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Colorado Springs, Colo. First Congregational Church photographs, undated. RG5508

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	First Congregational Church (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
Title:	Colorado Springs, Colo. First Congregational Church photographs, undated.
ID:	RG5508
Date:	undated
Physical Description:	1 Folder
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The First Congregational Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was organized in 1874 in conjunction with the founding of Colorado College. The churches first two ministers were Johnathan Edwards and James Dougherty. The church's present building was designed by Henry Rutgers Marshall and construction on the building was completed in 1889. James Bartlett Gregg served as pastor of the church during the time of the building's construction. A house beside the church became the Gregg Memorial Library in honor of Gregg's 27 years as minister of the church. The First Congregational Church continues to serve the Colorado Springs community today. This collection contains three photographic prints related to the ministers of the First Congregational Church.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Colorado Springs, Colo. First Congregational Church photographs, undated, RG5508. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne peoples were the first known inhabitants in the region that is today's Colorado Springs, Colorado. American and European settlers first began settling in

significant numbers in the region during various gold rushes during the 1850s and 1860s. Colorado Springs was founded in 1871 on a region downstream from Old Colorado City and the town was officially named Colorado Springs by 1879. Colorado Springs was incorporated in 1886.

The First Congregational Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, was organized in 1874 in conjunction with the founding of Colorado College. The college itself was founded, in part, with the backing of the Congregationalists from Colorado's Ministerial Congregational Association who desired to have a Christian college in the territory. The churches first two minister, Johnathan Edwards and James Dougherty, were also employed by Colorado College.

The cornerstone for a new church building to house the First Congregational Church was laid on September 8, 1888. The building was designed by Henry Rutgers Marshall and was constructed using stone quarried at Castle Rock, Colorado. A small church library was a part of the original design. Construction on the building was completed in 1889 and the building's inaugural worship service was held on July 21, 1889 with James B. Gregg leading the service. The dedication service was delayed until October of that year though so that the installation of a Hook and Hastings organ could be completed. Around 1935, a small house was donated to the church in memory of Gregg's 27-year pastorate and the church library moved into the house to form the Gregg Memorial Library. The First Congregational Church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 31, 2002. The First Congregational Church, now a member of the United Church of Christ, continues to serve the Colorado Springs community today.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains three photographic prints related to the First Congregational Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. One photograph depicts Rev. James Bartlett Gregg, pastor at the First Congregational Church from 1882-1909. Another photograph depicts Mary Gregg (née Needham), wife of James Bartlett Gregg. The third photograph depicts Emma Asenat Cross (née Bridgeman), wife of Roselle Theodore Cross who was pastor of the First Congregational Church from 1876 to 1881, Mrs. Westervelt (probably Louise Westervelt (née Clark), wife of Rev. William Drake Westervelt), and Mrs. Mead.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Rocky Mountain Conference, August 2021; accession 2021-07.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2024, using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Clergy -- Pictorial works.
- Photographs.
- Colorado Springs (Colo.) -- Church history.

- First Congregational Church (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- Gregg, James Bartlett, 1846-1922
- Gregg, Mary, 1852-1926

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Photographs, undated	box Small 9 folder 15