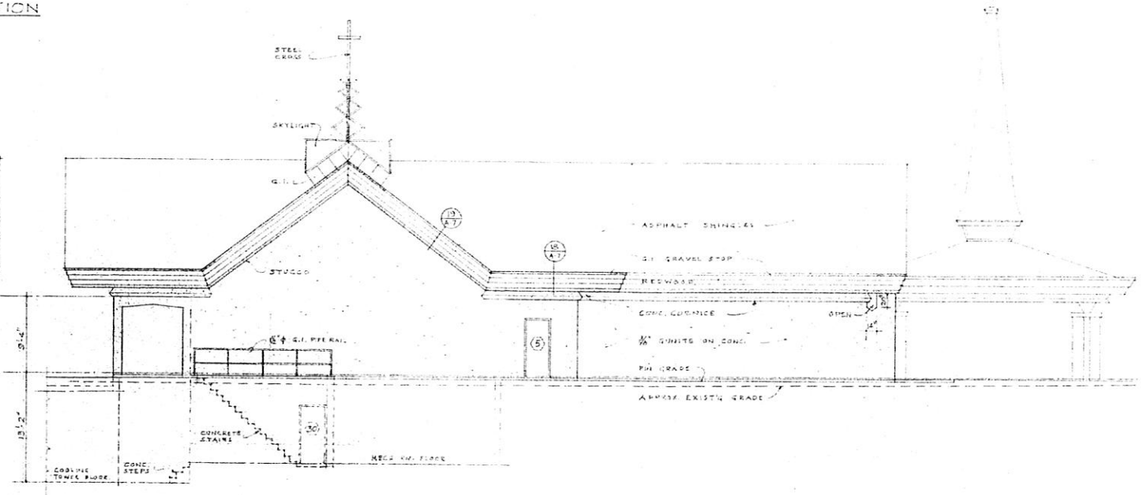
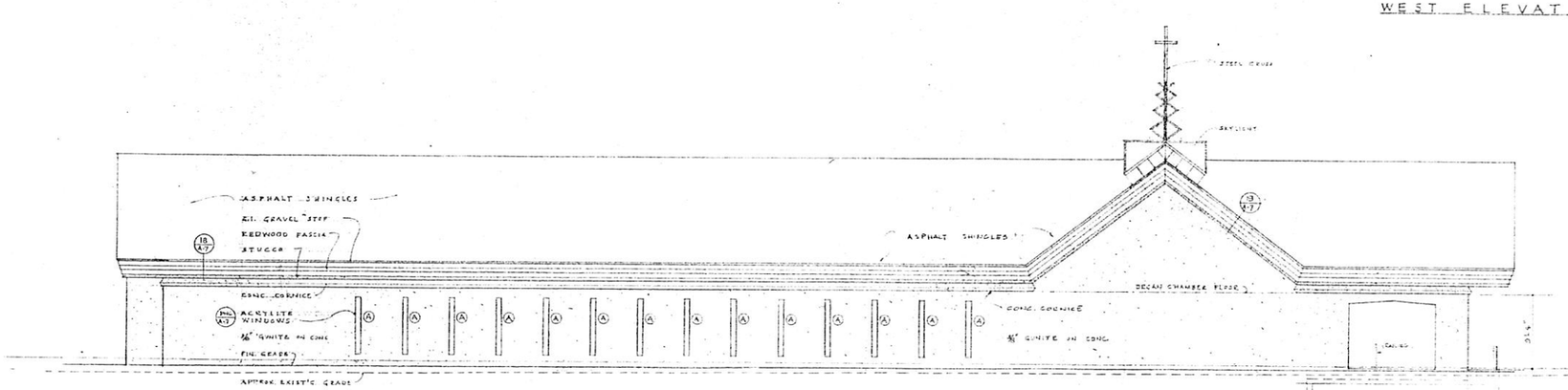


WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

ALL ELEVATIONS ARE AT SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR:

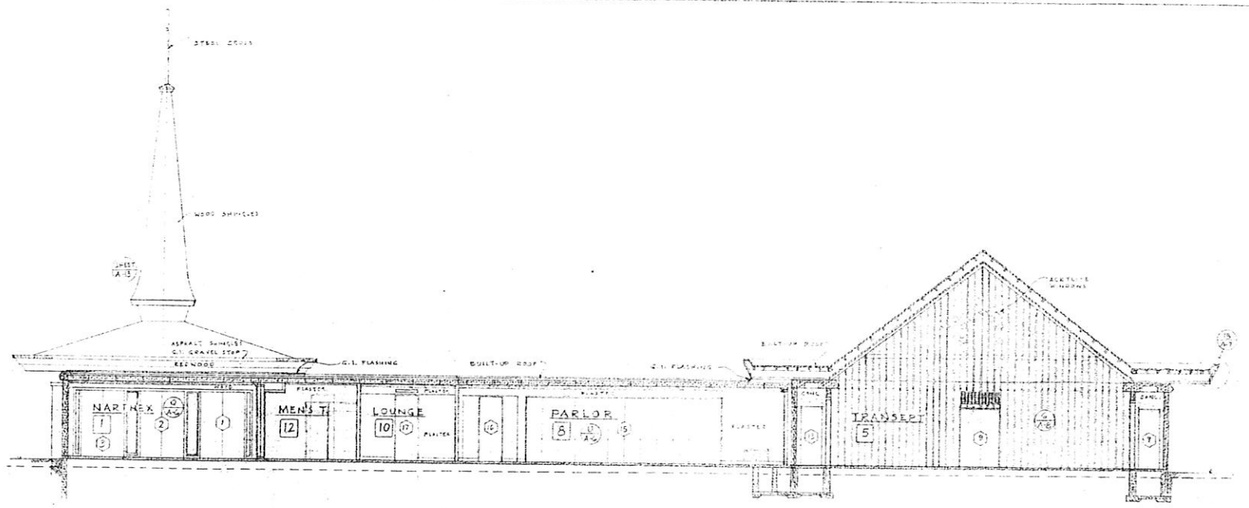
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH

9200 NORTH VILLA ROAD SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

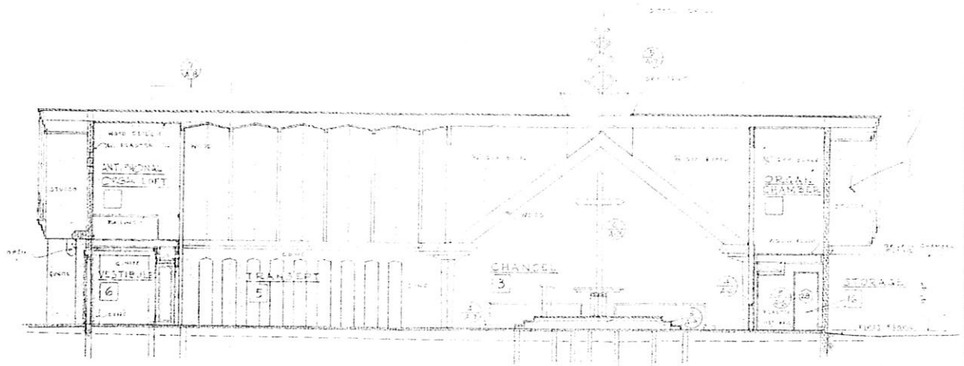
BUILDING ELEVATIONS

T. S. MONTGOMERY

A-4



SECTION 'A-A'



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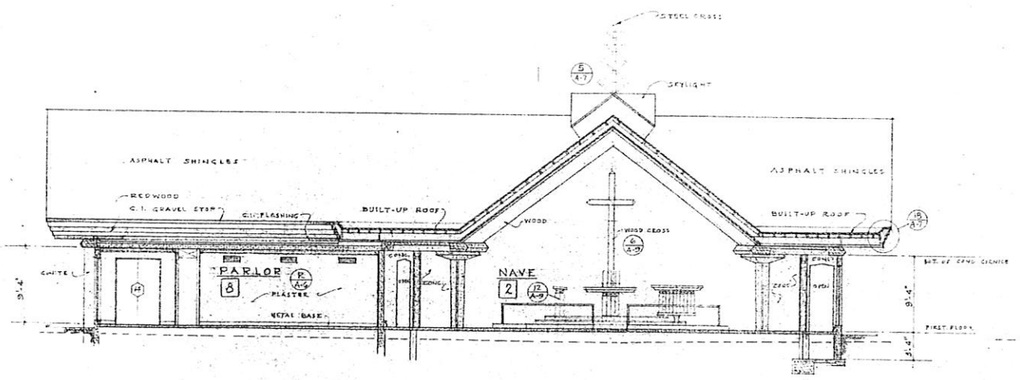

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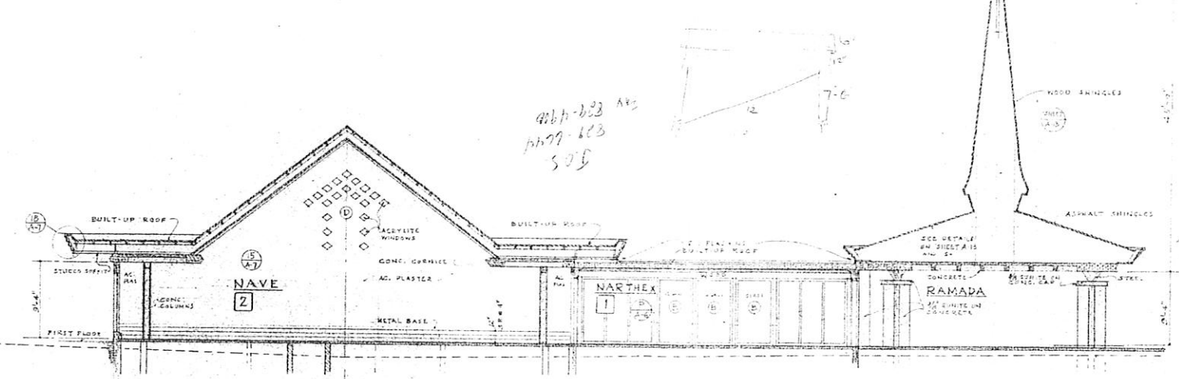

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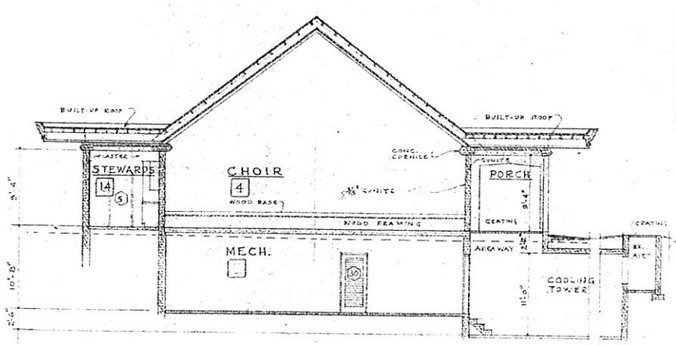

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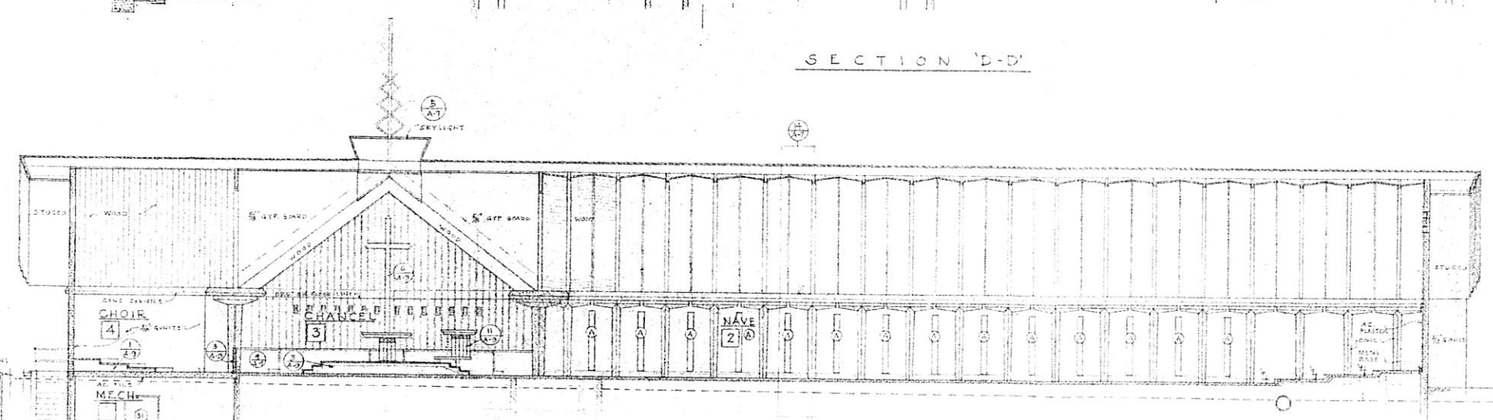
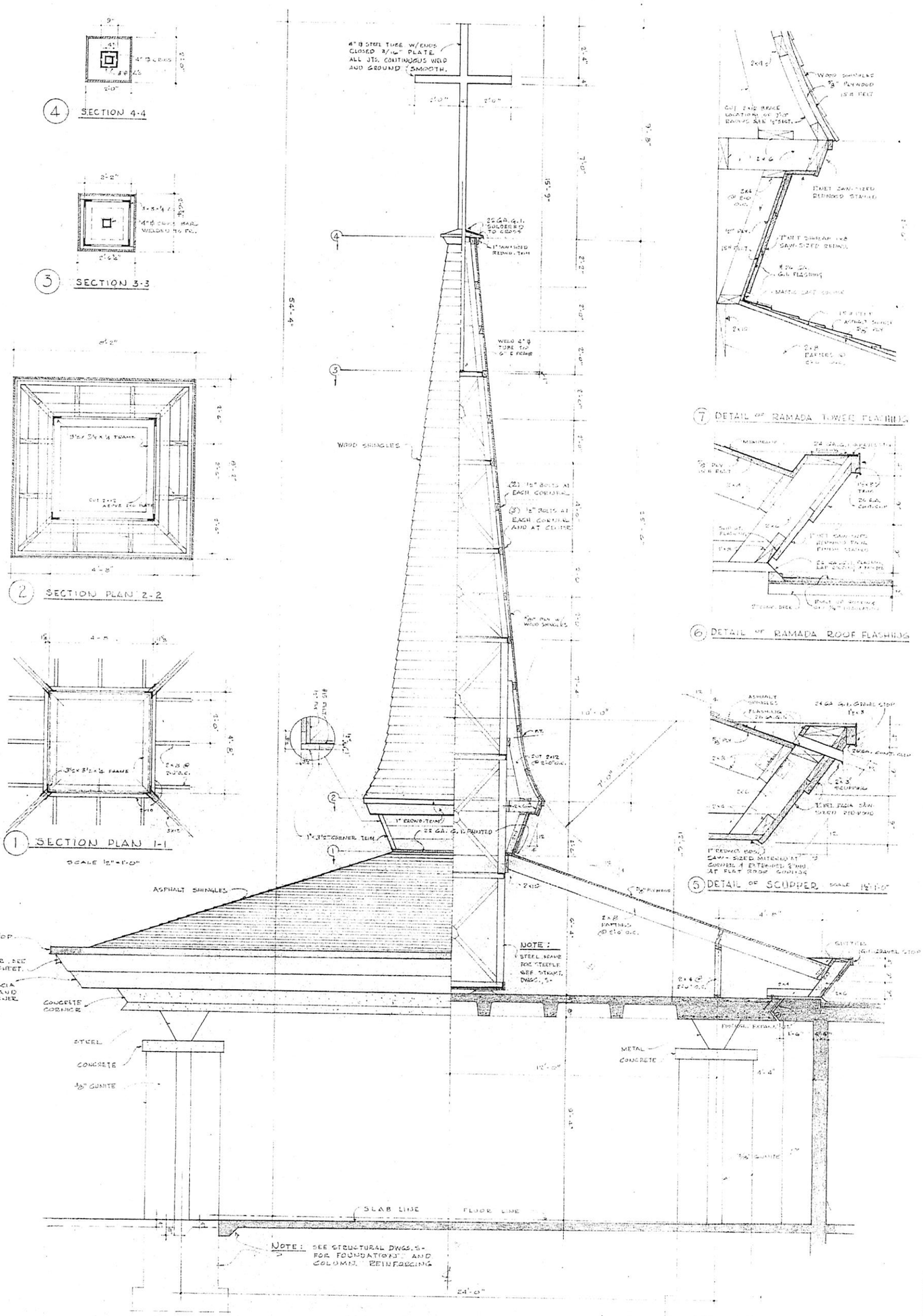


SECTION 'F-F'

NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR:
SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH
BUILDING SECTIONS
A5


4 SECTION 4-4
3 SECTION 3-3
2 SECTION PLAN 2-2
1 SECTION PLAN 1-1
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
4" ⌀ STEEL TUBE W/ENDS CLOSED 3/16" PLATE. ALL JTS. CONTINUOUS WELD AND GROUND SMOOTH.
WOOD SHINGLES
ASPHALT SHINGLES
G.I. GRAVEL STOP
ROOF SCUPPER SEE DETAILS THIS SHEET.
REDWOOD FACIA SAW-SIZED AND MITERED CORNER
CONCRETE COPING
STEEL
CONCRETE
3/8" GUNITE
NOTE: STEEL FRAME FOR STEEPLE SEE STRUCT. DWGS. S-
NOTE: SEE STRUCTURAL DWGS. S- FOR FOUNDATION AND COLUMN REINFORCING
SLAB LINE
FLOOR LINE
24'-0"
7 DETAIL OF RAMADA TOWER FLASHING
6 DETAIL OF RAMADA ROOF FLASHING
5 DETAIL OF SCUPPER SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
HALF ELEVATION - HALF SECTION OF RAMADA
SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"
NEW CHURCH BUILDING FOR: SCOTTSDALE METHODIST CHURCH
A-13

CHRONICLE™ HERITAGE

T: (602) 261-7253
info@chronicleheritage.com

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
2025 N 3rd Street, Suite 157
Phoenix, Arizona 11201

October 17, 2025

Dan Klocke
Gorman & Company
608 East Missouri Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

RE: Class I Literature Review for Scottsdale United Methodist Church Community Housing Project in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona

Dear Dan Klocke:

Gorman & Company contracted Chronicle Heritage to conduct a site file search and literature review of 4.56 acres of private land for a proposed Scottsdale United Methodist Church Community Housing in Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona (Project). The Project area is on private land; thus, the Project is subject to compliance with the City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Ordinance, Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 46, Article 6 and Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 41-865 regarding human remains on private land.

The Project area consists of one small rectangular-shaped parcel approximately 115 meters (m) north–south by 192 m east–west at its furthest extents. The Project area is northwest of the intersection of North Miller Road and East Indian School Road within Assessor Parcel Number 173-52-001A. The Project area is within the SW¼ NE¼, Section 17, Township (T) 2 North (N), Range (R) 3 East (E) Gila and Salt River Base Line and Meridian (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 7.5-minute Sunnyslope, Arizona [1973]) (Figure 1). The Project area is at 1983 North American Datum (NAD 83), Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Zone 12, 414671 mE, 3706654 mN.

Project Description

Gorman & Company is planning to develop affordable community housing within Scottsdale, Arizona. Potential ground disturbance includes demolition and excavation for new buildings including footings, vegetation removal blading, and other construction-related activities. Chronicle Heritage is conducting this Class I records search to evaluate if further archaeological work is necessary prior to the start of construction.

Setting

The Project area is within a developed parcel surrounded by private and commercial buildings in the City of Scottsdale, Arizona, and within the Salt River Valley at an average elevation of 1,255 feet (ft) above mean sea level. The Project area is approximately 2.7 miles (mi) northwest of Papago Park and 2.1 mi southeast of Camelback Mountain. The Salt River is 4.1 mi south of the Project area. This area is within the Gila/Salt Intermediate Basins subregion of the larger Sonoran Basin and Range Ecoregion. The Sonoran Basin and Range is made up of several mountain ranges and valleys of moderate elevation (1,000–4,000 ft) and semi-arid temperatures that extend from northwestern Arizona to the most northern portion of Sonora, Mexico. The Gila/Salt Intermediate Basins

subregion is marked by low elevations (900–1,800 ft) and high temperatures. Topographically, this subregion includes low sloping basins and valleys composed of bajadas, alluvial fans, eroded washes, stream terraces, and floodplains. Intermittent flowing streams branching from the Salt and Gila rivers are found within the subregion. The flow of these streams has been significantly impacted by the creation of canals, reservoirs, and channels that have diverted and controlled water flow to support urban populations and agricultural production. Historically, the natural vegetation in the region included a variety of desert scrub plants such as ocotillo, saguaro, ironwood, paloverde, creosote bush, fourwing saltbush, and cholla cactus (Griffith et al. 2014). Although the land within and immediately surrounding the Project area is now completely urbanized, the local natural vegetation would have been typical of the Sonoran Desert, specifically the Creosote-White Bursage series of the Lower Colorado River Valley Subdivision (Brown 1994).

Soil in the Project area consist of Laveen Loam (0–1% slopes; alluvial fans and stream terraces landforms) (Soil Survey Staff 2025). Geology within the Project area consists of Late and Middle Pleistocene Surficial Deposits (10-750 ka), comprised of unconsolidated to weakly consolidated alluvial fan deposits with moderate to strong soil development and poorly sorted, moderately bedded gravel and sand deposits (Arizona Geological Survey 2025).

The Project area is previously developed. Development in the vicinity of the Project area within the City of Scottsdale began as early as the late 1800s, which includes the construction of the Arizona Canal—only 0.58 mi to the northwest—in 1885. Development of hundreds of residential and commercial structures as well as major roads has continued throughout the century, which has resulted in dense urban development. Portions of the Project area contain structures and a parking lot for the Winfield Scott School, which was constructed prior to 1952.

Previous Research

Chronicle Heritage consulted records from AZSITE, National Register Information System database, the city of Scottsdale on October 15, 2025, the Scottsdale Historic Register, and historic maps within 1 mi of the Project area. Eight projects are within the search radius, of which no projects extend into the Project area. None of the Project area has been surveyed in the past 10 years (Table 1).

Seven archaeological resources are within the search radius, of which no resources extend into the Project area. Resources within the search radius include one historic school (AZ U:9:53(ASM)), one commercial district (5th Avenue Commercial District; Property Key No. 31549), and five Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) bridges (Table 2).

Two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites and one Scottsdale Historic Register (SHR) sites are within the search radius including Scottsdale Grammar School No. 1, Coronado School (Little Red School House) (Reference No. 94000571; SHR-00-1), the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Church (Reference No. 100002979; SHR-01-7), and the Scottsdale Grammar School No. 2 (Reference No. SHR-005). None of the NRHP or SHR properties are within the Project area (Table 3; Figure 2).

Historical Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) and USGS maps were also reviewed, including GLO plat 0076 (filed 12/02/1870) and the following USGS maps: 1:250,000 Mesa, Arizona, 1954, 1967, 1960, and 1964; 1:62,500 Mesa, Arizona, 1913 and 1952; 1:24,000 Tempe, Arizona, 1952 and 1958. One GLO map feature—a road—is within the search radius. On the USGS maps, six features (Arizona Canal, 3 schools, 1 well, 1 levee), over 50 unlabelled structures, over 20 improved roads, over 10 unimproved roods, and 6 secondary highways are within the search radius.

Aerial imagery from 1957 depicts the Project area and its immediate surroundings as predominantly agricultural, with unimproved roads, the Arizona Canal, and a small cluster of buildings southwest of the parcel within the City of Scottsdale. Development expanded over the following decades, and by the 1970s the broader area within the search radius was urbanized with numerous structures. Currently, the Scottsdale Methodist Sanctuary, constructed circa 1957, is the only structure on the parcel. The parcel is vacant in 1953 imagery, shows initial development by 1957, and complete development with associated paving by 1991 (Nationwide Environmental Title Research Online 2025; Table 4; Figure 3).

Recommendations

This Class I literature review documents that the 4.56-acre Project area has not been previously surveyed and is fully developed and in active use. Because existing development and prior disturbance eliminate ground visibility and render intensive pedestrian coverage infeasible, a Class III intensive pedestrian survey is not warranted. The Scottsdale Methodist Sanctuary, constructed circa 1957, is the only structure on the parcel and exceeds the 50-year threshold. Chronicle Heritage recommends conducting a historic building assessment by a qualified architectural historian to document age, integrity, and character-defining features; evaluate eligibility under local criteria; and provide a basis for assessing potential project effects and treatment. Because the parcel was developed before the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, any new ground disturbance could encounter subsurface cultural deposits. If human remains are encountered during ground disturbance, excavation should cease immediately, the area should be secured, and the discovery should be reported to the Arizona State Museum Repatriation Office in accordance with A.R.S. § 41-865; work should not resume until authorized under that statute's procedures. These recommendations were made to inform review under the City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Ordinance (Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 46, Article 6).

Sincerely,
Chronicle Heritage

Sebastian Chamorro | Senior Archaeologist

Results of Previous Research

Table 1. Previous Projects Within the Project Area

Project Reference Number	Project Name	Associated Reference
N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within the Project Area

Site No./ Name	Affiliation	Site Type	Eligibility Status	Associated Reference(s)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 3. Historic Buildings/Districts/Neighborhoods Within the Project Area

Property Name or Address	Year	Eligibility Status
N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 4. Historic USGS Map and GLO Properties Within the Project Area

Property Description	Map Year
N/A	N/A

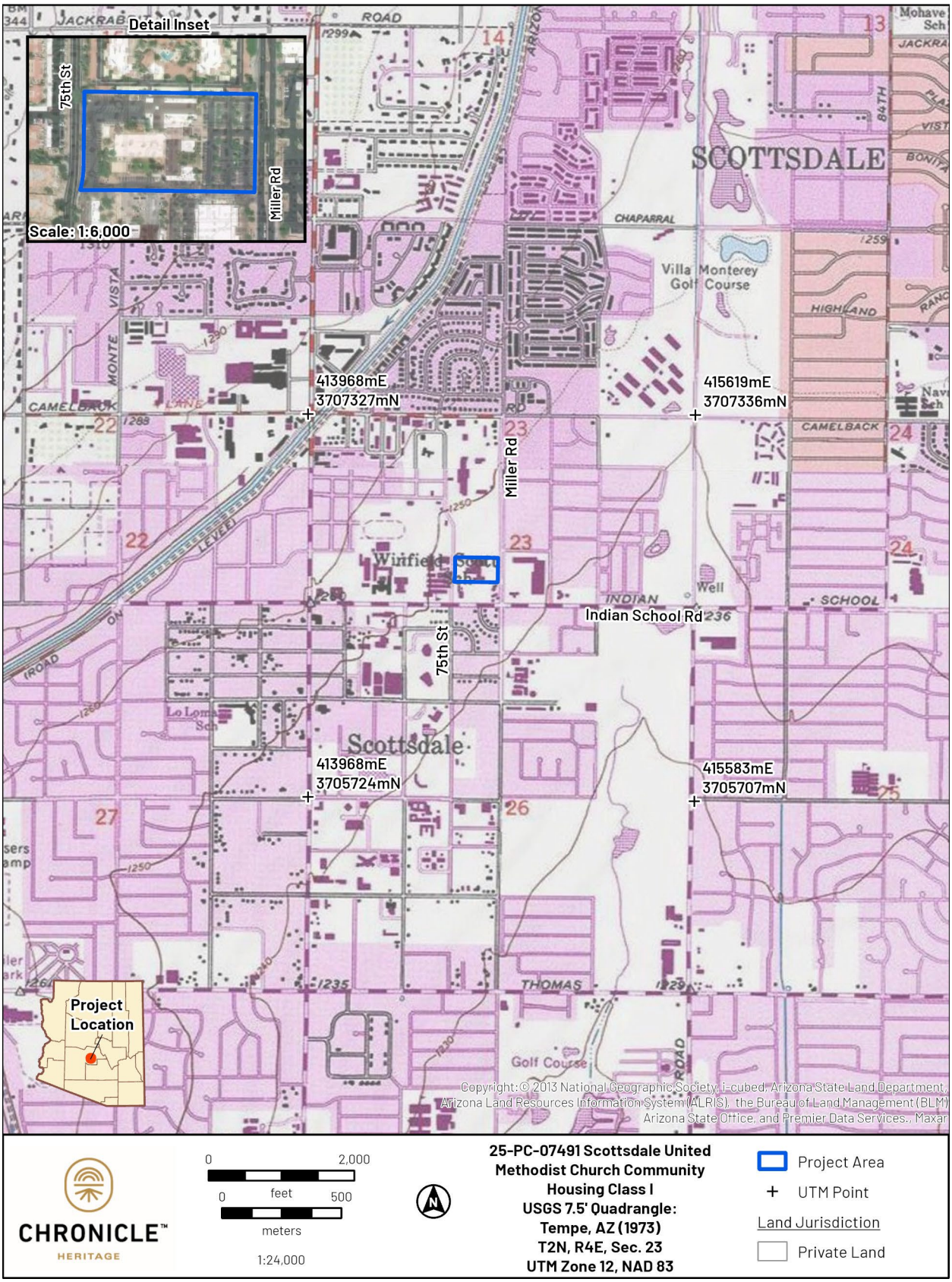


Figure 1. Project location map showing land jurisdiction.

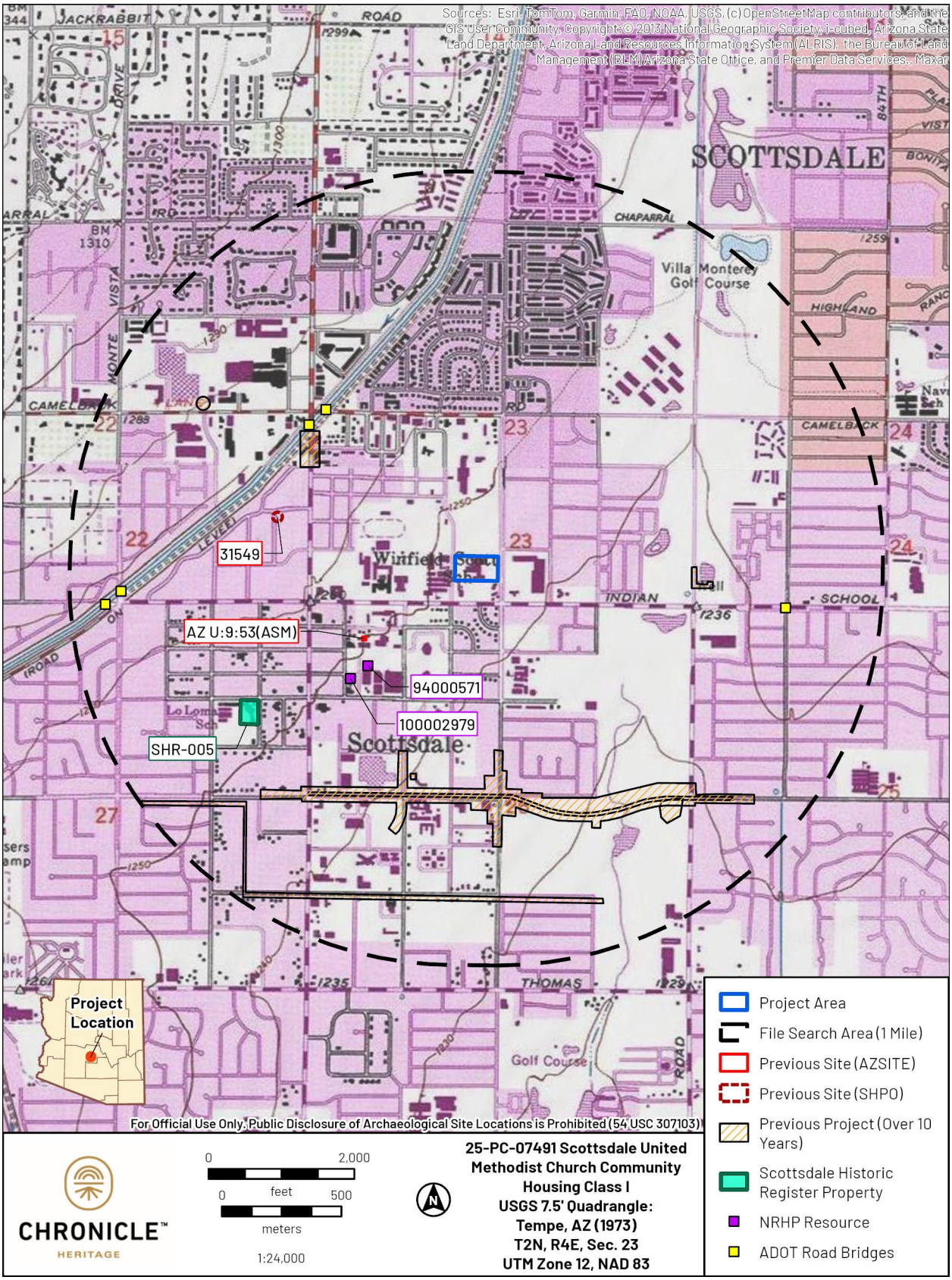


Figure 2. Project area map showing previous projects and sites.

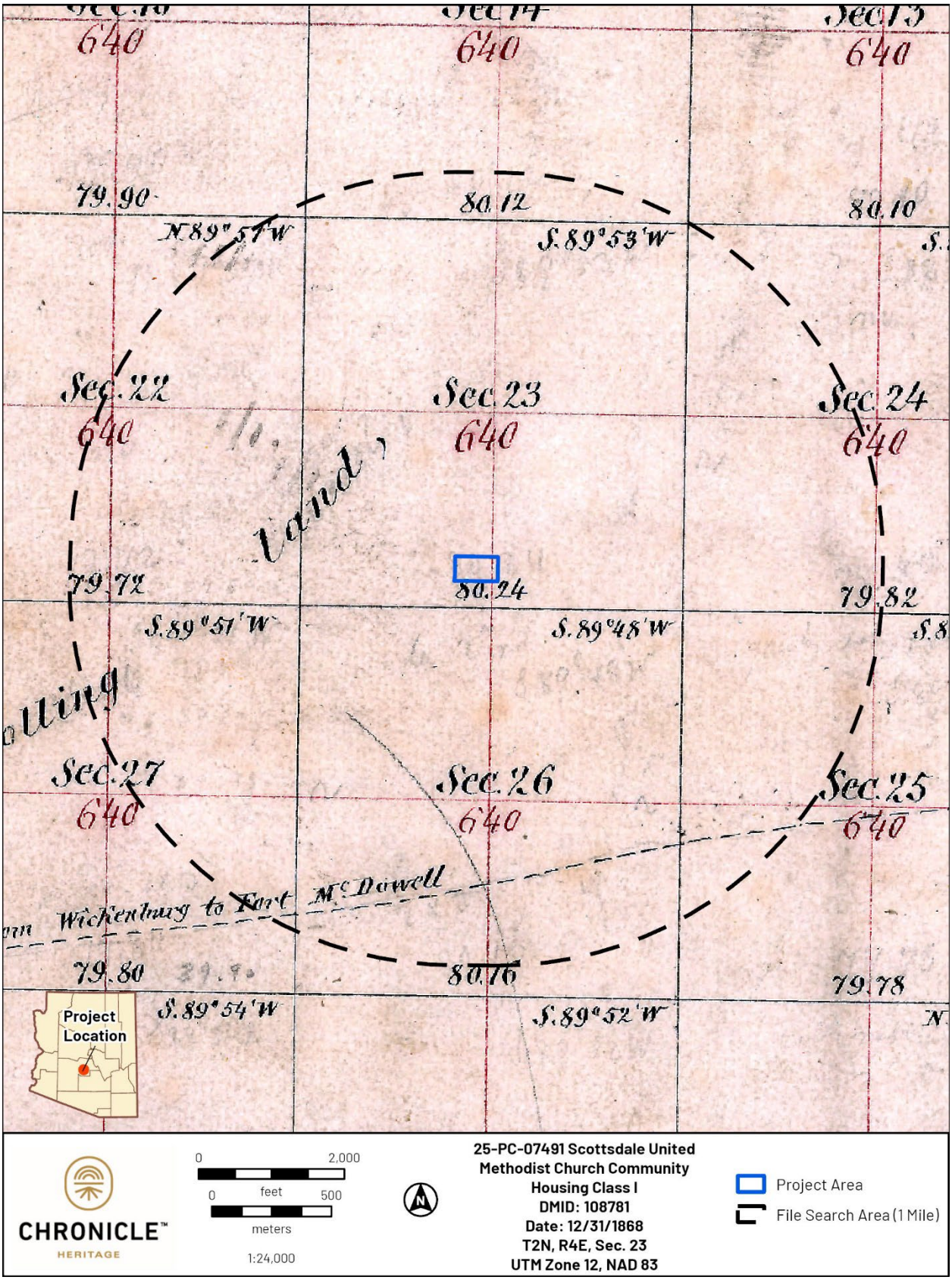


Figure 3. 1870 GLO map depicting the Project area.

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