

Architectural Inventory Form

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I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL1159.18**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Longmont**
5. Historic building name: **Decker House / Kitley House / Fields House**
6. Current building name: **Van Viliet House**
7. Building address: **517 Collyer Street**
8. Owner name: **Margaret F. Van Viliet**
Owner address: **517 Collyer Street**
Longmont, CO 80501

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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

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

10. UTM reference

Zone **13**

Easting: **491678**

Northing: **4446196**

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

12. Lot(s): **S¹/₂ 10** 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.**

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: **1092 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **One**
17. Primary external wall material
Brick
Wood / Shingle
18. Roof configuration (enter one):
Hipped Roof / Gable-on-Hip Roof
19. Primary external roof material (enter one):
Asphalt Roof / Composition Roof
20. Special features (enter all that apply):
Porch
Chimney
Segmental Arch

22. Architectural style / building type:

No Style / Vernacular
Brick Masonry,
Gabled-Roof Dwelling

21. General Architectural Description

Built in 1899-1900, the house at 517 Collyer Street is a modest, single-story, vernacular brick dwelling. The house is supported by a low coursed sandstone foundation, and the walls are made red bricks, laid in common bond. Painted green and white octagon-shaped shingles appear in the upper gable ends on the north, south and east elevations. The house is covered by a steeply-pitched gable-on-hip roof, covered with asphalt shingles and with boxed eaves. There are two red brick chimneys - one located just below the ridge on the north-facing roof slope, and the other on the west-facing roof slope. Windows are primarily single 1/1 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames and surrounds, and with segmental brick arch headers. Two stained natural brown 15-light glass-in-wood-frame entry doors, both with segmental arch brick headers, and with white metal storm doors, lead into the home from a porch at the south end of the facade. The porch is recessed under a corner of the house's main gable roof, and features a painted red wood plank floor, an open wood balustrade, turned columns with decorative brackets, and a spindle frieze. A single wood-paneled door is located on the west (rear) elevation.

Garage

A garage is located southwest of the house: one-story rectangular plan; 12' N-S by 18' E-W; painted white horizontal weatherboard exterior siding, over wood frame construction; gable roof; garage doors, located on the east elevation, open onto a gravel driveway which extends along the south side of the house to Collyer Street.

22. Architectural style / building type:

Please see front page.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

This house is located on the west side of Collyer Street in the block between 5th and 6th Avenues, 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 neighborhood features wide tree-lined streets, wide grass strips between the sidewalks and curbs, uniform setbacks, and deep rectangular-shaped lots.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects

Garage

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction:
Estimate
Actual **1899-1900**

Source of information:

"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1899-1904." On file at the Longmont Archives, Longmont Museum.

26. Architect:
unknown

Source of information:
n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:
unknown

Source of information:
n/a

28. Original owner:
J.G. Iverson (Ivinson?)

Source of information:
"Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1899-1904."

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

Longmont water tap records, on file at the Longmont Museum, indicate that this house was constructed at the turn of the twentieth century. The first entry for this lot in the volume titled "Town of Longmont, Colorado - Water Rent Collections, 1899-1904", appears under the name of J.G. "Iverson", or possibly "Ivinson" (listed as owner), with the notation "from May 1, 1900." The first entry for water usage also appears in May 1900, indicating that the house was newly-constructed at that time. The house does appear on the 1900 Sanborn Insurance map, providing further evidence that the house was in existence at that time. (Earlier Sanborn maps for this block are unavailable). Subsequent Sanborn maps (1918, 1930, and 1956), indicate that the house was enlarged to the rear between, and that the front porch was enlarged to extend across all of the facade, in the years between 1918 and 1930. The front porch extension was evidently removed sometime after 1956.

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): **Domestic / Single Dwelling**
34. Site type(s): **Residence**

35. Historical Background

According to Longmont water tap records, this dwelling was constructed at the turn of the twentieth century, and was originally owned by J.G. Iverson (or possibly Ivinson). Iverson did not live in the house, however, and, in fact, he apparently was not a Longmont resident, as his name does not appear anywhere in Longmont city directories dated between 1892 and 1911.

According to this property's local landmark designation form (prepared in 1989), this house was built by Charles A. Lewis. Lewis was a builder and contractor, however, according to the water tap records he did not own this property, and according to the directories, he did not ever live here. The 1903-1904 Longmont city directory lists Mrs. Minnie Frantz, a widow, as residing at 517 Collyer; this entry is probably in error, though, because Mrs. Frantz actually owned and lived in the house next door at 521 Collyer.

The earliest known residents of this house were John A. and Ida W. Decker, who are listed at this address in the 1906 Longmont city directory. Born at Janesville, Wisconsin on June 4, 1856, Decker came to Longmont in 1884 where he gained employment as a bookkeeper for W.W. Secor. He later worked as a bookkeeper and salesman at the John Ramsey Grocery Store, before becoming the manager of the Longmont Farmers' Milling and Elevator Company, in the years following the turn of the twentieth century. In subsequent years, Decker served as the Boulder County Assessor. Following his term as Assessor, Decker and his wife, Ida, purchased a small farm north of Longmont. Mr. Decker passed away on his farm on July 1, 1924, at the age of 68. He was survived by his wife.

Earnest L. and Alice Kately were the next owners and occupants of 517 Collyer. Water tap records list Kately as the property's owner between 1907 and 1910, and the Kately family is listed as residing at this address in the 1910-1911 city directory. Mr. Kately was a partner in the Kahn and Kately Clothing Store in the years following the turn of the twentieth century.

By circa 1911, the Katelys had sold the property to C. Gregg, and members of the Gregg family then owned and lived here until circa 1930. Subsequent residents of the property included: Tillason N. and Mary B. Leman (mid-1930s); James and Flossie Reese (late 1930s - early 1940s); James T. and Emma Fields (circa 1940s - early 1970s); S.I. Laser (late-1970s); Steve and/or Wendy L. Ostgaard (1980s - 1990s). The property is currently (in 2002) owned and occupied by Margaret F. Van Vliet.

36. Sources of Information

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

"John A. Decker, Longmont Pioneer, Found in Yard by Wife." [obituary] *Longmont Ledger*, July 4, 1924, p. 1.

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 December 1890, September 1895, November 1900, April 1906, June 1911, March 1918, June 1930, and May 1956.

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

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:

Yes **xx**

No

Date of Designation: **1989**

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.

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: **1900-1952**

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: **XX**

42. Statement of Significance

This house is historically significant relative to National Register Criterion A for its association with Longmont's residential development during the period of significance 1900-1952. The house is also architecturally significant, relative to National Register Criterion C for its simplistic, yet distinctive, vernacular brick masonry architecture. The property's level of significance is not to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places; however, it may be considered as a contributing resource within the boundaries of the East Side Historic District. The property was listed as a local landmark by the City of Longmont in 1989.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This house displays a relatively high level 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.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible:

Not Eligible: **xx**

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 within the boundaries of 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-21**

Frame(s): **15-17**

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: **November 26, 2002**

50. Recorders: **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

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

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