

Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church  
975 "C" Avenue  
Coronado  
San Diego County  
California

HABS No. CA-2195

HABS  
CAL,  
37-CORO,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GRAHAM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Location: 975 "C" Avenue, Coronado, San Diego County, California.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Description of Exterior:

1. Number of stories: One.
2. Layout, shape: The sanctuary itself has a modified Latin Cross form. Auxillary rooms (sacristy, common room, kitchen, vestibule and rest rooms) form a "U" around the chancel.
3. Foundations: The church rests on 8" red brick foundations that rise about 16".
4. Wall construction: The church is a wood frame structure. Flush boarding with recessed joints forms the exterior siding between the watertable and to about 3 feet below the eaves. The areas below the eaves and in the gable ends are covered with fishscale shingles. The northeast wing, including the 10th Street vestibule, display ordinary shingle siding in the gable ends.
5. Porches: The main entry is through the corner tower. The concrete entry stoop has five risers and wrought iron railings. The stoop is protected by a bracketed canopy. The ridge of the canopy projects from the tower. The shingles are nailed to tongue-and-groove boarding which rests on two, 2' x 4" rafters. The rafters, in turn, rest on pierced Gothic brackets. The gable end of the canopy is decorated with a pierced panel.

A side porch on the northeast elevation has a similar but not identical bracketed canopy. A tudor arch opening provides access to a recessed porch on the southwest elevation. The wooden porch is reached by five concrete risers.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The front entry, located on the northwest side of the tower has a double door within a pointed arched opening. The doors each have four tiers of molded panels. The trim is plain, save for a 3/4" salient molding which begins at the spring line. The arched opening is glazed above the doors. The recessed porch on the southwest elevation has French doors. The northeast elevation has three doorways; the southeast elevation has one door.
- b. Windows: The northwest elevation (facing "C" Street) has three arched windows with stained glass. The southwest elevation has twelve windows, seven of which are similar to

those in the northwest elevation. Two small fixed windows flank the recessed porch opening. The final three windows are Tudor arched, and double-hung with diamond-shaped panes in the upper sash, and one smaller double-hung, one-over-one window. The northeast elevation has nine windows. Six of these are arched, double-hung with leaded and stained glass. The north wing has three smaller double-hung, one-over-one windows. The pointed arch sanctuary windows all have plain trim with a 3/4" salient molding which begins at the spring line. All Tudor arched and rectangular double-hung windows have plain trim.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The center core of the church is a square covered with a hip roof. To the northwest extends a rectangular wing covered with a gable that is at a right angle to "C" Street. To the southwest and northeast project polygonal wings, or transepts, forming a crossing. Each transept is covered by a roof that is composed of five triangles, all intersecting at one given point on the hip roof. From the southeast extends a gable, covering the chancel. This, in turn, intersects, at a right angle, a gable which covers the common room and kitchen. A smaller gable also intersects the chancel gable at right angles to cover the vestibule and recessed porch. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The hip and transept roofs have a molded cornice with no overhang. the gable ends all have about a foot overhang; a molded fascia, with exposed rafters on the underside.
- c. Tower: The tower is square in plan with the main entry through its northwest elevation and an arched window on its southwest. The tower is covered with flush siding with recessed joints and corner boards to a height about 10 feet above the water table. Above this is about 6 feet of fish scale shingles, flaring at the bottom. Atop the shingling there is a 2-foot recessed panel strip which visually supports the belfry. The belfry has vertical recessed panels at each corner, and elongated arched louvered openings centered in each elevation. This section is about 12 feet in height and is capped by a hip roof that raises the tower height another 11 feet. The cornice of the hip roof has 12 unadorned brackets on each elevation.

B. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The main entry of the church is through the tower in the northwest corner of the church core. Polygonal wings extend southwest and northeast to form transepts. A wing also

extends northwest to form the nave. The chancel is six-sided, as are the transepts. To the north of the chancel is a door to the sacristy. To the south of the chancel is a door which leads to a vestibule. the vestibule has double French doors leading to the side porch. West of these doors is a choir closet. a cabinet also fills the space created by the polygonal chancel. Double doors lead from the vestibule in the southeast wall to a large common room, lit by six windows, three in the southwest wall and three in the southeast. The northeast wall of the common room has pass-throughs to the kitchens, a door to the kitchen and a door to a hall. To the northwest of the hall is a bathroom; to the northeast a double exit door; to the southeast, the kitchen; to the northeast double exit door; to the southeast, the kitchen. The common room also has a double exit door on the southeast. The northwest wall has a door to the sacristy. the sacristy has access to the exterior through double Fench doors in the northeast wall. A water closet is located west of these doors.

2. Flooring: The sanctuary is carpeted. All auxillary rooms have linoleum, except the common room, which has a pine floor, the plankings being 2-1/2" wide.
3. Walls and ceiling finish: the sanctuary has cream-colored plaster walls. the vestibule between the santuary and the common room has plaster walls above the wainscoting. the wainscoting is about three-and-a-half feet high and is triple groov tongue-and-groove redwood, oriented vertically. Wainscoting in the common room is similar to that in the vestibule. The auxillary rooms have cream colored rough plaster walls.
4. Doorways and doors: The doorways in the sanctuary and vestibules all have symmetrically molded redwood trim with corner blocks.
5. Special decorative features: The gothic windows in the sanctuary have moldings similar to the doorways up to the spring line of the arch. Corner blocks are located at this spring line. A keystone is located at the point of the arch. A concentric circular molding decorates the keystone.

C. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting: The church is a prominent corner lot, at "C" Avenue and 10th in Coronado. the main entry faces "C" Avenue. to the northeast is a small cottage, beyond that the Hinde house, 959 "C" Avenue, which has been designated an historic site and is used for church administration. Northeast of this structure is a modern class room building and parking (all church property).

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