

Architectural Inventory Form

(Page 1 of 8)

I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL1325**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Longmont**
5. Historic building name: **Schoolcraft House; Schommer House**
6. Current building name: **Embree House**
7. Building address: **436 Atwood Street**
8. Owner name: **Lewis A. & Joann F. Embree**
Owner address: **338 Atwood Street**
Longmont, CO 80501

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **2N** Range **69W**

SE¹/₄ of **SW¹/₄** of **SE¹/₄** of **NE¹/₄** of section **3**

10. UTM reference
Zone **13**
Easting: **491896**
Northing: **4446060**

11. USGS quad name: **Longmont, Colorado**
Year: **1968** (**Photorevised 1979**) **7.5'**

12. Lot(s): **2, 3** Block: **47**
Addition: **Longmont Original Town** Year of Addition **1872**

13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This legally defined parcel encompasses but does not exceed the land historically associated with this property.**

22. Architectural style / building type:

No Style / Vernacular
Wood Frame Gabled-L
Dwelling

Official Eligibility Determination

(OAHP use only)

Date _____ Initials _____

- Determined Eligible - National Register
 Determined Not Eligible - National Register
 Determined Eligible - State Register
 Determined Not Eligible - State Register
 Needs Data
 Contributes to eligible National Register District
 Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape):
L-Shaped Plan
15. Dimensions in feet: **856 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material
Wood / Horizontal Siding
Wood / Weatherboard
18. Roof configuration (enter one):
Gabled Roof / Cross Gabled Roof
19. Primary external roof material (enter one):
Asphalt Roof / Composition Roof
20. Special features (enter all that apply):
Porch
Fence

21. General Architectural Description

The house at 436 Atwood Street was originally built, circa 1890, with a vernacular 1½-story gabled-L plan. The original north wing of the house measures 14' N-S by 24' E-W; the original intersecting south wing measures 20' N-S by 14' E-W; and the two wings are joined by an original 20' by 8' screened-in porch at the south end of the facade (west elevation). There are two early one-story additions to the rear of the structure. One addition measures 24' by 12', and is covered by a hipped roof; the other addition measures 24' by 7', and is covered by a shed roof. Both of these additions date from the period of significance. The property comprises almost two full lots, measuring approximately 140' across by 190' deep, with the house set back some 44' from Atwood Street to the west. An old garage is located a short distance southeast of the house, while a historic chicken house is located northeast of the house near the north property line. A historic woven wire fence encloses the north and south property lines, as well as the east (rear) property line along the alley. The original dwelling is supported by a low sandstone foundation, covered in places with painted white concrete pargeting. The foundation under the additions may be concrete. There is a bulkhead cellar entrance on the south elevation. The house's original exterior walls are clad with painted white horizontal wood siding, with painted white 1" by 4" corner boards. A simple gable ornament, in the form of a cross, appears in the upper gable end on the facade. The house's original cross gabled roof is steeply pitched, finished with brown asphalt shingles and with boxed eaves. The hipped and shed roofs over the rear additions are also finished with brown asphalt shingles and with boxed eaves. There are no chimneys. The house's windows are primarily single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash with painted white wood frames and surrounds, and with simple wood cornices. The screened-in porch on the facade features a tongue-and-groove wood floor, wood frame knee walls, and painted white square wood piers which support the hipped porch roof. A painted white wood screen door opens from the porch onto a flagstone stoop. The home's rear entry door leads into the shed-roofed addition on the east elevation.

The garage measures 12' N-S by 20' E-W, is one story in height, and is supported by a concrete foundation. Its exterior walls are clad with painted white vertical wood planks, over wood frame construction, and its roof is cambered covered with rolled asphalt roofing material over 1x wood decking. A set off paired vertical wood plank garage doors, located on the west elevation, open onto a gravel driveway which extends along the south side of the house to Atwood Street.

The chicken house measures 10' N-S by 12' E-W, is supported by a wood timbers on grade foundation, and has painted white horizontal weatherboard exterior walls over wood frame construction. The chicken house is covered by a shed roof, covered with rolled grey asphalt roofing material over 1x wood decking and 2x wood rafters. Two 4-light windows (with panes missing) are located on the south elevation. A single, painted white, horizontal weatherboard door, side hinged with metal strap hinges, is located on the south elevation.

22. Architectural style / building type:

Please see front page.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

This house is located on the east side of Atwood Street, the second house south of 5th Avenue, in Longmont's historic East Side neighborhood. Developed during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the East Side Neighborhood is an established area made up primarily of historic single-family homes. The Colorado and Southern Railroad tracks run down the center of Atwood Street, while the neighborhood overall features wide tree-lined streets, uniform house setbacks, and deep rectangular-shaped lots.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects

Garage; Chicken House

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction:
Estimate **1890**
Actual

Source of information:
"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1892-1899"; Longmont city directory, 1892.

26. Architect:
unknown

Source of information:
n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:
Christian C., William D. and H.A. "Albert" Schoolcraft

Source of information:
"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1892-1899".

28. Original owner:
Christian C. Schoolcraft

Source of information:
"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1892-1899."

29. Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):

This house at 436 Atwood Street was probably built in about 1890, and was originally owned by the Christian C. and Harriet E. Schoolcraft family. The house does not appear in Longmont water rent collection records until 1895, however, it is probable the house was erected sometime prior to that. The 1892 Longmont city directory lists C.C. Schoolcraft and William Schoolcraft as residing on "R R [Atwood] bet. 4th and 5th Aves.", evidently in this house. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that the hipped roof addition predates 1906, while the shed-roofed addition was built sometime between 1930 and 1959. The Sanborn maps also suggest that the garage and chicken house were built between 1930 and 1959. Christian Schoolcraft, the original owner, and his son Albert, both earned their livings as carpenters. It is very probable, therefore, that they were the home's builders.

30. Original location: **yes**
Moved **no**
Date of move(s) **n/a**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
33. Current use(s): **Vacant / Not In Use**
34. Site type(s): **Residence**

35. Historical Background

The Schoolcraft House was built prior to 1892, and was owned and occupied by members of the Schoolcraft family until the early 1920s. The home's original owners were Christopher C. and Harriet E. (Bemis) Schoolcraft who had come to Longmont from Iowa in 1879. Christopher, had been born in Vermont on August 14, 1825, while Harriet, had been born in Malone, New York on January 23, 1830. Christopher and Harriet were married in Malone on February 3, 1849, and in the ensuing years they raised a family of three sons and five daughters - S.C., Henry Albert, William D., Flora, Ruth, Henrietta, Sarah, and Lydia. Christopher and Harriet moved to Madison, Wisconsin in 1849, and then to High Forest, Wisconsin in 1854. They then moved their young family back to New York in 1863, before heading west once again, to Estherville, Iowa in 1869. A decade later, Christopher and Harriet, along with several of their children, crossed the plains to Colorado in a covered wagon, arriving in the Longmont area in June 1879. In Longmont, Christopher worked as a contractor and carpenter, and by the early 1890s, he and his sons, H.A. "Albert" and W.D. "William", had constructed this residence for the family at 436 Atwood Street.

Christopher passed away here in the family's Atwood Street home on November 4, 1896, at the age of 71. His widow, Harriet, then continued to live on in the home, with the family of her son William, and his wife, Frances. (Albert Schoolcraft, meanwhile, had established a separate residence for his own family across the street at 427 Atwood Street. In addition to the family's homes at 436 and 427 Atwood Street, the Schoolcrafts also owned two other houses in the 400 block of Atwood in the early 1900s - at 418 Atwood, and at 419 Atwood. All four houses were probably built by the Schoolcraft family.) Harriet Schoolcraft passed away on November 10, 1911 at the age of 81. At the time of her death she was the matriarch of a large family that spanned five generations. She was survived by an amazing total of ninety direct descendants, including children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even three great-great-grandchildren.

William Schoolcraft, and his wife Frances, had been married in New York in 1890, but following their marriage they made their home in Longmont. William worked as a clerk at Shey Clothiers for many years, before he and his brother, Albert, purchased Noah's Ark, a Longmont variety store in 1914. (A 1921 advertisement for Noah's Ark in the *Longmont Ledger* proclaimed it was the store "for anything and for everything in the line of small tools, crockery, dishes, baskets, toys, school supplies, etc., at prices that are cheaper." William and Frances Schoolcraft had three daughters, all of whom grew up in Colorado. Frances passed away in August 1918, at the relatively young age of 48. William sold the family's Atwood Street home a few years after his wife's death, but he continued to work as the owner of Noah's Ark variety store until August 1930, when he sold the business to C.H. Patton. William passed away in December 1934 at the age of 67. In addition to his family and business interests, he had been a long time active member of the International Order of Odd Fellows, serving as the Financial Secretary of the organization's Longmont chapter for many years.

In the 1920s, 436 Atwood was occupied for brief periods by John Fladung, and by Lawrence and Olive Logue. Then, in the early 1930s, the property was purchased by Joseph M. and Leona Grace Schommer, who lived and owned here until their respective deaths in 1972 and 1998. The house today (in 2003) is still owned by the Schommers' daughter and son-in-law, Lewis A. & Joann F. Embree. Joseph Schommer was born at Big River, Wisconsin in 1883. Leona was born on February 8, 1898 at Ottawa, Illinois, the daughter of Albert and Minnie (Barr) Grob. Albert and Leona were married at Hastings, Minnesota on September 25, 1918, where the family farmed for five years before moving to Longmont in 1923. In Longmont, Mr. Schommer was employed at the Great Western Sugar factory, and later by the City of Longmont. Mrs. Schommer was a homemaker. To their union was born a total of nine children, including three daughters (Bernice, Madelin, and JoAnn), and six sons (Mervin, Vernon, Robert, Cecil, Myron, and Gerald). Joseph Schommer passed away in March 1972 at the age of 83. Leona then continued to live on for several more years in the family's Atwood Street home until sometime before her own death in August 1998 at the age of 100.

36. Sources of Information

(Boulder County) "Real Estate Appraisal Card - Urban Master." On file at the Boulder Carnegie Library.

"Died - Schoolcraft." [Harriet E. Schoolcraft obituary] *Longmont Ledger*, November 17, 1911, p. 1.

"Funeral of W.D. Schoolcraft to be Held Here Tuesday Afternoon." *Longmont Times-Call*, December 3, 1934, p. 1.

"Joseph Schommer." [obituary] *Longmont Times-Call*, March 6, 1972, p. 3.

"Leona Grace Schommer." [obituary] *Longmont Times-Call*, August 30, 1998, p. A-6.

"Local Pioneer Dies Saturday." [William D. Schoolcraft obituary] *Longmont Times-Call*, December 1, 1934, p. 1.

[Noah's Ark advertisement] *Longmont Ledger*, February 24, 1921, p. 1. [Advertisements for Noah's Ark variety store appeared frequently in the *Longmont Ledger* in the 1910s and 1920s.]

Polk's Boulder County Directory [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company Publishers.

Polk's Longmont City Directory, [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1966 - 1997.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dated April 1906, June 1911, March 1918, June 1930, and June 1959.

"Schoolcraft." [Christopher C. Schoolcraft obituary] *Longmont Ledger*, November 16, 1896, p. 3.

"Schoolcraft." [Mrs. Frances E. Schoolcraft obituary] *Longmont Ledger*, August 9, 1918, p. 4.

"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections." On file at the Longmont Archives, Longmont Museum.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:
Yes
No **xx**
Date of Designation: **n/a**

38. Applicable National Register Criteria

xx A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

xx C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory;

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

City of Longmont Standards for Designation

xx 2.56.040-A (1) The structure or district has character, interest or value, as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, state or nation.

2.56.040-A (2) The structure or district is the site of a historic event with an effect upon society.

2.56.040-A (3) The structure or district is identified with a person or group of persons who had some influence on society.

xx 2.56.040-A (4) The structure or district exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community.

2.56.040-B (1) The structure or district portrays the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.

xx 2.56.040-B (2) The structure or district embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen.

2.56.040-B (3) The structure or district is the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Longmont.

2.56.040-C (1) The structure or district, because of being part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area, should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif.

2.56.040-C (2) The structure or district, due to its unique location or singular physical characteristics, represents an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city.

Does not meet any of the above City of Longmont Standards for Designation.

39. Area(s) of Significance:

Architecture; Community Planning and Development

40. Period of Significance: **ca. 1890-1953**

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: **XX**

42. Statement of Significance

The Schoolcraft / Schommer House is historically significant relative to National Register Criterion A for its association with Longmont's residential development during the period of significance, circa 1890-1953, and for its long associations with the Schoolcraft and Schommer families who occupied the property for all but a few years of its more than 120 years of existence. The house is also architecturally notable, under Criterion C, for its early date of construction, and for its vernacular gabled L architectural plan. The property's level of significance in these regards may well be to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National or State Registers of Historic Places. The property definitely qualifies to be individually listed as a local landmark by the City of Longmont. This property is located outside the boundaries of the Longmont East Side Historic District. If the district's boundaries were to be expanded, this house would qualify as a contributing resource within the district's newly expanded boundaries.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This property displays an above average degree of historical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the property is in somewhat deteriorated condition, there have been no additions and no notable exterior alterations following the end of the period of significance.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible: **xx**

Not Eligible:

Need Data:

City of Longmont Local Landmark eligibility field assessment:

Eligible: **xx**

Not Eligible:

Need Data:

45. Is there National Register district potential?

Yes: **xx**

No:

Discuss: **This property is located outside the boundaries of the East Side Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. If the district's boundaries were to be expanded, this house would be considered a contributing resource.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building:

Contributing: **xx**

Noncontributing:

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district, is it:

Contributing: **n/a**

Noncontributing: **n/a**

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers:

Roll: **LONG-36; LONG-37**

Frame(s): **36-37; 1-4**

Negatives filed at: **City of Longmont
Department of Community Development, Planning Division
Civic Center Complex
350 Kimbark Street
Longmont, Colorado 80501**

48. Report title: **East Side Neighborhood: Historic Context and Survey Report**

49. Date: **April 23, 2003**

50. Recorders: **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525**

53. Phone number: **970/493-5270**