

First United Methodist Church

114 N. Pomona Avenue

1929

Mission Revival / Romanesque

**Status: Unrecognized
Significant Property**



This church is an imposing complex of multiple story structures that are designed in Spanish Mission and Romanesque Revival styles. The chapel/sanctuary that faces Commonwealth Avenue features Romanesque detailing and forms, in particular the large, decorated rose window, the relief under the gable, and two square-shaped towers with varying heights. The rear building along the Amerige Avenue frontage exemplifies Mission Revival architecture, even though it was constructed at the same time.

This was the third location for the Methodist congregation. By 1923, the Methodist congregation had outgrown its 1909 English Gothic Revival church at 117 N. Pomona Avenue. The congregation hired the notable architectural firm Allison & Allison of Los Angeles to design the complex, and the Steed Brothers of Alhambra constructed the buildings at a cost of \$160,000. It was not until November of 1944 that the congregation finally was able to pay off the debt from this construction.

This edifice became an instant landmark for the community when it was completed in 1929. The church, with its soaring towers, continues to stand out in an area that remains characterized by relatively low-rise commercial and residential structures. The church is similar in design to Allison & Allison's Wilshire United Methodist Church, constructed in 1925, along Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles.