

Architectural Inventory Form

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I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL1159.36**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Longmont**
5. Historic building name: **Alex Bloom House**
6. Current building name: **Richardson House**
7. Building address: **516 Emery Street**
8. Owner name: **Michael and Laura Richardson**
Owner address: **516 Emery Street**
Longmont, CO 80501

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **8th** Township **2N** Range **69W**
SE¹/₄ of **NW¹/₄** of **SW¹/₄** of **NE¹/₄** of section **3**
10. UTM reference
Zone **13**
Easting: **491576**
Northing: **4446026**
11. USGS quad name: **Longmont, Colorado**
Year: **1968** (**Photorevised 1979**) **7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **North half 5** Block: **42**
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:

Bungalow

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):
Rectangular Plan
15. Dimensions in feet **1741 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material
Brick
Wood / Horizontal Siding
Wood / Shingle
18. Roof configuration (enter one):
Hipped Roof / Gable on hip Roof
19. Primary external roof material (enter one):
Wood Roof / Shake Roof
20. Special features (enter all that apply):
Chimney
Porch
Garage / Attached Garage
Fence
Window / Segmental Arch

21. General Architectural Description

This house is located on the east side of Emery Street, between 502 Emery Street on the south and 520 Emery Street on the north. A plated grass yard with mature landscaping surrounds the building. An unpainted picket fence surrounds the backyard. The residence is set back approximately fifty feet from the street and there is a wide grass strip separating the front sidewalk from the curb. Oriented to the west, the house rests on a concrete foundation veneered in reddish-brown brick and pierced by two-light hopper basement windows. Red brick contrasting to that around the foundation, clads the exterior walls of the main portion of the house and the attached garage. White painted horizontal wood siding covers the exterior of an addition to the rear (east) elevation. Square-cut unpainted cedar shingles fill the gable end of the gable-on-hip roof and the gabled roof over the porch. (The gable-on-hip faces the west elevation only. The east elevation is an uninterrupted hipped roof.) Cedar shakes cover the moderately pitched roof, as well as the roof over the porch and the shed roof over the addition. A tall, red brick chimney clings to the west side of the north elevation. Another chimney emerges at the rear of the house, near the roof ridge. Rafter ends are exposed but capped with fascia boards. Windows on secondary elevations are three- or four-over-one, double-hung sash with white painted wooden frames and surrounds. Screens with black-painted wooden frames cover each window. Large, seven-over-one, double-hung cottage windows flank the front door and dominate the structure's symmetrical façade. Pairs of small casement windows flank the chimney. Windows on the addition attached to the rear (east) elevation are a combination of double-hung, wood-framed and sliding, aluminum-framed. As well, an unglazed slab door opens on the south elevation of the addition. A large bay protrudes two feet on the south elevation of the addition and is seventeen feet long, containing three large windows. The gable of the front porch is open, exposing white-painted, wooden trusswork. The porch itself sits between two battered brick piers, which support massive, shaped perkins. A brick knee-wall capped with pink sandstone surrounds the porch and its concrete steps, which approach the structure from the south side rather than the front. The attached garage has a flat roof. The back wall of the garage extends beyond the back wall of the house and its addition, allowing for outside access via a small, wood paneled door. A pair of four-light casement windows open on the north elevation of the garage, with the window to the west subsequently boarded shut. Both the small garage door and windows sit beneath relieving arches. The garage is accessed via a macadam driveway from Emery Street and entered through two large, wood-framed doors on strap hinges. The door on the left has four-light glazing while the one on the right has twelve.

22. Architectural style / building type:

Please see front page.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

This dwelling is located on the west side of Emery Street, in one of Longmont's oldest core residential neighborhoods. The area is now home to a mixture of single-family residences and a few small apartment buildings.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects

None

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction:
Estimate
Actual **1917**

Source of information:
"Water Ledger, City of Longmont, 1915-1919"

26. Architect:
unknown

Source of information:
n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:
Alex Bloom (most likely)

Source of information:
"Resident of Longmont Over 50 Years Dies,." *Longmont Times-Call*, 2 June 1953, p. 1.

28. Original owner:
Alex Bloom

Source of information:
"Water Ledger, City of Longmont, 1915-1919"; Warranty Deed 90112725.

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

With the exception of the rear addition, this house has remained unchanged since its construction. Interestingly, a Sanborn Insurance map from 1918 indicates that the garage was constructed at the corner of the house but was not physically attached to it until the rear addition was built sometime before 1930.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Domestic / Single Residence**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
33. Current use(s): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
34. Site type(s): **Residence**

35. Historical Background

Born in Sweden on May 16, 1870, Alex Bloom came to Longmont in 1901. He was a builder and contractor and retired a few years before his death in 1953. In 1915, he purchased a lot belonging to James Mellinger and most likely constructed the bungalow that stands there today. He was a member of Central Presbyterian Church.

Bloom sold the house in 1920 to Eugene Miller, owner of a Longmont jewelry store. In 1922 Miller created a stir in the community when he began building an airplane in his garage. Two years later, the completed airplane graced the front lawn of 516 Emery Street. "The plane has 10—cylinder Anzani engine of the best kind," described the *Longmont Ledger* on September 5, 1924. "The body is of muslin painted yellow. The wings are yellow and were put in place yesterday... It is beautifully made." Four years later, Miller accepted a position at an airplane manufacturer in Wichita, Kansas. He sold his jewelry store and the house, sent his family to Kansas before him, and flew his plane from Longmont to Wichita.

As Eugene Miller soared out of Colorado, Charles F. and Margaret A. Holck moved into the bungalow., Charles Holck was born in Davenport, Iowa on April 17, 1856. He came to Longmont from Saratoga, Wyoming in 1920. His wife, Anna, was born in Germany on November 12, 1858. Charles Holck was a farmer and the couple attended Central Presbyterian Church. Both died in their home, Margaret in 1937 and Charles in 1945. Traveling with the Holcks from Wyoming to Longmont was their recently widowed daughter-in-law, Anna. She was born in Ontario, Canada and married Fred Holck in Saratoga, Wyoming. He died in 1918. Anna Holck graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital nurses' school in Denver and practiced private nursing Longmont before becoming the nurse at Longmont High School in 1936. She died at home in 1972.

Jessie Diggs, a recently widowed beautician, purchased the house in 1973. She was born Jessie Southards in Sycamore, Missouri in 1915 and moved to Pueblo in 1939. She came to Longmont in 1946. Her husband, F. Clyde Diggs, died in 1969. She operated Jessie's Beauty Salon in her home until her death in 1980. Michael and Laura Richardson are the house's current owners and residents.

36. Sources of Information

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

"Charles F. Holck Dies at Home Here Saturday." *Longmont Times-Call*, 6 October 1945, p.1.

"Death Claims Local Woman (Margaret A. Holck)." *Longmont Times-Call*, 14 July 1937, p.1.

"Eugene Miller Completes Airplane." *Longmont Ledger*, 5 September 1924, p.1.

"Eugene Miller Flies in his own Plane to Wichita." *Longmont Ledger*, 6 January 1928, p. 1.

"Jessie F. Diggs." (obituary) *Longmont Times-Call*, 19-20 January 1980, p. 8.

"Mrs. Anna c. Holck." (obituary), *Longmont Times-Call*, 18 September 1972.

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.

"Resident of Longmont Over 50 Years Dies (Alex Bloom)." *Longmont Times-Call*, 2 June 1953, p. 1.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dated December 1890, September 1895, November 1900, April 1906, June 1911, March 1918, June 1930, and May 1956.

"Teets-Schuetz." (wedding announcement) *Longmont Times-Call*, 5 August 1985, p. 9B.

Warranty Deeds 90112725, 90146639, 90257760, 43233, 41906, and 73382. Boulder County Office of Clerk and Recorder, Boulder, Colorado.

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.

xx 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.

xx 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; Ethnic Heritage / European; Transportation / Air-related

40. Period of Significance: **1917-1951**

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: **XX**

42. Statement of Significance

This property is significant for its association with residential development in Longmont, beginning in the late 1800's and extending through the first half of the twentieth century. In addition, the property is significant for its association with the Alex Bloom and Eugene Miller, both of whom made important commercial, political and social contributions to Longmont during the early 1900's. Miller's construction of airplane in the house's garage is a symbol of the inventiveness and gusto of aviation's pioneers. The house is also architecturally significant because it is an intact bungalow strongly exhibiting the characteristics of craftsman architecture. The property's combined levels of historical significance and physical integrity may well be to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The property certainly may be regarded as individually eligible to be designated as a City of Longmont landmark. The property would also be a contributing resource within either a National Register or local landmark district.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This residence displays a high degree of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The only alteration to the structure was an addition made to the house's rear elevation.

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: **n/a (see below)**

No: **n/a (see below)**

Discuss: **The property is located within the East Side Historic District, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.**

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

Contributing: **n/a**

Noncontributing: **n/a**

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

Contributing: **xx**

Noncontributing:

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers:

Roll: **LONG-11**

Frame(s): **3-6, 8 (house; 7 (attached garage))**

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: **June 29, 2001**

50. Recorders: **Adam Thomas**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

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

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