

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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Official Eligibility Determination
(OAHF use only)

OAHF1403

Rev. 9/98

Date _____ Initials _____

- Determined Eligible – National Register
 Determined Not Eligible – National Register
 Determined Eligible – State Register
 Determine Not Eligible – State Register
 Need Data
 Contributes to eligible National Register District
 Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

1. Resource number: **5BL.1138** Parcel number(s): **131503114001**
 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
 3. County: **Boulder**
 4. City: **Longmont**
 5. Historic Building Name: **German Congregational Church**
 6. Current Building Name: **Community of Christ Church**
 7. Building Address: **641 Martin Street**
 8. Owner Name: **Community Of Christ**
 Owner Organization:
 Owner Address: **1001 W Walnut**
Independence , MO 64050

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 44. National Register eligibility field assessment: | Not Eligible |
| Local landmark eligibility field assessment: | Eligible |

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II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **2N** Range: **69W**
SE ¼ of SE ¼ of NE ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 03
10. UTM reference
 Zone: **13** **492043 mE** **4446680 mN** **(NAD83)**
11. USGS quad name: **Longmont**
 Year: **1968 (photorevised 1979)** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Lot(s): **E 84 Ft Lots 21 & 22 Blk 22**
 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.
 Metes and bounds?: Describe:
-

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): **Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **Length: 44 feet x Width: 40 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Horizontal Siding**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Cross Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Wood Roof/Shingle Roof**
 Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **Window/Stained Glass**
Tower
Porch
Chimney

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21. General architectural description:

Built in 1924 as Longmont' German Congregational Church, this wood frame Gothic Revival style church is composed of the following building elements: an original L-shaped steeply-pitched cross-gabled section; a small, approximately 6' by 6', gabled tower which fills in the leg of the "L" on the east elevation (façade), a small, approximately 8' by 8', gabled addition (adjacent to the tower), at the north end of the façade; an original, approximately 24' by 10', hipped-roof extension which comprises the south end of the west elevation; and a modest, approximately 14' by 10', shed-roofed addition which comprises the north end of the west elevation. Overall, the present building measures approximately 40' N-S by 44' E-W, while the original building measures 36' by 40'. The church is supported by a painted green concrete foundation which extends to approximately two feet above grade. There is a basement beneath the main level, with natural light for the basement provided by 2-light hopper or fixed-pane windows. The church's exterior walls are clad with painted white horizontal wood siding, while the entire roof is covered with wood shingles. The roof eaves are boxed with painted white wood trim. A tall, wire-cut, red brick chimney is located at the base of the west-facing gabled roof slope. All of the church's windows feature painted white wood frames and surrounds. A large Gothic-arched window, composed of three single-light windows, topped by stained glass lights in the Gothic arch, is a notable architectural element, located near the south end of the façade (east elevation). Another large Gothic-arched window, composed of three single-light windows, topped by clear lights in the Gothic arch, is located on the north elevation. Three additional, smaller, Gothic-arched windows penetrate the church's south elevation. The shed-roofed addition at the north end of the west elevation is penetrated by two 1x1 horizontal sliding windows. A set of paired, painted white, solid wood front entry doors enter the gabled tower, from a 4-step concrete porch, on the façade. Another painted white solid wood door enters the small gabled addition at the north end of the façade. There are no other entry doors.

22. Architectural style: **Late Victorian/Carpenter Gothic**

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features: **This property is located at the southwest corner of Martin Street and Longs Peak Avenue, at the east end of Longmont's historic Eastside residential neighborhood. Situated on a small corner lot which measures 50' N-S by 84' E-W, the property appears well-maintained, with a modestly-landscaped planted grass lawn surrounding the church. A wide grass strip is located between the sidewalk and the curb along Longs Peak Avenue.**

24. Associated buildings, features or objects:

1:	Type:	Not Applicable	Contributing?	Contributing
	Describe:			

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IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1924**
 Source of information: **Building Permit, dated April 29, 1924, on file with the City of Longmont.**
26. Architect: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Arnold F. Peter and church members**
 Source of information: **Building Permit, dated April 29, 1924, on file with the City of Longmont.**
28. Original owner: **German Congregational Church**
 Source of information: **Building Permit, dated April 29, 1924, on file with the City of Longmont.**
29. Construction history:
The Gothic Revival style church building at 641 Martin Street was built in 1924 as Longmont's German Congregational Church. A building permit for the church's construction was issued to the German Congregational Church, by the City of Longmont, on April 29, 1924. A.F. Peter(s) was listed on the builder on the permit application, which called for the construction of a "frame church, 36' by 40', on Lots 21 and 22 of Block 22." The church was reportedly built, at least in part, out of discarded materials from the Coffin School located three miles east of town. The church building has been altered over the years. The gabled tower was originally taller, and with a diamond-shaped window on its east elevation. This and other alterations were probably carried out in 1962 and 1981 when building permits were obtained for unspecified remodeling efforts. More recently, in September of 20001, the Longmont Community of Christ Church received a building permit to remodel the stairways to the basement.
30. Original location: Moved: Date of move(s):

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Religion/Church**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Religion/Church**
33. Current use(s): **Religion/Church**
34. Site type(s): **Church**

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35. Historical background:

Built as the German Congregational Church in 1924, this building served as a place of worship for Longmont's Germans from Russia population for many years. The German Congregational Church appealed to many German Russians because of the freedom Congregationalism provided when compared the strict Lutheranism of the churches they, or their ancestors, had known in Russia. Originally organized in Nebraska in 1887, the first German Congregational Churches in Colorado were established in Denver in 1894. When this church was built thirty years later, it was one of thirty-one German Congregational Churches located throughout the state.

The Germans from Russia, or Volga Germans, were the descendants of some twenty-seven thousand German farmers and craftsmen who emigrated to the steppes of Russia between 1764-1767. In 1763, in an attempt to reform her country's economy, Catherine the Great had issued an invitation to people of other countries to come to Russia to work as farmers. Attracted by free land, religious liberty, and other privileges, early German settlers established more than one hundred settlements on both sides of the lower Volga River.

For more than a century, the Volga German colonists enjoyed their adopted land. In 1866, however, Russia began to restrict the German-Russians freedom. In increasing attempts at Russification, edicts were issued concerning the colonists' right to educate their children in German. In 1871, young German men were drafted into the military. These actions, combined with a lessening of religious liberty, and exacerbated by a famine, led many German-Russians to come to America. Excellent farmers, many settled in the wheat growing areas of western Canada and the United States, and in the sugar beet fields of the Midwest. Many Germans from Russia were drawn to Colorado by the state's burgeoning sugar beet industry. In the early 1900s, Colorado was the nation's leading producer of sugar beets, and Longmont could boast of having one of the state's first sugar beet factories, built in 1903.

This church boasted fourteen charter German-Russian families in 1924. Church services and minutes were conducted and written in German until the 1950s, as was typical of German Congregational churches throughout Colorado and elsewhere. By 1957, the church's name had been changed to Christ Congregational Church, and the following year, the congregation moved to Francis Street and Mountain View Avenue. This church, meanwhile, became affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It has also served as the Grace Evangelical Free Church, and it is presently (in 2006) the Community of Christ Church.

36. Sources of information:

Longmont City Directories.

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

McWilliams, Carl. Historic Loveland Churches. Loveland: Published by the Loveland Museum/ Gallery, 2002.

City of Longmont building permit files.

"The Restoration Christ Church Seeks to Return to Historic Look With Renovations." Longmont Times-Call, April 14, 2006, p. D-1.

Sanborn Insurance Maps.

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VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: Yes No Date of designation:

Designating authority: **City of Longmont**

38. Applicable National Register criteria:

- A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguished 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.

Longmont Standards for Designation:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

39. Area(s) of significance: **N/A**

40. Period of significance: **1924; 1924-1958**

41. Level of significance: National: State: Local:

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42. Statement of significance:

This building is historically significant for its association with Longmont's German-Russian population, and their cultural and religious heritage, from the time the church was constructed in 1924, until the congregation moved to a new location in 1958. The building is also architecturally significant for its Carpenter Gothic style of architecture. The building has been designated as a local landmark by the City of Longmont; however, due to a loss of integrity, it probably does not qualify for individual listing in the National or State Registers.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This property exhibits a somewhat below average level of integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society - location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Modest alterations, apparently in 1962 and 1981, have diminished the building's physical integrity to some extent. The removal of part of the tower is the most notable alteration.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Eligible**

Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Eligible**

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes No

Discuss: **This property is located outside the boundaries of Longmont's existing Eastside Historic District.**

There is potential that the district's boundaries could be extended east to Martin Street to include this block. This property would qualify as a contributing resource if it were located within the district's boundaries

If there is National Register district potential, is this building: Contributing Noncontributing N/A:

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it: Contributing Noncontributing N/A:

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s): **CLG Grant #08-05-20407-027 -** Negatives filed at: **City of Longmont**
CD-3, Images 204-208

48. Report title: **Eastside and Westside Neighborhoods: Historic** Department of Community
Context and Survey Report Development, Planning
Division

49. Date(s): **04/30/06** Civic Center Complex

50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams** 350 Kimbark Street

Longmont, Colorado 80501

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court**

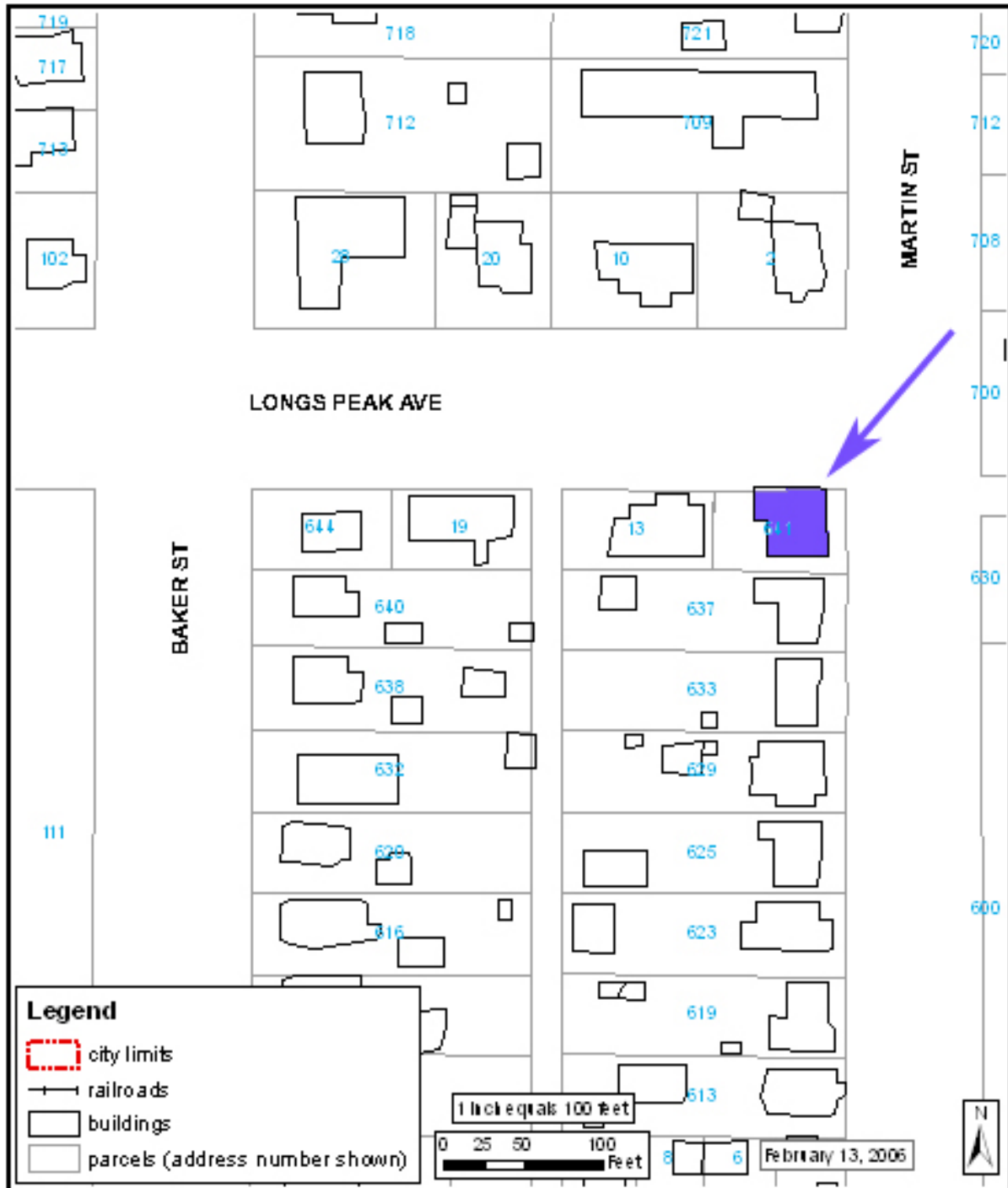
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525

53. Phone number(s): **9704935270**

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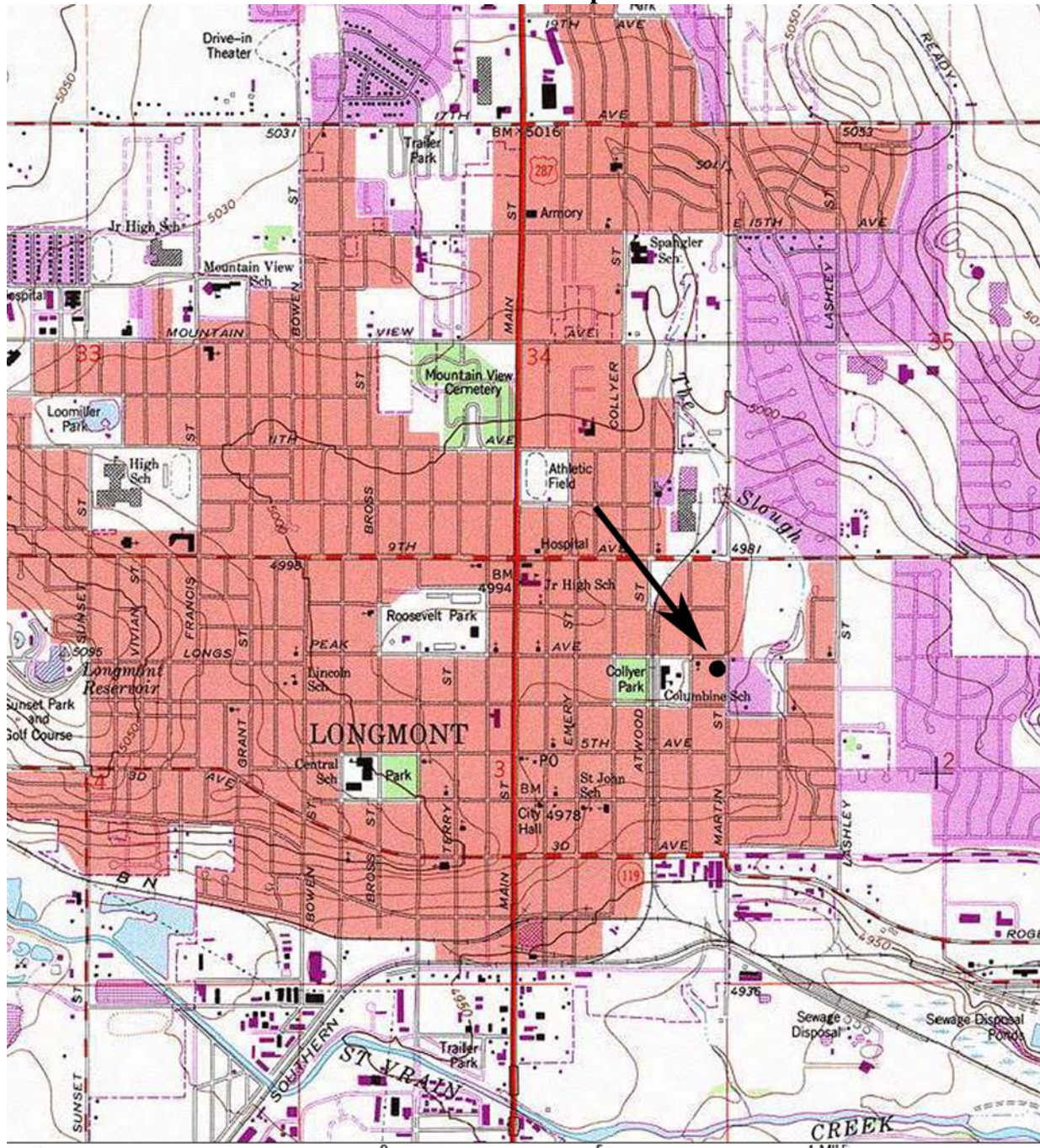
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Sketch Map



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Location Map



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)