

## Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

### 1. HISTORIC NAME

Historic Name **MANITO METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**  
Common Name Manito United Methodist Church

### 2. LOCATION

Street & Number 3220 S. Grand Boulevard  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99203  
Tax Parcel Number 35322.1502

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both		<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> residential
<b>Site</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> moved		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Manito United Methodist Church c/o  
Rev. Mark McMurray, Pastor  
Street & Number 3220 S. Grand Boulevard, PO Box 8656  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99203  
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-747-4755, [www.ManitoUMC.org](http://www.ManitoUMC.org),  
[Pastor@ManitoUMC.org](mailto:Pastor@ManitoUMC.org)

### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds Spokane County Courthouse  
Street Number 1116 West Broadway  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99201  
County Spokane

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**6. REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS**

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey  
Date Federal\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_ County\_\_\_\_ Local\_\_\_\_  
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

**7. DESCRIPTION**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

<b>Architectural Classification</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Check One</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
	<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered
	<input type="checkbox"/> fair	
	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<b>Check One</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> moved & date	

**8. SPOKANE REGISTER CATEGORIES & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:**

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane 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 or 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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory history.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**10. DIGITAL PHOTOS, MAPS, SITE PLANS, ARTICLES, ETC.**

*Items are found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**11. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.  
Verbal Boundary Description Cook's Fourth Addition, south 28' of Lots 1-5; all of Lots 10-14 on Block 16.  
Verbal Boundary Justification Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

**12. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name and Title Linda Yeomans, Consultant  
Organization Historic Preservation Planning & Design  
Street, City, State, Zip Code 501 West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203  
Telephone Number & Email 509-456-3828, [lindayeomans@comcast.net](mailto:lindayeomans@comcast.net)  
Date Final Nomination Heard November 16, 2016

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Res. Mark Manning

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: 10/16/16

Date of Landmarks Commission hearing: 11/16/16

Landmarks Commission decision: yes

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: December 12, 2016

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: December 12, 2016

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

Megan Duvall  
Megan Duvall  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer  
City/County Historic Preservation Office  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

11/18/16  
Date

Attest:  
[Signature]  
City Clerk (Acting)

Approved as to form:  
[Signature]  
Assistant City Attorney



[Signature]  
David A. Condon  
Mayor  
City of Spokane

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*2016 photograph of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1923-24*



*2016 photograph of the 1959-built education wing at Manito Methodist Episcopal Church*

## ***SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY***

### ***Summary Statement***

With a prominent hip-roof bell tower, ceramic roof tiles, decorative brick corbels, red brick cladding, arched stained-glass windows, and ornamental carved concrete embellishment, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church<sup>1</sup> is a fine interpretation of Italian Renaissance-style influence. Built in 1923-24, the church is sited on Spokane's South Hill in the heart of the residential/commercial/business core of the Manito Park neighborhood. Soaring to a height of nearly 60 feet, a tall bell tower on the southeast façade corner of the church is especially visible from the church's location at the intersection of 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Grand Boulevard, one of the city's busiest arterial streets. As the church grew, a two-story brick "education wing" with classrooms, offices, a library, and a chapel was built on the west end of the church in 1959. Together, the 1923-24 church and 1959 wing addition reveal a high degree of exterior architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

### ***CURRENT CONDITION & APPEARANCE***

#### ***Site***

Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is built on property owned by the church, legally defined as the south 28 feet of Lots 1-5 (the lots are 136 feet deep from north to south), and all of Lots 10-14, Block 16, in Cook's Fourth Addition in the greater Manito Park neighborhood. Lots 1-5 are each 50 feet wide from east to west. Lots 10-14 are each 50 feet wide from east and west, 137 feet deep from north to south. Sited on a slightly elevated mound, the church is built in a mixed-use residential/commercial/business center on the northwest corner of East 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and South Grand Boulevard. The church is surrounded by directionally correct grid-patterned paved city streets, residential homes built from the early 1900s to the 1980s, and contemporary intrusive infill, including apartment buildings, business and commercial buildings. A Spokane public school, Sacajawea Middle School, is located next west of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. Paved parking lots and United States Post Office Manito Branch are sited north of the church. Two single-family historic homes and a large grassed playfield are located south across 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue from the church, and Grand Boulevard abuts the church property to the east.

#### ***1923-24 Church Exterior***

A slightly irregular rectangular footprint comprises Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. Facing south along 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, the building is 60 feet wide with a depth of 75 feet (at the east wall) to 90 feet deep (at the west wall). The church is a one-story brick masonry construction building with a flat roof of built-up tar. Supporting exterior and interior walls follow on a north/south axis and divide the building's mass into three parts: a 40-foot-wide and 40-foot-high center section flanked by two adjacent smaller 14-foot-wide and 21-foot-high lower flanking side sections visible at east and west exterior elevations.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1968 in America, the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church joined to become the United Methodist Church (UMC). A member of the UMC, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is now referred to as Manito United Methodist Church. However, for purposes of this historic register nomination, the church is called by its historic name, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church.

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Exposed raised foundation walls support the building and a raised basement. The building's flat roof is divided into thirds with a center section of roof, which covers the central massing of the church. The center roof rises 29 feet above the two flanking side sections. A brick parapet with a combination of concrete and metal coping surrounds all three roof sections. The building is clad with face brick in various shades of light to dark red, orange, and brown. Bricks are laid in a common bond pattern with every seventh or eighth course set on end (rowlock). Above the horizontal level of the front entrance, end rowlock bricks are distinguished each with a wire-raked surface in contrast to unraked face bricks that clad the majority of the building. Another prominent area showing rowlock bricks is a rectangular concrete corner stone set in the brick cladding adjacent east of the south facade entrance to the church. The corner stone is framed by rowlock bricks emphasized with wire raking. First-floor windows and upper clerestory windows are original, symmetrically placed, arched fixed units with leaded, colored stained-glass. Raised basement windows are original multi-paned double-hung wood-sash units. The largest and most prominent focal point of the church is a tall, square bell tower on the building's southeast corner facade at 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Grand Boulevard. The bell tower rises nearly 60 feet from grade to a low-pitched hip roof covered with barrel-shaped red ceramic tiles. A tall chimney with a decorative chimney cap and brick corbels rises from the northeast rear slope of the roof. Each elevation of the tower is articulated with three full-height recessed vertical bays separated by full-height projecting pilasters. Exterior walls and pilasters are covered with the same brick cladding as the church, and wire-raked brick rowlock courses produce decorative horizontal patterns in the common bond-patterned brick cladding. In contrast to the red brick cladding of the building, decorative concrete bricks are randomly set in the red brick cladding in south and east facade pilasters. Regarded a striking focal point of the tower, tall arched belfry openings at the top of the tower articulate all four exterior elevations.

The south face of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church faces 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and represents the primary façade of the building. The bell tower is prominently located on the façade's southeast corner and projects south and east two feet from the building. Located in the center of the bell tower's south façade, a staircase with 12 concrete steps leads up to double front entry doors. The steps are flanked by brick walls with concrete coping. Adjacent east of the staircase is a concrete corner stone embedded in the brick wall of the tower. The corner stone declares the building's name and built date: "MANITO METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AD 1923." The double front doors are made of solid oak with recessed panels patterned in a Mediterranean-influenced geometric design (current oak doors replaced original damaged doors in 2015). An entry surround with decorative concrete ornamentation defines the front entry, which is further defined with an arched pediment over the door. The pediment is distinguished with sculpted concrete *bas relief* ornamentation, featuring an image of an open Bible. The 40-foot-wide center section of the church runs north and south, and is located adjacent next west of the bell tower. The center section's south facade is recessed two feet back from the southwest corner of the tower, is clad with red brick, and features five narrow, vertical stained-glass windows separated by concrete pilasters. Each window has a concrete window sill and a concrete relieving arch over a brick lintel at the top of the window. In addition to the five

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relieving arches over the five windows, four additional relieving arches (without windows below them) are located east and west of the five windows—two relieving arches to the west and two relieving arches to the east, for a total of nine relieving arches in a horizontal row. Five centered multi-paned windows with opaque obscure glass are located below the narrow stained-glass windows. A focal point of the church's south façade, a large round rose window with colored cathedral-glass is prominently centered above the tall, narrow stained-glass windows. A lower, narrow 14-foot-wide building section is adjacent west of the larger center section. The south façade of the smaller west section was modified in 1959 with an extended covered front entry, which has a nearly flat roof, brushed aluminum front doors, and pressed face brick cladding laid in stretcher bond.

The east elevation of the church is regarded as a secondary façade, visible from Grand Boulevard (a public right-of-way) and a public sidewalk that abuts the east border of the property. The east elevation of the building is dominated by the church bell tower on the southeast corner of the building. North of the tower, the east elevation is recessed two feet and features the top of the building's 40-foot-high center section and the lower flanking 21-foot-high east section. Both sections are clad with a continuation of the same red face bricks that cover the south façade, and both sections display rows of evenly spaced windows. The center section's exposed windows are arched clerestory units made of multiple leaded and colored stained-glass lights (the clerestory windows illuminate the interior of the church's large nave/auditorium). The east elevation's lower building section features two rows of windows. The lower windows are located at grade in a raised basement foundation and are 8/8 multi-paned with wood sash. The upper windows are arched, fixed, multiple leaded and colored stained-glass units that allow light to enter the first floor of the church. Each window has a concrete window sill. The arched windows in the lower section are surrounded by brick soldier courses at both sides, and capped at the top by arched voussoirs. The arched clerestory windows have arched voussoirs while the raised foundation basement windows are capped by brick soldier courses. A concrete plaque is embedded at the north end of the east elevation. It reads, "GITCHE MANITO THE MIGHTY CALLS THE TRIBES OF MEN TOGETHER."<sup>2</sup>

The west elevation is dominated by a 1959 education addition built on the west lower flanking section of the 1923-24 church. The west education addition covers most of the exterior elevation of the lower west section of the church but a portion of the church's original brick cladding is visible at the building's rear northwest corner. Three 8/8 multi-paned windows at grade in the raised basement and three arched stained-glass windows at the first floor remain exposed at the rear northwest corner. The taller center section of the church building features original exposed stained-glass arched clerestory windows, unhindered by the education addition.

The north rear elevation of the church reveals the end of the higher center section of the building and the ends of the two lower flanking sections on the east and west elevations.

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<sup>2</sup> The plaque's inscribed sentence is from English poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, "The Peace Pipe," in which "Gitchee Manito the Mighty calls the tribes of men together."

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The north rear elevation is clad with the same red face brick as the rest of the building. Plain metal back doors at the northeast and northwest corners of the rear elevation were installed in the 1960s-1980s, replacing raised basement windows. In 1963-64, a small addition (12 feet wide and eight feet deep) clad with pebbled stucco was built on the north rear elevation of the church to hold pipes of a working pipe organ (organ is located in the sanctuary).

***1923-24 Church Interior***

Spokane County Tax Assessor records indicate the size of the first floor is 4,630 finished square feet. The raised basement is finished with 4,630 square feet.<sup>3</sup> Double front doors open from the south façade of the bell tower into a vestibule. The woodwork in the vestibule is original ebony-finished fir and the floor is made of original oak planks now covered by ceramic tile (circa 1980s installation). A staircase made of ebony-finished fir with plain vertical balusters (4 balusters per tread) turns and rises to an upper hall. An original ebony-finished paneled-fir door on the upper hall's west wall opens to a balcony/choir loft. Square newel posts anchor the staircase. Original ebony-finished double paneled-fir doors open west from the first floor's vestibule on the west wall to the narthex (south foyer) of the church.

The narthex is a long narrow room (eight feet wide and 30 feet long) that runs from east to west. Two partial walls separate the narthex from the nave. The partial walls are made of four concrete posts, between which are located lower wood panels and upper obscure, colored glass panels. A center entry and two side entries in the wall open to the nave/auditorium from the narthex. A balcony/choir loft is located above the narthex, and is supported by the partial wall's concrete posts. The nave/auditorium is a large room 40 feet wide and more than 55 feet long from the narthex to the sanctuary and altar at the north rear wall. The large nave/auditorium is furnished with rows of church pews that face the sanctuary and altar at the north wall. The sanctuary is three steps higher than the floor of the nave/auditorium. A large metal cross is located on the north rear sanctuary wall. The nave/auditorium is 40 feet high with a flat ceiling. Massive decorative boxed ceiling beams and massive scroll-sawn brackets support the ceiling's wide and deep expanse.<sup>4</sup> Contemporary bowl-shaped opaque-glass pendant light fixtures are attached to each bracketed ceiling beam. Arched leaded stained-glass clerestory windows with multiple lights illuminate the nave/auditorium, and a leaded stained-glass rose window illuminates the balcony/choir loft above the narthex. The east wall and the west wall in the auditorium have 9-foot-high arched openings (colonnade) that lead to 14-foot-deep halls and rooms along the east and west perimeter walls of the church. The areas were designed for overflow seating, classrooms and meeting rooms, and a room called the "pastor's study" (northwest corner). North and south of the arched colonnades, massive six- to eight-foot-wide original ebony-finished fir pocket doors are hidden in walls. The doors slide open to reveal the aforementioned hallway classrooms used for overflow seating. Original floors in the narthex, nave/auditorium, and overflow halls/classrooms are made of oak, now covered with commercial wall-to-wall carpet. Windows along the

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<sup>3</sup> Spokane County Tax Assessor records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA

<sup>4</sup> Massive wood ceiling beams running east-west are covered with a decorative cast plaster.



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east and west perimeter walls at the first floor are arched leaded, stained-glass multiple lights with scenes from the Bible. Most windows were “in-memoriam” gifts to the church from former parishioners and various organizations within the church. Walls and ceilings are original lathe-and-plaster construction. Woodwork is a combination of original ebony-finished fir and painted wood.

A full raised basement extends from the south wall to the north wall of the church. A large multi-purpose fellowship hall (originally a gymnasium) is located in the center section of the basement. The multi-purpose room leads east and west into a kitchen, café, restrooms, offices, storage, and mechanical rooms located along the east and west perimeter walls of the basement. An interior stairway is located in the back entrance on the northeast corner of the church, and leads up to the first floor. Another stairway in the southwest corner of the room leads up to split-entry stairs that lead to the first floor. Walls and ceilings in the basement are made of original lathe-and-plaster construction. Floors are covered with tiled linoleum. Woodwork is painted.

***1959 Addition***

In 1959, an “education wing” was built on the west elevation of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. Sited in the center of Lots 10, 11, and 12, Block 16, the educational wing has a rectangular footprint at 123 feet wide and 60 feet deep. The building features three floors—a raised basement, first floor, and second floor. Each floor has 7,496 square feet for a total of 22,488 square feet.<sup>5</sup> The building has a low-pitched end gable roof covered with composition shingles. Overhanging boxed eaves and narrow, plain bargeboards define the roof’s edge. The building is clad in smooth red pressed brick veneer laid in stretcher bond. The south and north elevations of the building have horizontal rows of large multi-paned windows with a modern multi-paned geometric design. All of the windows are continuous with the same size, material, and 1959 age, and all of the windows have brushed aluminum frames. A horizontal row of blue/green-colored metal panels covered with a ceramic coating separates the rows of windows between the first and second floors on the south and north elevations. Matching plain concrete retaining walls are built below and above grade in front of the raised basement windows on the south and north elevations. Six massive, full-height, plain brick pilasters are spread evenly across the north and south faces of the building with two windows between each pilaster. A full-height front-facing gabled bay projects five feet from the east end of the building’s south façade. The bay is 22 feet wide and is clad with smooth red brick veneer. The bay’s front-facing gable face is partially covered in the center with vertical, ceramic-coated, rectangular-shaped metal panels—ten panels in a horizontal row at the lower edge of the gable face at the level of the first floor, rising to ten panels high from the lower edge of the gable face to the top of the gable peak. Attached to the center of the ceramic-coated metal panels is an outline metal sculpture—a modern interpretation of the outline of a shepherd and his staff standing next to a lamb. The east elevation of the addition is partially exposed above the second floor and is covered with wide clapboard siding. Beneath the clapboard is the flat roof of the 1923-24 church. The west

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<sup>5</sup> Spokane County Tax Assessor records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA

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elevation of the addition features a gable end roof with plain, narrow bargeboards, smooth brick cladding laid in stretcher bond, and a center first-floor double entry. The double entrance has two plain brushed aluminum-framed doors with safety glazing. Above the door on the face of the west elevation is a center recessed arrangement of contiguous vertical rectangular-shaped ceramic-coated metal panels arranged like the aforementioned panels on the front-facing gable bay at the south façade. Mimicking the panel arrangement on the front-facing gable bay, the west elevation panels rise to the peak of the gable end roof. An exterior back security door replaced an original window at the north rear elevation of the addition at the first floor.

At the south façade between the 1959 addition and the 1923-24 church is a small entry with double brushed aluminum and glass front doors.<sup>6</sup> The double entry doors open to an interior landing that leads to a split entry with an east staircase and a west staircase, leading upper floors and a lower floor. All three floors of the addition are finished alike with nine-foot ceilings covered with sound-absorbing acoustical tiles, original 1959 lathe-and-plaster walls, and linoleum-tiled floors. A long hallway running east-west runs the length of each floor. There are eight to ten rooms to each floor—some rooms have been combined as one large room. Rooms are used as Sunday school classrooms, pre-school classrooms, meeting rooms, a nursery, offices, library, and restrooms. A chapel with a vaulted cathedral ceiling is located on the south side of the first floor in the front-facing gabled bay at the south face of the building. The chapel is embellished with a south, stone-clad sanctuary wall adorned with a wood cross. Sidelights built perpendicular to the south wall of the sanctuary at the east and west wall junctures illuminate the center of the sanctuary's south wall. Wood church pews face the sanctuary.

Behind the 1959 addition's north rear elevation is a 700 square-foot picnic shelter. Built in 1965, the picnic shelter is a covered, open-sided shelter with a fireplace. The shelter has a hexagonal footprint with six sides supported by wood posts. The floor of the shelter is poured concrete. The shelter's roof is covered with composition shingles. The 1965 picnic shelter is *not nominated* at this time to the Spokane Register of Historic Places.<sup>7</sup>

***ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & MODIFICATIONS***

A 1922 architectural elevation drawing of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church can be matched to the exterior of the church today in 2016.<sup>8</sup> The match is nearly perfect except for one large modification: An “education wing” addition was built on the west elevation of the church in 1959. Modifications to Manito Methodist Episcopal Church include:

1924-1950     The church's original sunken basement gymnasium floor was raised to a level needed to accommodate an 11 foot ceiling. The room was then

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<sup>6</sup> The small entry between the church and education wing was originally designed and built as part of the 1923-24 church but was modified in 1959 when the educational wing was built on the west elevation of the church.

<sup>7</sup> Spokane County Tax Assessor records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA

<sup>8</sup> Cutter Collection. EWSHS, MAC Archives, Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA

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- refinished as a spacious multi-purpose room. Space under the raised floor is used for storage.
- 1955 The choir loft was modified with a single-row seating extension over the nave/auditorium. City of Spokane building permit #B26249, March 1955.
- 1958-59 An “educational wing” was built on the west elevation of the original church. City of Spokane building permit #B42768, Sept 1958.
- 1963-64 The church sanctuary on the north wall in the nave/auditorium was enlarged and remodeled to allow for additional pew seating. A small single-story addition was built on the north rear exterior elevation of the church to hold the pipes of a pipe organ purchased in 1963.<sup>9</sup> A backdoor was installed at grade and an interior staircase was built in the northeast corner of the building.
- 1965 A wood picnic shelter was built behind the north rear of the church. Spokane building permit #B60107.
- 1970 The raised basement multi-purpose room (social hall) was remodeled, and wall-to-wall carpet was installed.
- 1983 The 1959 addition was re-roofed with composition shingles. City of Spokane building permit #0016A.
- 2015 The original ebony-finished fir-paneled front doors of the 1923-24 church were replaced with oak front doors similar to the original door design.

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<sup>9</sup> Manito Methodist Episcopal Church archives.

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**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<i>Areas of Significance</i>	<i>Architecture</i>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	<i>1923-1959</i>
<i>Built Date</i>	<i>1923-24, 1959</i>
<i>Architect for 1923-24 church</i>	<i>Kirtland K. Cutter</i>
<i>Architect for 1959 education wing</i>	<i>George M. Rasque</i>

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Built in 1923-24, and modified in 1959 with the addition of an “educational” wing, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category C for its architectural significance. The property’s period of significance starts with the church’s 1923 built date, and ends in 1959 when the educational addition was constructed. The 1923-24 church is a fine example of Italian Renaissance-style influence, and is artistically distinguished with arched leaded stained-glass windows, red brick cladding with decorative brick patterns, ornamental concrete *bas relief* sculpture, and a prominent 60-foot-tall square bell tower. According to church archives, the design and materials for the tower at Manito Methodist Episcopal Church were greatly influenced by one of the great historic basilicas in Italy—St. Francis Basilica of Assisi, Umbria, built in the 1200’s.<sup>10</sup> In contrast to the 1923-24 church, the 1959 education addition depicts hallmark characteristics of Mid-Century Modern-style influence with a low-pitched roof, brushed aluminum window frames, horizontal rows of windows with modern designs, and horizontal rows of decorative blue/green-colored ceramic-clad metal wall panels. The church and addition represent the work of professional architects well-known in Spokane, Kirtland K. Cutter and George M. Rasque respectively, and reflect a high degree of exterior architectural integrity.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

***Manito Plateau***

In 1901 when Cook’s 4<sup>th</sup> Addition was platted,<sup>11</sup> the area atop the tall, steep, rugged basalt bluff at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (south of downtown) was known as the Manito Plateau. Mostly undeveloped at that time, the south plateau spread further south and uphill over hilly, uneven ground dotted with evergreen trees, native brush and grasses, and large basalt outcroppings. Although platted in the late 1890s and early 1900s, development of the Manito Plateau did not begin in earnest until three public parks were established on the plateau between 1903 and 1907—Cliff Park, Cannon Hill Park, and Manito Park. The public parks acted as developmental catalysts and helped spur some of the finest residential and mixed-use suburban neighborhood development in Spokane.

Necessary water/sewer/gas/electric service infrastructure systems were installed, roads and sidewalks were graded/paved, street trees were planted, private and public transportation linking the Manito Plateau with downtown Spokane was established, and

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<sup>10</sup> Manito Methodist Episcopal Church archives and records.

<sup>11</sup> Spokane County Tax Assessor. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA

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single-family homes, schools, and churches were built. Mixed-use commercial and business activity in the neighborhood sparked the construction of various frame and brick buildings used as grocery markets, shops and stores, creameries, gas stations, educational facilities, and churches. Most of the building activity followed Grand Boulevard uphill from 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At least four churches were built in the 1920s along Grand Boulevard,<sup>12</sup> beginning with St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral on 13<sup>th</sup> and Grand followed by St. Mark’s Lutheran Church (24<sup>th</sup> and Grand), a Baptist church (25<sup>th</sup> and Grand—a non-denominational church in 2016), and Manito Methodist Episcopal Church (33<sup>rd</sup> and Grand). “Manito District” as the residential neighborhoods and the commercial/business core in the greater Manito Park neighborhood were originally called, is today known as simply “Manito.” Proud of their Manito surroundings and location on the Manito Plateau, the parishioners and members of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church specifically chose the name “Manito” for their church.<sup>13</sup>

***Manito Methodists***

As told by Manito Methodist Episcopal Church members, families began to settle in Manito around 1900. In 1906, a small white school house was built on 37<sup>th</sup> and Hatch by people in the area. The need for a Sunday school arose so Sunday school classes were held in the school house. As Manito Methodist Episcopal Church parishioner Marna Estep tells the story, “It was decided, as there were more Methodists than Baptists, to let the Methodists take over.” In 1909, 39 members made up of both Baptists and Methodists were received into the Methodist church congregation. Two years later in 1911, a city building lot was purchased at 502 E. 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on the southwest corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Grand Boulevard. A small rectangular white-painted frame church with a gable end roof was built—the first church building owned by Manito Methodist Episcopal Church and the only Methodist church in Manito. Church membership began to grow and soon a larger church was needed.<sup>14</sup>

In August 1918, the Spokane-Washington Improvement Company sold three lots across the street north from the little church on 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The lots were located on the northwest corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> and Grand and included Lots 12, 13, and 14 in Block 16. Vernon Robertson purchased the lots for \$664 and two years later, sold the lots to J. L. & Lorena Richards. The Richards did not build on the property but instead sold the land in 1921 to Seymour & Mary E. Birch. Active and generous church members, the Birches immediately conveyed the property the day they purchased it on June 16, 1921 to Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. The following special warranty deed condition and declaration of land use was included in the conveyance of land to be used:

*In trust for the use of the Manito Methodist Episcopal Church of  
Spokane, Incorporated, subject to the doctrines, law, usages, and*

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<sup>12</sup> Although not sited on Grand Boulevard, Manito Presbyterian Church was built on 29<sup>th</sup> and Latawah, two blocks west of Grand, during the same time as the churches located on Grand Boulevard.

<sup>13</sup> The North American Indian word, “Manito,” is said to translate to “hilltop,” “spirit,” and “children of the sun.” Bamonte, p. 40.

<sup>14</sup> Manito Methodist Episcopal Church archives. *Manito Memories*, 1999.

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*Ministerial Appointments of the Methodist Episcopal Church as from time to time established, made and declared by the lawful authority of the said church; and if the said property shall be sold or encumbered the proceeds of the sale or encumbrance shall be applied to the use aforesaid; subject however to the provision of the law of the church relating to abandoned church property and of that forbidding the mortgaging of real estate for current expenses.*

The warranty deed ends with the statement, “*The Grantors make this conveyance as a deed of gift*”—a purposed, charitable donation of land from the Grantors, Seymour & Mary Birch, to Manito Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>15</sup>

***Seymour & Mary Birch***

Seymour Birch was born in 1843 in Amsterdam, New York. He came to Spokane in 1889, married Mary E. Munson, and founded a real estate business with his wife’s brother, George Munson. He built many buildings in Spokane, including the Birch Block on 2nd Avenue and Wall Street (built in 1904), the Munson Block (1918, demolished), the Espanola Apartments in Browne’s Addition (1907), and the architectural Asian-inspired five-story, luxury Tokyo Apartments on Sixth Avenue and South McClellan Street (1910, demolished).<sup>16</sup> In addition to his real estate and development business, Birch also owned and operated several mines.<sup>17</sup>

***Manito Methodist Episcopal Church***

Progressive trends among churches were popular in the United States in the 1920s. World War I had just ended and people felt the need for churches to be used as community hubs and meeting places as well as spiritual centers. A *Spokesman-Review* newspaper article printed on August 11, 1921 described the feeling of many people:

***A Progressive Trend Among the Churches***

*The extent to which the church in different communities is preparing to take a position of influence in civic welfare is indicated by the number of new churches about to be built and by the type of the contemplated structures. In almost all of them is embodied the community center idea. The spiritual affairs of the people are recognized as closely allied to their everyday lives, and so we have clubrooms in the churches, [and] kitchens, gymnasiums, and playrooms.*

To accommodate uses as community centers as well as houses of worship, churches were re-designed to fulfill different spiritual and social community needs. Manito Methodist

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<sup>15</sup> Thirty years later, Lots 10 and 11 and part of Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 16 were purchased by Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. Today in 2016, property owned by the church includes Lots 10 through 14 and the south 28 feet of Lots 1 through 5, all in Block 16.

<sup>16</sup> The name of the apartment block was later changed to the Seymour Apartments during World War II, and demolished in 2003 for the expansion of Sacred Heart Hospital (Sisters of Providence).

<sup>17</sup> “Death Summons Seymour Birch.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 7 Feb 1924.

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Episcopal Church members, Seymour & Mary Birch, were cognizant of the new directional church trends at that time. They had a dream to build a new, larger church building for the church's growing congregation and the congregations' spiritual and community needs. Requiring a level site on which to build the new church, Seymour Birch bought three consecutive lots in 1921 on the northwest corner of 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Grand Boulevard for the church. Birch then chose one of Spokane's most celebrated architects, Kirtland Cutter, to design a church that would hold 300-400 congregants. Birch consulted with Cutter for several years before they finalized a new church plan.

In the summer of 1921, future plans for a new church building were described in *Spokesman-Review* and *Spokane Daily Chronicle* newspaper anticipatory articles published on August 10<sup>th</sup> and August 11<sup>th</sup> respectively. Headlines in the August 10<sup>th</sup> article touted a church "community center, Sunday school, and gymnasium," and claimed the new church will include a "community center section...with meeting rooms for men and women, a reading room, a modern kitchen, and a large dining room...the gymnasium will have moving picture facilities."<sup>18</sup>

The August 11<sup>th</sup> *Spokane Daily Chronicle* anticipatory article highlighted the following future church features:

***Plan Elaborate  
Art Features for Manito Methodist Church  
Stained-Glass Windows Selected***

*Features of the new Manito Methodist church at 33<sup>rd</sup> and Grand...will include stained-glass windows depicting scenes from Bible history, and one large window at the back of the church. The main entrance will be on 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and will open on a foyer [narthex] 10x30 feet in dimension. From this foyer, stairways will lead down to the gymnasium with its surrounding rooms for community and social benefit, and other stairways will lead up to the main auditorium [nave] and the Sunday school rooms. The main body of the church will cover an area of almost 60x75 feet. The roof will be approximately 40 feet from the ground, and the tower and belfry will stand nearly 60 feet above ground. As well as a \$300 chime of bells there will be a toiling bell.<sup>19</sup>*

*Opening from the main auditorium [nave], the Sunday school rooms will be divided from the church proper...by...[pocket] doors which can be easily opened to enlarge the seating capacity of the church. The seating capacity of the auditorium [nave] will be about 400. A pipe organ, which will fill the rear of the church [sanctuary] behind the pulpit, is to be installed at an estimated cost of \$3,000. The windows of the church... are to be paid for by*

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<sup>18</sup> "Donates \$50,000 For New Church." *Spokesman-Review*, 10 Aug 1921.

<sup>19</sup> Although described in the 1921 anticipatory newspaper article, the bell chimes and toiling bell were not installed as of 2016.

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*the congregation. Floors throughout [the church] are to be of hardwood, and the building will be finished in the Italian Renaissance style.*<sup>20</sup>

The newspaper articles gave great hope for the construction of a new and larger church for Manito Methodists. Because of the generous donation of church members, Seymour & Mary Birch, this hope was realized. In addition to purchasing land for the church's building site and commissioning prominent Spokane architect Kirtland Cutter to design the church, Seymour & Mary Birch donated from their private resources a very large sum of money—\$30,000 to 40,000—to help build the new church.<sup>21</sup>

On April 13, 1924—three years after the 1921 anticipatory articles—construction of the building was complete and the church was opened to the public.

***Will Dedicate Manito Church on Next Sunday***

*The new \$60,000 Manito Methodist church will be formally opened next Sunday. Through large gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Birch, the new church has been made possible. Up to his death two months ago, Mr. Birch took a personal interest in the plans and completion of the structure. It is hoped to have the church free of debt when the formal dedication is held in May or the first part of June.*<sup>22</sup>

The church was dedicated on June 8, 1924. “A memorial service was held in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Birch, whose generous gift had made the new church possible.”<sup>23</sup> Church member Marna Estep remembered, “Joy was mingled with sadness, for the benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Birch, whose dream this modern structure had been, did not live to attend the first service within its walls.”<sup>24</sup> The colored cathedral-glass round rose window in the balcony/choir loft was created, installed, and dedicated in memoriam to “Mary E. Birch, Wife of Seymour Birch.”

***1959 Education Addition***

Manito Methodist Episcopal Church continued to grow and by the late 1950s, church membership exceeded more than 700. A newspaper article was featured in the April 10, 1958 *Spokane Daily Chronicle* with an artist's rendering and description of a new proposed church and education wing, which would replace the 1923-24 church.

***Planned Church***

*This modern building of brick, ceramic tile, and glass is the proposed new \$500,000 Manito Methodist church, to be erected at the site of the present church, 33<sup>rd</sup> and Grand. The education wing will be built first with construction expected to start this summer. The [education*

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<sup>20</sup> “Plan Elaborate Art Features for Manito Methodist Church.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 13 Aug 1921

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> “Will Dedicate Manito Methodist Church on Next Wednesday.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 7 April 1924

<sup>23</sup> Manito Methodist Episcopal Church archives.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.



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*wing]...will accommodate 600 at Sunday school sessions. The new wing will [also] include a small chapel, choir rooms and rehearsal rooms, a bride's room, a nursery and crib room, initial facilities for youth, a library, and offices for the pastor, director of education, and church secretary.<sup>25</sup>*

Less than a year after the newspaper article appeared, the education wing was erected in 1959. The proposed church, however, has never been built to date. Instead, the original 1923-24 church continues to be preserved.

In contrast to the Italian Renaissance-style influence of the 1923-24 church, the attached education wing, designed by prominent Spokane architect, George Rasque, was built with strong influence from the Mid-Century Modern style. From the addition's front entry, split-level entry stairs lead west into three floors of classrooms, meeting rooms, offices, library, restrooms, and a chapel for a total of nearly 25 rooms. Open to non-profit groups as a community center, the education wing has been used by various Girl Scout troops, Camp Fire Girls leadership training, Daybreak of Spokane, Samaritan Counseling Center, and the South Hill Ecumenical School of Theology. In 2016 the building is used by Boy Scouts of America troops, yoga classes, a bagpipe group, three cooperative pre-schools, and a Montessori elementary school. The building also provides space to multiple service organizations such as Spokane County's Juvenile Diversion Program and CASA Partners' My Bag, a program that provides age-appropriate supplies to Spokane-area children entering foster care.

### ***ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE***

#### ***Category C***

Category C of the Spokane Register of Historic Places applies to “properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork.”<sup>26</sup> To be eligible for historic register listing under Category C, “a property must meet at least one of the following requirements:”<sup>27</sup>

1. *Embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.*
2. *Represent the work of a master.*
3. *Possess high artistic value.*<sup>28</sup>

Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is nominated under Category C in the area of significance, “architecture,” because it “embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction” and “refers to the way” in which the “property was conceived, designed, or fabricated by a people or culture in past periods of history.”<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> “Planned Church—Manito Methodist to Erect \$500,000 Building.” *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 10 April 1958

<sup>26</sup> *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. p 17.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid*, p. 17

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“Distinctive characteristics are the physical features or traits that commonly recur in individual types, periods, or methods of construction. To be eligible, a property must clearly contain enough of those characteristics to be considered a true representative of a particular type, period, or method of construction.”<sup>30</sup>

Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is a fine example of influence from both the Italian Renaissance style and Mid-Century Modern style because it retains and displays stylistic elements and architectural features of both traditions. The church possesses high artistic values, which are particularly evident in the well-preserved quality, craftsmanship, and architectural integrity of the church’s original and unique expressions of the Italian Renaissance style and the Mid-Century Modern style.

***Italian Renaissance Style***

The Italian Renaissance style enjoyed popularity from 1890 to 1935 during a time when revivals of earlier prototypes were in vogue.<sup>31</sup> Architectural historian Carole Rifkind wrote that during this time, “fine churches grew up along grand residential avenues in the nation’s great cities, in thriving automobile suburbs, in booming resort towns. Church architecture was nothing if not careful, correct, and sincere.”<sup>32</sup> She explained:

*Ralph Adams Cram, foremost church architect of the period, best expressed the mood that would dominate the first third of the twentieth century: ‘Build in stone or brick; plan with rigid simplicity; design both interior and exterior with reserve, formality and self-control; have the mass simple, the composition equally so.’*

*[As] respectful students of historical precedent and quality construction, twentieth-century revivalists conscientiously searched the past for inspiration and symbolism more than for form or content. The early twentieth-century church sought an ‘ecclesiastical atmosphere’ for its buildings. Religion protected itself within solid walls of familiar shapes—Gothic and Romanesque...and Roman Renaissance [Italian Renaissance] in their regional varieties.*<sup>33</sup>

Defining features of the Italian Renaissance Revival style include a low-pitched hip roof, usually covered with ceramic tiles; flat and pitched roofs with a detailed cornice; arched windows and doors located either individually or as groups in a colonnade; porches or entrance areas usually accented by columns or pilasters; and symmetrically patterned facades. Preferred building materials include brick masonry and stone masonry in light colors, and plastered and painted poured concrete with smooth surfaces and simplified carving. The plan for the church tends to be functional and organized, and in some instances, compact. In summary, Rifkind explained, “twentieth-century design is careful

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid, p. 18

<sup>31</sup> McAlester, Lee & Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1989.

<sup>32</sup> Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Penguin Group, 1980.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

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and correct in selecting historical details, and inventive in using them to fulfill modern requirements. Proportions are generally horizontal, accentuated by a tall tower or high dome.” Finally “ornament is generally selected from a single historical style. It is reworked in a new design for a quiet, rather than a blatant, originality...formal and symmetrical, it may be distinguished by circular windows and round arches.”<sup>34</sup>

Manito Methodist Episcopal Church reflects various elements and features from a revival of the Italian Renaissance style. These include a simple massed plan for the church, brick and concrete masonry, decorative plastered surfaces (ceiling beams), simplified carving in low relief (facade entrance with carved concrete surround and pediment), brick masonry cladding, arched windows, a round rose window, stained-glass and colored cathedral-glass windows, arched openings (interior colonnade walls and tower belfry arches), and a prominent tall square bell tower. Manito Methodist Episcopal Church archives/records state that the design and ornamentation for the church’s tall bell tower were influenced by the 1200 Romanesque-style tower design seen at St. Francis of Assisi, Umbria, Italy. Emphasized with arched belfry openings, brick cladding, brick corbel courses, and a low-pitched hip roof covered with red ceramic tiles, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church’s square bell tower is an architectural focal point, and reflects specific and correct historic details influenced by the design of St. Francis of Assisi basilica.

***Kirtland K. Cutter, Architect (1860-1939)***

In addition to its importance as an influenced embodiment of the Italian Renaissance style, the 1923-24 Manito Methodist Episcopal Church is also the product of early Spokane master architect, Kirtland Kelsey Cutter. Architectural historian, Henry Matthews, explained in his book, *Kirtland Cutter: Architect in the Land of Promise*, that while Cutter’s partners provided the technical expertise, Cutter was the artist and designer.<sup>35</sup> Cutter partnered first with Spokane architect, J. C. Poetz, for a short time, and later with Karl Gunnar Malmgren from 1889 to 1917. He then practiced alone until he left Spokane in 1923.

Kirtland Cutter was born in Ohio in 1860, studied at the Art Students’ League in New York, and traveled extensively throughout Europe where he pursued an education in art and architecture. He moved to Spokane in 1886 when he was 26 years old and lived with an uncle for a time. Cutter began designing homes shortly before the devastating Spokane Fire of 1889, but his rise to prominence began after the fire, which necessitated a rebuilding of nearly all of downtown Spokane. Inspired by his travels in Europe and the Far East, Cutter’s unique imprint can be seen in the buildings, homes, and churches he designed. He designed more than 30 homes in the Spokane area in a wide range of styles from Patsy Clark’s eclectic Italian Renaissance-style villa, John Finch’s Neoclassical-style home, and D. C. Corbin’s spacious Colonial Revival-style house, to the Mission-inspired Wakefield mansion, the Tudor Revival-style Graves estate (Waikiki), and the Nuzum House on West Sumner Avenue. He designed numerous

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<sup>34</sup> Refkind, pp. 156-164.

<sup>35</sup> Matthews, Henry. *Kirtland Cutter: Architect in the Land of Promise*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1998.

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commercial buildings, including the Spokane Club, the Washington Water Power Substation, the Sherwood Building, the Chronicle Building, and the Davenport Hotel.<sup>36</sup> Finally, Cutter designed at least four churches, three in Washington State and one in Idaho. One of the churches he designed in Washington is Manito Methodist Episcopal Church in Spokane. “To him perhaps goes the distinction of having contributed more freely than any other man to the architectural beauty of Spokane, in the artistic homes he designed, and for the metropolitan appearance of the buildings for which he was also the architect.”<sup>37</sup>

Kirtland Cutter’s flare for eye-catching aesthetic detail is evident in his work in Spokane. At Manito Methodist Episcopal Church, this is evident in his work on the church. Seymour Birch, the church parishioner who hired Cutter to design Manito Methodist Episcopal Church, was interested in church architecture and had travelled to Europe where he became familiar with many of the continent’s notable churches, including the basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy. To Cutter, Birch expressed his interest in the basilica’s Romanesque architectural style and his desire for a design to reflect the basilica’s likeness for the new Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. Because he had also travelled extensively throughout Europe, Cutter was able to fulfill Birch’s desire for the design of a new Manito Methodist Episcopal Church that reflected Italy’s St. Francis of Assisi basilica through the use of the Italian Renaissance style, a popular revival style in the 1920s. Built in 1923-24, Manito Methodist Episcopal Church reflects the prominent tall square tower with a low-pitched hip roof, ceramic roof tiles, brick masonry, and tall open belfry arches displayed on St. Francis of Assisi basilica. Manito Methodist Episcopal Church was one of Cutter’s last commissions before he left Spokane and moved to Southern California in 1923. He worked for another 16 years on several Mediterranean-influenced designs for large homes and estates, a school, college, and an athletic club—all located in posh locales, including Palos Verdes, Long Beach, Santa Ana, San Marino, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Balboa Island, and Laguna Beach. He died in 1939.

### ***Mid-Century Modern Style***

In contrast to the historic revival influence of the Italian Renaissance style so well expressed at Manito Methodist Episcopal Church, architectural historian Carole Rifkind says, “Modern church design—attempting contemporaneity—eliminates references to historical precedent, strips away ornament, and searches for original forms.”<sup>38</sup> The 1959 education wing attached to the west face of Manito Methodist Episcopal Church fits the aforementioned description. The education wing expresses Mid-Century Modern characteristics through its simple horizontal massing, low-pitched side gable roof, smooth light-colored pressed brick masonry cladding, accentuated brick pilasters, and geometric designs formed by horizontal rows of windows with brushed aluminum frames. A focal point of the building and a strong characteristic of the Mid-Century Modern style is the

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<sup>36</sup> Davenport Hotel was designed at different times by two architects: K. K. Cutter and G. A. Pehrson.

<sup>37</sup> EWSHS. *Spokane Skyline: A Century of Architecture, 1889-1989*. Spokane: EWSHS, 1989, p. 13.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*

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application of horizontal rows of blue/green-colored ceramic and metal panels located between rows of windows.

***George M. Rasque, Architect (1891-1977)***

George M. Rasque was born in Madison, Wisconsin in 1891. He came to Spokane, worked for the Spokane architectural firm Whitehouse & Price, and later partnered with Arthur Sackville-West, with whom he founded the firm, Rasque & Sackville-West Architects. Rasque was responsible for many designs in Spokane and the Spokane region, and worked alone and with his son, and later with Arthur Sackville-West. Commissions include numerous single-family homes; EWU College of Education; an airport design for Spokane County; Lakeland Village School; Spokane Medical Center; VA Hospital; WA State Penitentiary in Walla Walla; Benton, Ferry, and Stevens County courthouses; utility buildings in Spokane, Davenport, Lewiston, Sandpoint; and more than 60 schools in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. In 1959, Rasque designed the education wing at Manito Methodist Episcopal Church. From his work on Tudor Revival to Mediterranean-styled homes, to numerous public school and commercial building designs, to the Mid-Century Modern-influenced education wing for the Manito Methodist Episcopal Church in Spokane, George Rasque was “one of the best known architects in Washington State” and “is recognized as having been one of Spokane’s and the Pacific Northwest’s most productive and best known architects.”<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>39</sup> George M. Rasque archives from R. J. Danson Collection.

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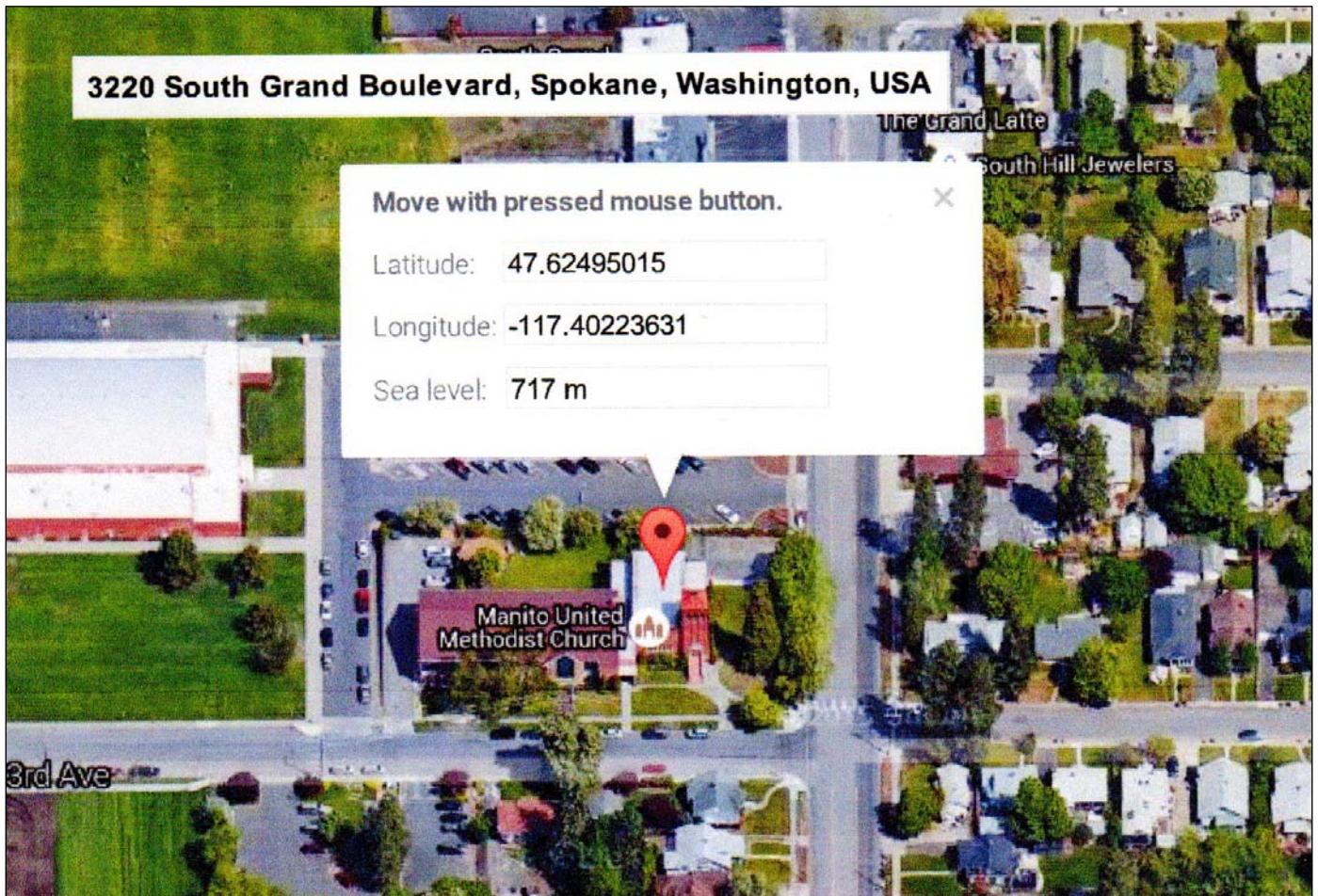
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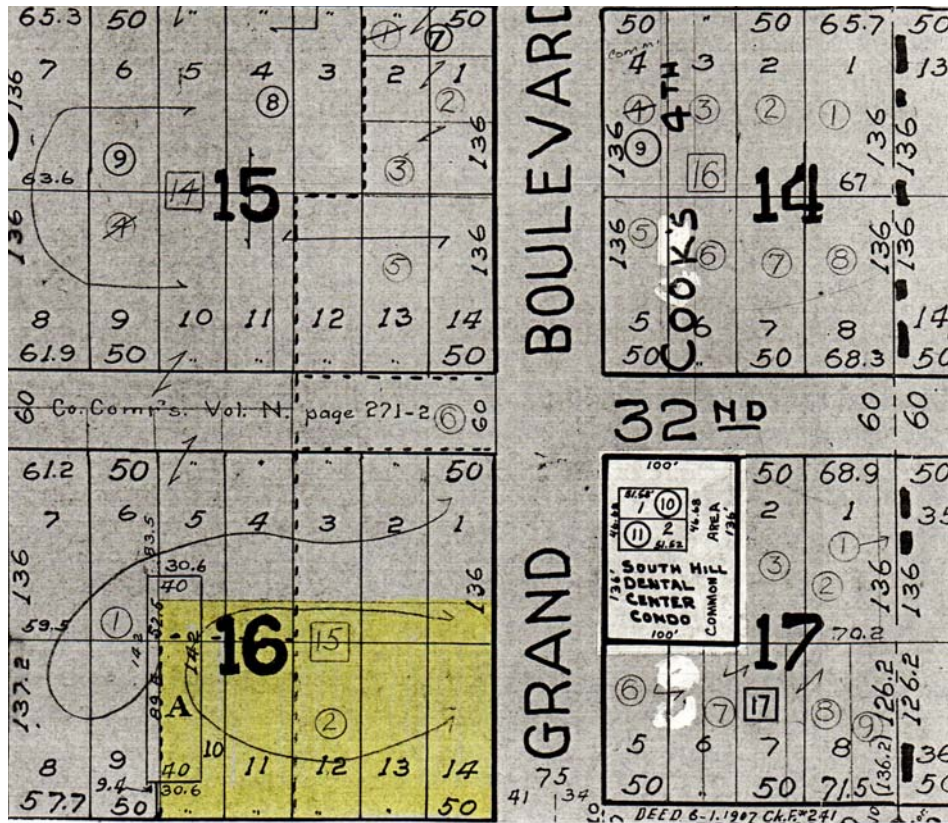


*Manito Methodist Episcopal Church in 2016*



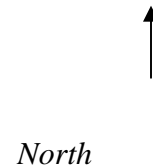
*Source: Google Maps, 2016*

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*Spokane County Plat Map*

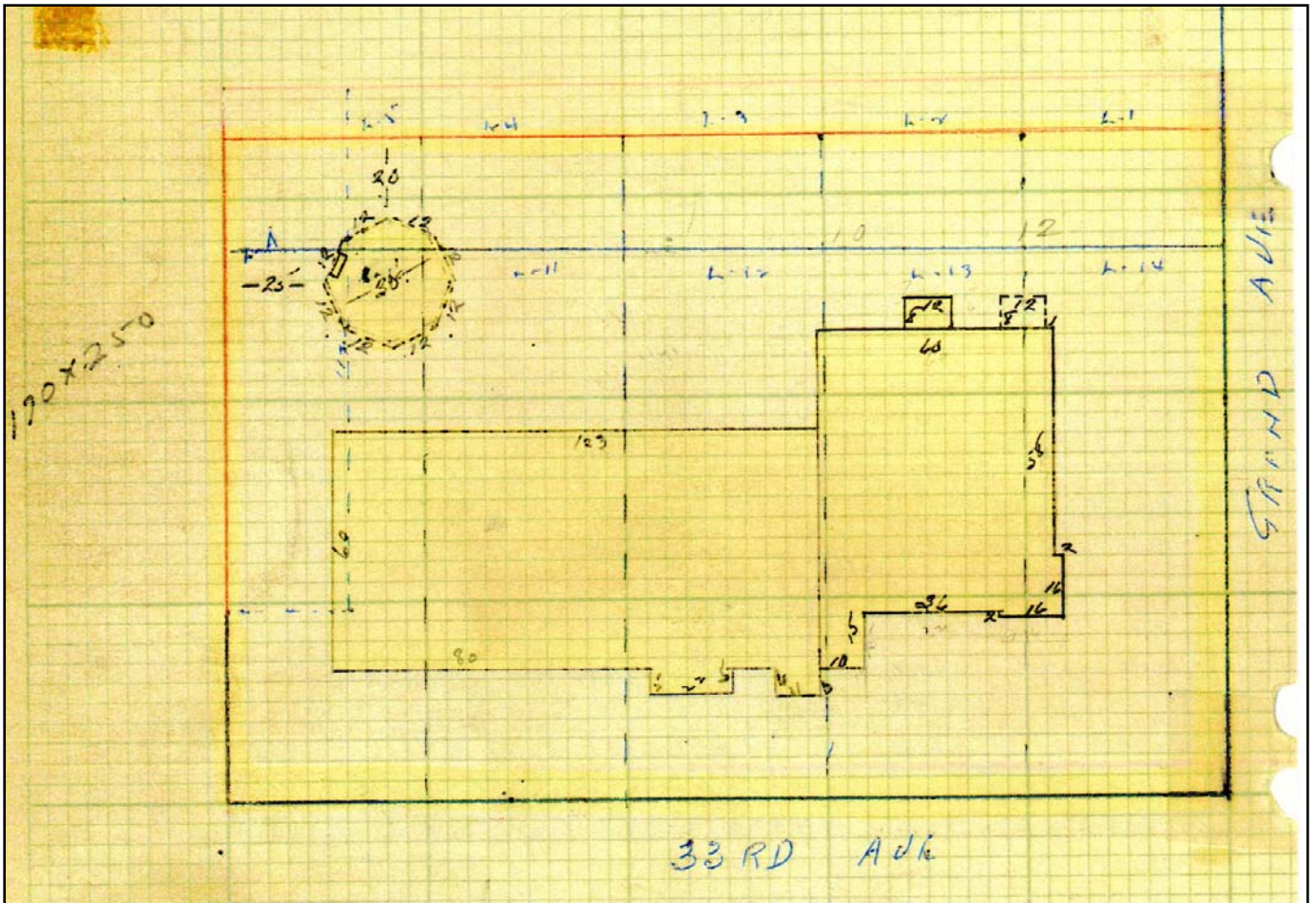
*Manito Methodist Episcopal Church  
 2016*



*Source: Spokane County Tax Assessor  
 Spokane, WA*



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*Site Plan*

*Manito Methodist Episcopal Church  
2016*

North ↑

*Source: Spokane County Tax Assessor  
Spokane, WA*

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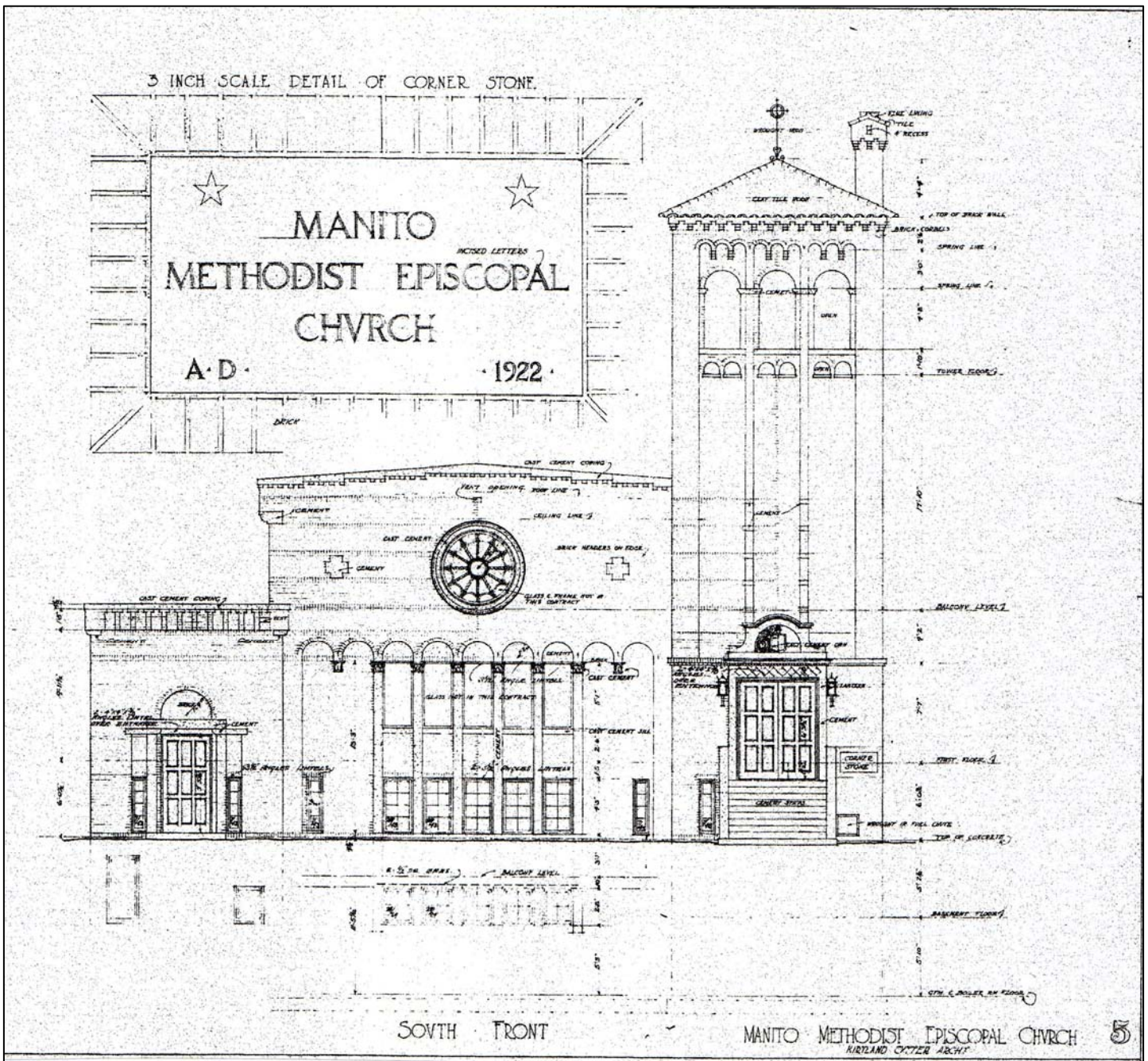
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*1924 Photograph  
Manito Methodist Episcopal Church, southeast corner of south facade*

*Source: Eastern Washington State Historical Society Archives L97-1.124  
NW Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, W*

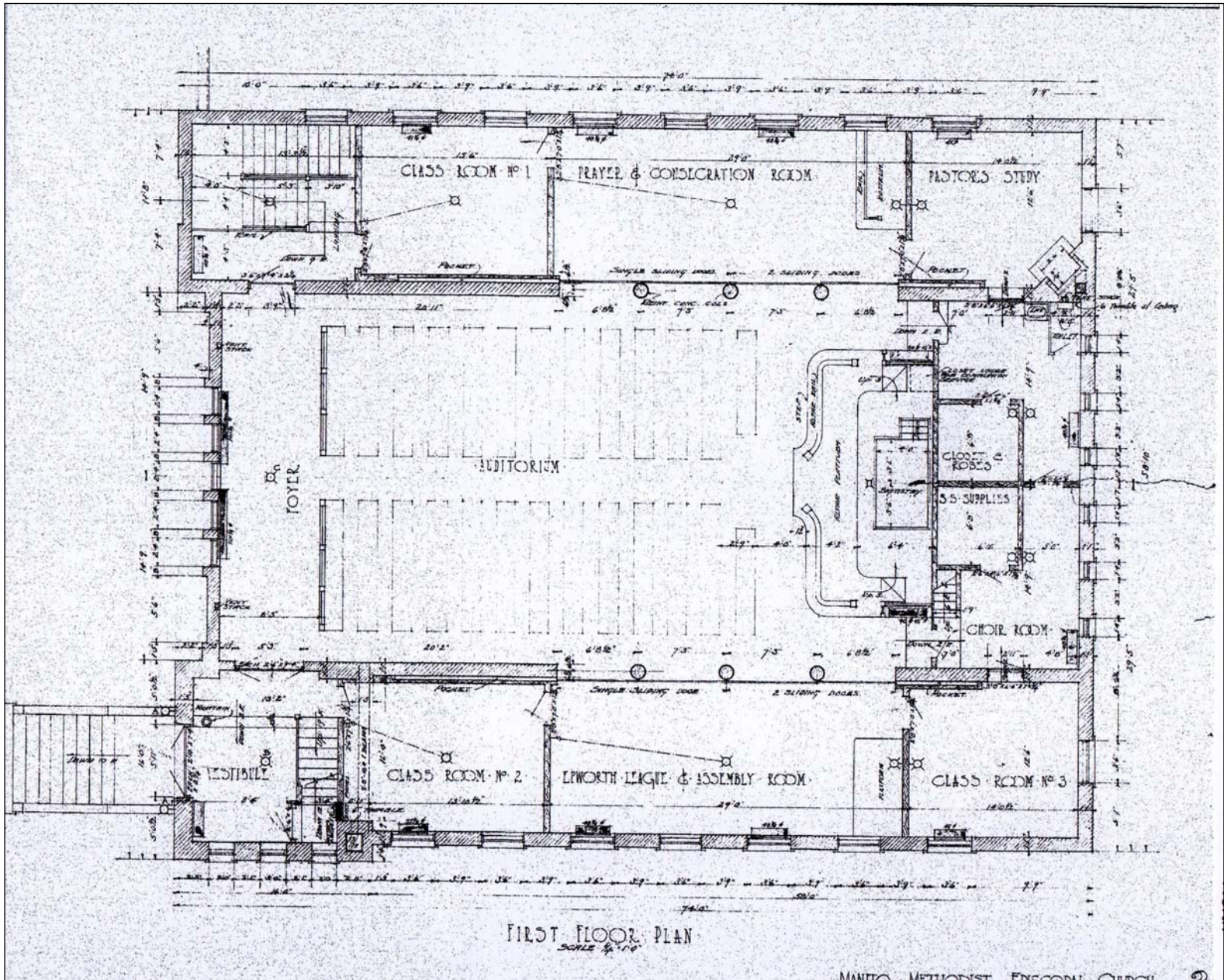
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*1922 Drawing by Architect Kirtland Cutter  
 Manito Methodist Episcopal Church*

*Source: Cutter Collection  
 Eastern Washington State Historical Society  
 NW Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane, WA*

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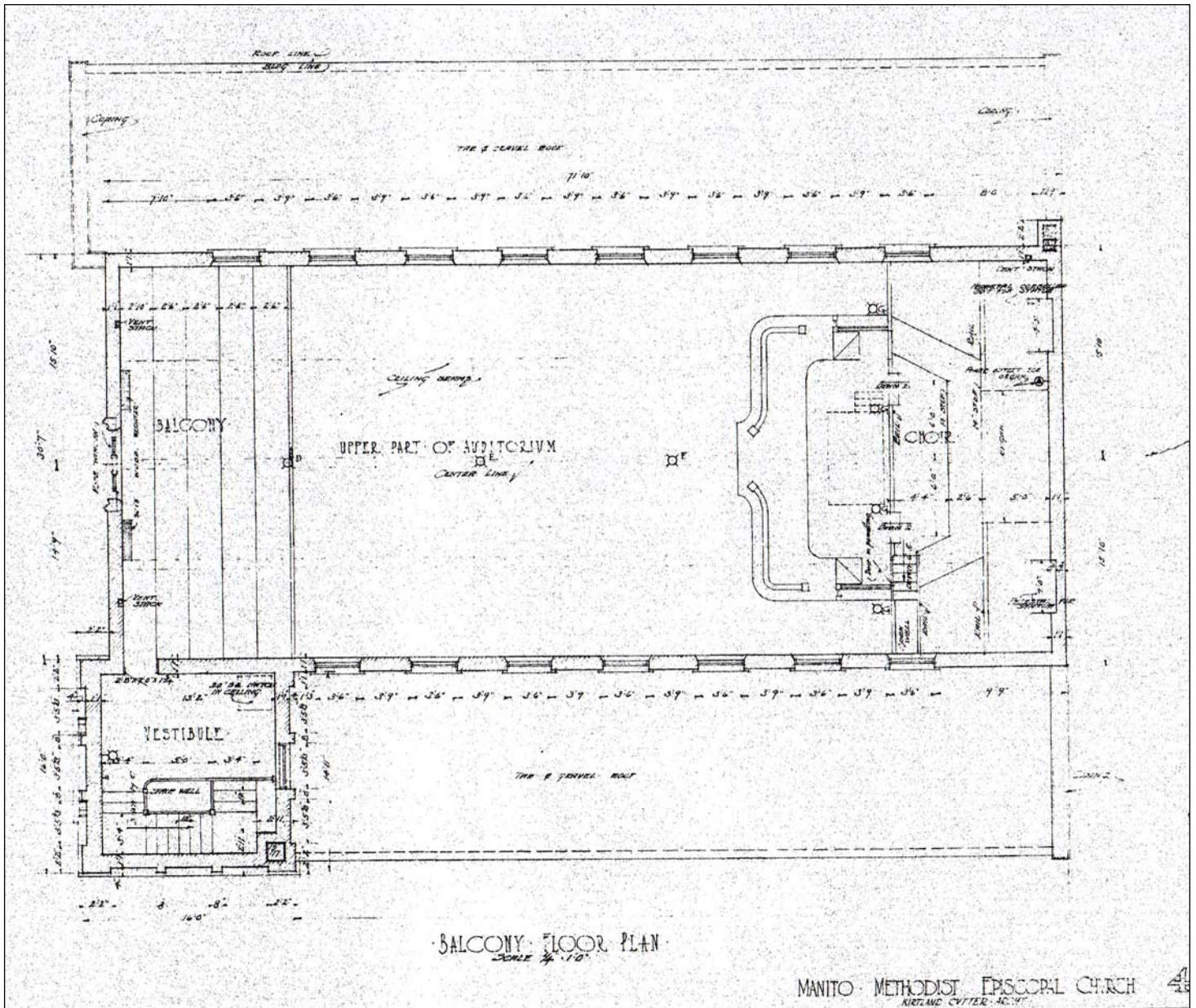


1922 Drawing

*First floor plan for Manito Methodist Episcopal Church  
Plans drawn by Kirtland Cutter, Architect*

*Source: MAC Archives Cutter Collection  
Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture*

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1922 Drawing

Balcony Floor Plan

Source: MAC Archives Cutter Collection  
Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture

## PLAN ELABORATE ART FEATURES FOR MANITO METHODIST CHURCH

### Stained Glass Windows Selected - Baptistry to Be Before Pulpit.

Features of the new Manito Methodist church at Thirty-third and Grand, on which excavation work has already been begun, will include stained-glass windows depicting scenes from Bible history, and one large window at the back of the church showing Christ and a child.

There will also be an elaborate altar rail with special pulpit arrangement. A unique feature not common to most Methodist churches will be the baptistry in front of the pulpit, measuring approximately 7x5 feet. It will be concealed, when not in use, beneath the pulpit platform.

The church will be built with a gymnasium on the first floor and the main auditorium on the second. The main entrance will be on Thirty-third avenue and will open on a foyer 10x30 feet in dimension. From this foyer stairways will lead down to the gymnasium with its surrounding rooms for community and social benefit, and other stairways will lead up to the main auditorium and the Sunday school rooms.

The main body of the church will cover an area of about 60x75 feet. The roof will be approximately 40 feet from the ground and the tower and belfry will stand nearly 60 feet above ground. As well as a \$500 chime of bells there will be a tolling bell.

Opening from the main auditorium the Sunday school rooms will be divided from the church proper and from each other by glass doors which can be easily opened to enlarge the seating capacity of the church. The seating capacity of the auditorium will be about 400. A special feature of the church will be the altar room adjoining the main auditorium, where a special altar will be erected so that this room may be used for chapel services and prayer services. The pipeorgan, which will fill the rear of the church behind the pulpit, is to be installed at an estimated cost of \$3000. The windows of the church, which are to be paid for by the congregation, will cost \$1000.

On the first floor the community and dining halls will adjoin the gymnasium. On this floor will also be the kitchen.

Floors throughout are to be of hardwood and the building will be finished in the Italian Renaissance style. Behind the organ loft will be a music room.

Seymour Birch, Tokyo, apartments, who is donating \$40,000 of the funds estimated to cover the cost of building the new church, has spent several years perfecting the plans for this church in consultation with his architect.

## **WILL DEDICATE MANITO CHURCH ON NEXT SUNDAY**

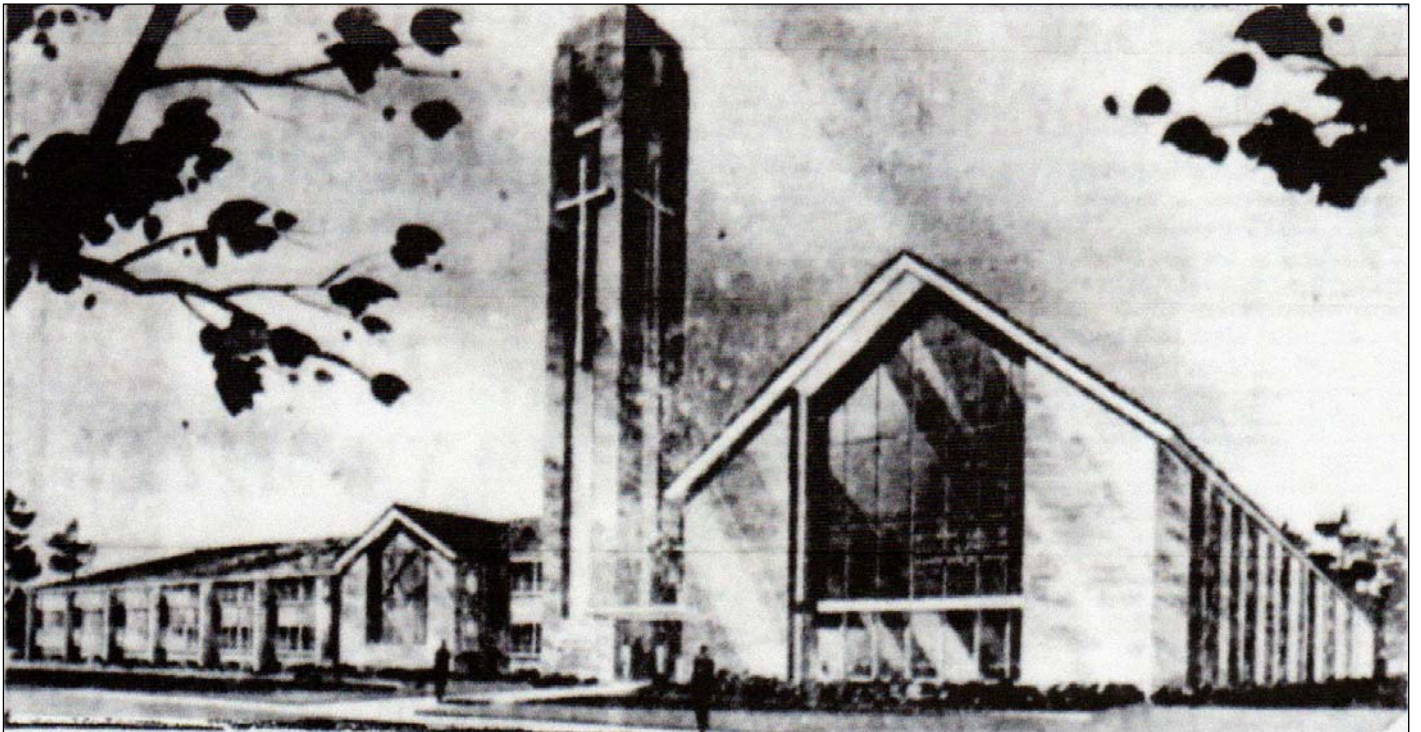
The new \$60,000 Manito Methodist church, Latawah and Thirty-third, will be formally opened next Sunday morning when Dr. H. H. Todd, president of College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, and Dr. N. M. Jones, superintendent of the Spokane district of the Methodist Episcopal church, will be the principal speakers. Rev. E. F. Harold is the pastor.

The final services in the old building across the street from the new edifice were held yesterday. Due to the delayed arrival of the new pews and pulpit furniture, it is expected that the equipment from the old church will have to be used temporarily in the new church. The building proper is completed and was turned over Saturday by the Glasser Construction company, builders.

Through large gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Birch the new church has been made possible, and up to his death two months ago, Mr. Birch took a personal interest in the plans and completion of the structure. It is hoped to have the church free of debt when the formal dedication is held late in May or the first part of June, to be attended by Bishop William O. Shepard of the Portland area.

*Spokane Daily Chronicle, 7 April 1924*

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**PLANNED CHURCH** This modern building of brick, ceramic tile and glass is the proposed new \$500,000 Manito Methodist church, to be erected at the site of the present church, Thirty-third and Grand. This architect's sketch is by George M. Rasque & Son. The contemporary design

will feature a 98-foot illuminated tower with four back-lighted crosses, "symbolizing Christ as the light of the world and the church as a tower of light in the community," said the Rev. Eugene W. Muench, pastor. The educational wing, shown at the left in the sketch, will be built first with construction expected to start this summer.

*Spokane Daily Chronicle, 10 April 1958*



"Death Summons Seymour Birch."  
*Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 7 February 1924

## **DEATH SUMMONS**

### **SEYMOUR BIRCH**

Seymour Birch, prominent lodge-  
man and real estate owner, died last  
night at the Deaconess hospital fol-  
lowing an operation a week ago for  
appendicitis.

Mr. Birch was 81 years old and is  
survived by a daughter, Mrs. Frank  
T. Miles of Spokane, and two sisters,  
Mrs. George I. Herrick of Amster-  
dam, N. Y., and Mrs. Howard Kline  
of Havre, Mont.

Mr. Birch was born in Amsterdam,  
N. Y. He came west in 1889 and  
entered the real estate business with  
a brother-in-law, George E. Munson.  
He built the Espanola and Tokyo  
apartments, the Munson and Birch  
blocks and many other buildings  
here. He donated the lots and \$30,-  
000 for the erection of the Manito  
Methodist church, to be completed  
about April 1.

Funeral services will be conducted  
at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon by  
the Rev. Ernest F. Harold of the  
Manito Methodist church and the  
Rev. Joel Harper of the Westminster  
Congregational church.

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*Southeast front corner of 1923 church in 2016.*

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*Church name and date-built plaque on south face of church in 2016.*



*East elevation of 1923 church in 2016.*

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*North rear elevation of 1923 church in 2016.*

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*South façade of 1959 “education wing” built on west end of 1923 church.*



*South façade of 1959 “education wing” in 2016.*

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*North rear elevation of 1959 addition in 2016.*



*Picnic shelter behind church in 2016*

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*2016 photograph of reception hall and stairwell in stair tower in 1923 church.*

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*Looking west in narthex in 2016.*



*Looking east through narthex into reception hall in tower in 2016.*



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*Looking north through nave (auditorium) at altar from back of church in 2016.*



*Looking south at rear of church in 2016. Notice choir loft above first floor.*

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*1923 church nave (auditorium), looking northwest towards the sanctuary at the front of church in 2016.*

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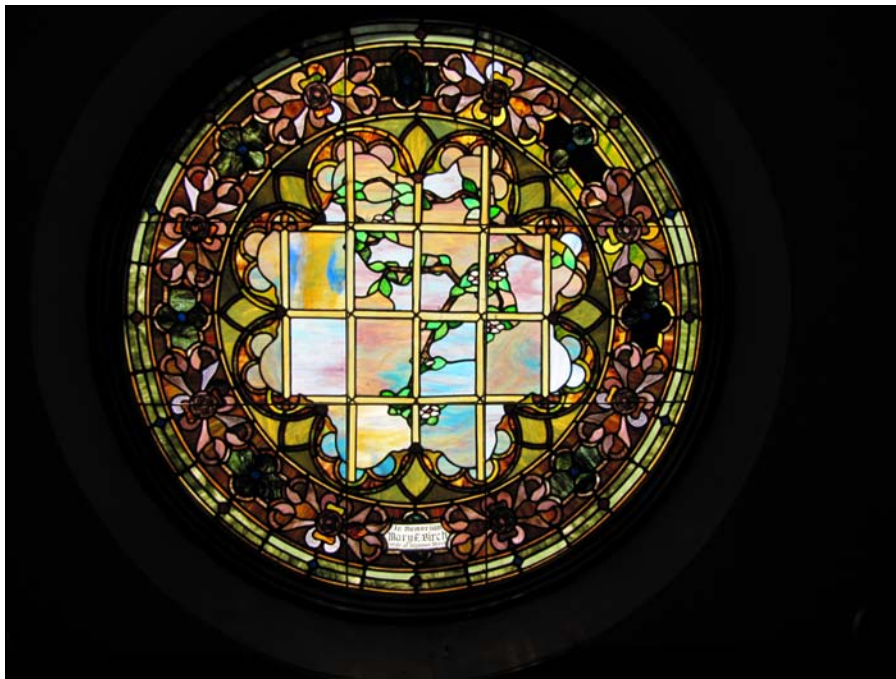
*Church nave (auditorium), looking northeast towards sanctuary at front of church in 2016.*

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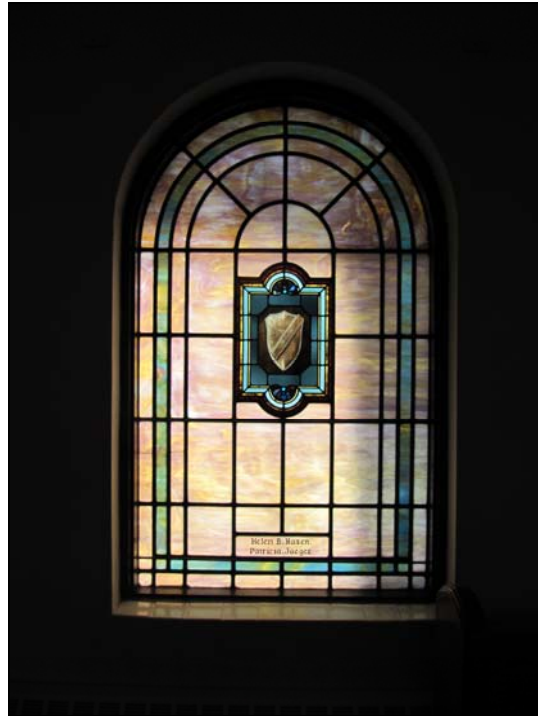
*Choir loft/balcony above nave (auditorium) in 2016, looking northwest from rear of church.*



*1924 rose window on south wall of church in choir loft with the following dedication, "In memoriam, Mary E. Birch, wife of Seymour Birch."*

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*Representative stained glass memorial window in church (many donated by church members and church).*



*Multi-purpose fellowship hall/social room in raised basement of church in 2016.*

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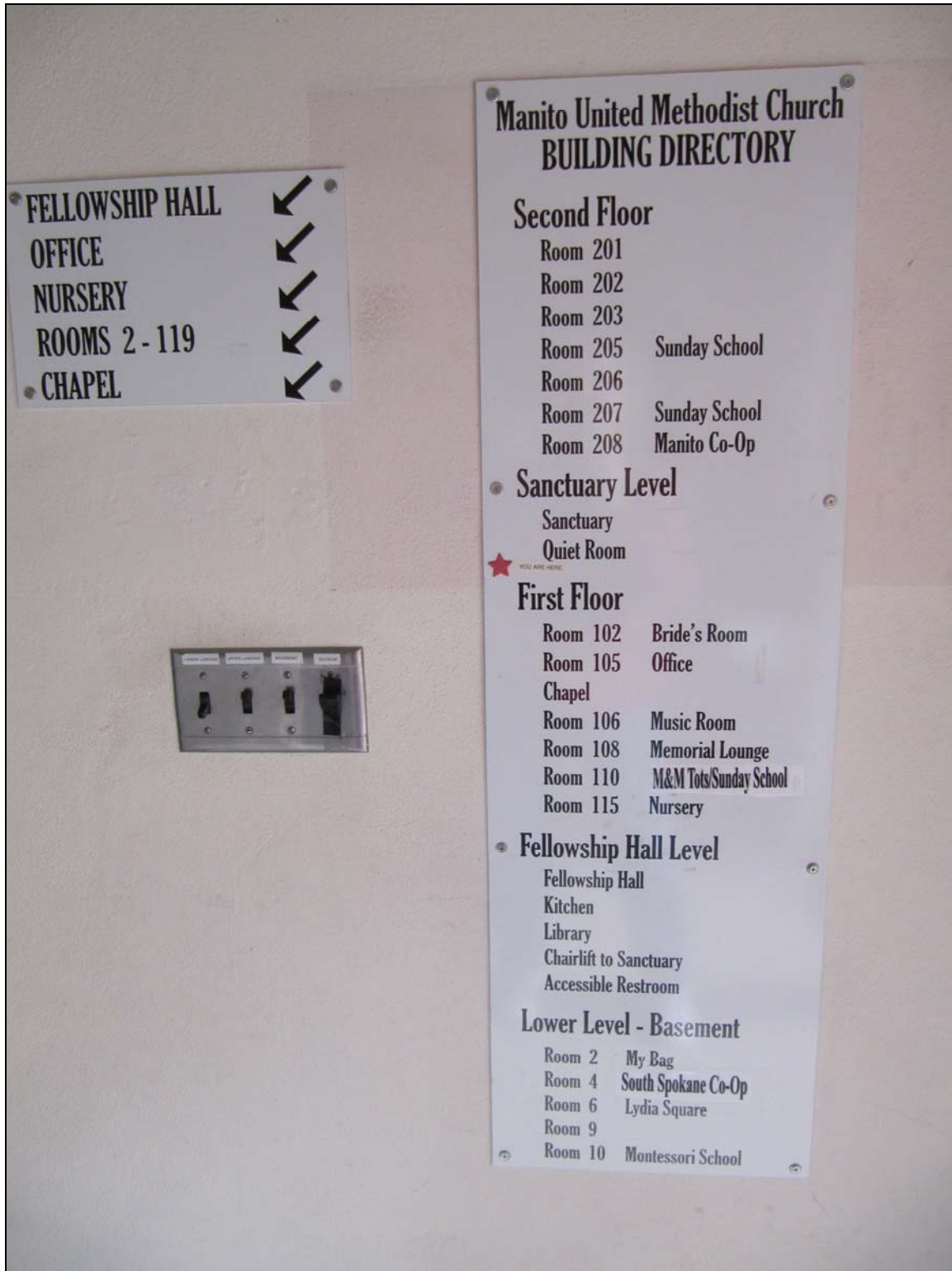


*Stairway to education wing from church in 2016.*



*Hallway in education wing in 2016.*

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*Education wing directory in 2016.*

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*Chapel in education wing in 2016.*



*Typical classroom in education wing in 2016.*



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*Typical classrooms in education wing in 2016.*