

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination  
(OAH P use only)

OAH P1403  
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.10163** Parcel number(s): **131503219006**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Boulder**
- 4. City: **Longmont**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Thronson House**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Knight House**
- 7. Building Address: **534 Pratt Street**
- 8. Owner Name: **Knight, Joe W & Doris A**
- Owner Organization:
- Owner Address: **535 Pratt St**  
**Longmont , CO 80501**

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:	<b>Not Eligible</b>
Local landmark eligibility field assessment:	<b>Eligible</b>

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 2 of 9

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **2N** Range: **69W**  
**SW ¼ of NW ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of Section 03**
10. UTM reference  
 Zone: **13** **490943 mE** **4446475 mN** **(NAD83)**
11. USGS quad name: **Longmont**  
 Year: **1968 (photorevised 1979)** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Lot(s): **W 150 Ft of N 50 Ft Lot 2 Blk 37**  
 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: 45 feet x Width: 26 feet**
16. Number of stories: **1**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Hipped Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**  
 Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **Porch**  
**Window/Glass Block**  
**Chimney**
21. General architectural description:  
**Built in 1938, the distinctive dwelling at 534 Pratt Street encompasses some, but not all, elements of the International style of architecture. Unaltered from its original construction, the single story house is composed of two low-pitched hipped-roof wings, and a square, 9' by 9', flat-roofed tower (which forms the entry foyer) at the front southwest corner. Overall, the house measures 26' N-S (across) by 45' E-W (deep). It is supported by a concrete foundation, faced with wire-cut purple and brown bricks. The face bricks are primarily laid as stretchers; however, the lowest course is laid as soldiers. The foundation wall is penetrated at intervals by 2-light casement windows, with red brick rowlock sills. The home's exterior walls are clad with a wire-cut brown brick veneer, laid in running bond. A stringcourse of wire-cut purple brick add architectural detail, and help create a horizontal emphasis. (According to a notation on the 1956 Sanborn map, the house is of "tile [block]" construction, beneath the brick facing.) The low-pitched intersecting hipped roofs are covered with brown asphalt shingles, and the eaves are closed. A large brown brick fireplace chimney is centered on the west elevation (façade). Another tall brown brick chimney is located on the south-facing roof slope.**
- A rounded bay which forms the house's rear southeast corner is a notable architectural feature. The bay features three 3-light casement windows, with flanking glass block lights, and with transom lights. Multi-paned industrial sash casement windows, with transom lights, are located at either end of the façade. Glass block windows flank**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 3 of 9

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the fireplace chimney on the façade, and also penetrate the square tower at the front southwest corner. Windows elsewhere appear primarily to consist of industrial sash casements with transom lights.

A 5' by 5' concrete porch at the south end of the façade is approached by six rounded concrete steps. The porch and steps are flanked by wrought iron railings, and lead to a stained natural brown solid wood door, covered by a brown metal storm door. This entry door leads from the porch into the foyer formed by the square corner tower. A painted brown wood-paneled door, with three upper sash lights, and covered by an aluminum storm door, is located on the east (rear) elevation.

22. Architectural style: **Modern Movements/International Style**  
 Building type:
23. Landscape or special setting features: **This property is located on the east side of Pratt Street in Longmont's historic residential Westside neighborhood. The house is surrounded by planted grass front and back yards, and with narrow side yards along the house's north and south sides. A concrete driveway also extends along the south property line. The property features very well-maintained mature landscaping, including climbing plants along the house's south elevation and on the front chimney. A wide grass strip is located between the front sidewalk and the curb at Pratt Street.**
24. Associated buildings, features or objects:
- 1: Type: **Garage**  
 Describe: **A garage, built at the same time as the house, is located toward the rear of the lot, adjacent to the north property line. The garage measures 20' by 20', and is supported by a concrete slab foundation. Its exterior walls are clad with a wire-cut brown brick veneer, while stringcourses of wire-cut purple brick add architectural detail and help create a horizontal emphasis. Beneath the brick veneer, the garage is reportedly of tile block construction. The garage roof is flat, with brick parapet walls extending above the roof line on the east and west elevations, and with a pent roof above the garage door on the south elevation. Vehicular access to the garage is via a concrete driveway, which extends along the south side of the house to Pratt Street. A painted beige wood-paneled roll-away garage door, located on the south elevation, opens onto the driveway.**

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### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1938**  
 Source of information: **Town of Longmont Water Rent Collection Records; Sanborn Insurance maps.**
26. Architect: **Unknown**  
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Unknown**  
 Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **Norman E. Thronson**  
 Source of information: **Town of Longmont Water Rent Collection Records.**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 4 of 9

29. Construction history:

**Boulder County Assessor records, and Longmont city directories, document that this house was constructed in 1938, having replaced an earlier wood frame dwelling which had been built between 1900 and 1906. Norman E. Thronson was this house's original owner. There have been no additions and no notable exterior alterations to the residence following its original construction.**

30. Original location:  Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of move(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### 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:

**Boulder County Assessor records and Longmont city directories document that this house at 534 Pratt Street was constructed in 1938, replacing an earlier wood frame dwelling built circa 1904 by carpenters Joseph and William Clark. Norman E. Thronson was the son of early Longmont settlers Ole and Astrid Aaberg Thronson. According to They Came to Stay, Ole and Astrid Thronson and their young family came to Boulder County from Idaho Falls, Idaho in 1901. They purchased the Robert Culver farm west of Longmont. (Built on the farm in 1883 by Culver, the Thronson Barn is significant as the oldest, best preserved, and largest historic barn in unincorporated Boulder County.)**

**Ole Thronson developed a specialized method of threshing. After several years of threshing grain by the relatively slow process of a horse-drawn separator, Thronson purchased a steam engine to process his wheat, yielding up to 2000 bushels of grain in a day. Mechanically inclined, Ole Thronson began to devise bigger and better steam-powered threshers, an ambition carried on by sons Thorvald and Norman. Norman Thronson was born in 1888, and grew up on the family farm. Supplementing the threshing business and wheat farming done by his parents and older brother, Norman eventually turned to raising livestock as his occupation.**

**Apparently, Norman was married twice; They Came to Stay suggests that this marriage resulted in the birth of a daughter, Margaret Ann, and sons James, Robert and Donald. On November 9, 1946, when in his fifties, he married Edith A. Holland. Born February 4, 1908 in Centerville South Dakota, Edith Holland had moved to Longmont with her parents in 1917. She graduated from the Colorado Teachers College in 1941, and then taught in Wellington and Fountain. She also taught at the Bryant School in Longmont, becoming its principal. She retired from this position in 1946, when she wed Norman Thronson. Following their marriage, the couple resided in Norman's Pratt Street home for the remainder of their lives. Norman Thronson passed away in September 1961; Edith Holland Thronson lived to be 83, dying on November 14, 1991. Current owners of the home are Joe W. and Doris Knight, who live across the street at 535 Pratt Street**

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 5 of 9

36. Sources of information:

**Boulder County Assessor Property Records.**

**Longmont City Directories.**

**"Thronson, Thorvold M. (obituary)." Boulder Daily Camera, August 28, 1984.**

**Boulder County Assessor, Real Estate Appraisal Card - Urban Master.**

**Boulder County Assessor Property Records**

**(Boulder County) "Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master.**

**Sanborn Fire Insurance maps.**

**"Thronson, Blanche (Anderson) (obituary)." Boulder Daily Camera, August 19, 1978.**

**They Came to Stay: Longmont, Colorado 1858-1920. Longmont, Colorado: St. Vrain Valley Historical Association, 1971, p. 55.**

**Town of Longmont Water Rent Collection Records.**

**Town of Longmont Water Rent Collections.**

### VI. SIGNIFICANCE

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

Designating authority:

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.

## Architectural Inventory Form

Page 6 of 9

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: **Not Applicable**

40. Period of significance: **Not Applicable**

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

42. Statement of significance:

**This property is historically significant for its associations with Longmont's residential growth during the period of significance, and in particular for its association with the notable Thronson family. The house is also architecturally significant for its distinctive architectural characteristics exhibiting some elements of the International style. The property, thus, may be considered individually eligible for local landmark designation by the City of Longmont.**

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

**This property displays a very high level of 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. There have been no additions, and no noteworthy exterior alterations to the original dwelling. The historic garage also displays good integrity.**

### VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: **Not Eligible**

Local landmark eligibility field assessment: **Eligible**

45. Is there National Register district potential? Yes  No

Discuss: **This property is located in the block just north of Longmont's Westside Historic District's north boundary. Historic residences in this block have comparable levels of significance and integrity to residences within the historic district. There is good potential, thus, that the district's boundaries could be expanded to include this property.**

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:

# Architectural Inventory Form

Page 7 of 9

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## VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph number(s): **CLG Grant #08-05-20407-027 -** Negatives filed at: **City of Longmont**  
**CD-2, Images 103-110,**
48. Report title: **Eastside and Westside Neighborhoods: Historic** **Department of Community**  
**Context and Survey Report** **Development, Planning**  
**Division**
49. Date(s): **11/10/05** **Civic Center Complex**
50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams** **350 Kimbark Street**  
**Timothy Wilder** **Longmont, Colorado 80501**
51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**
52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court**  
**Fort Collins, Colorado 80525**
53. Phone number(s): **(970)493-5270**

# Architectural Inventory Form

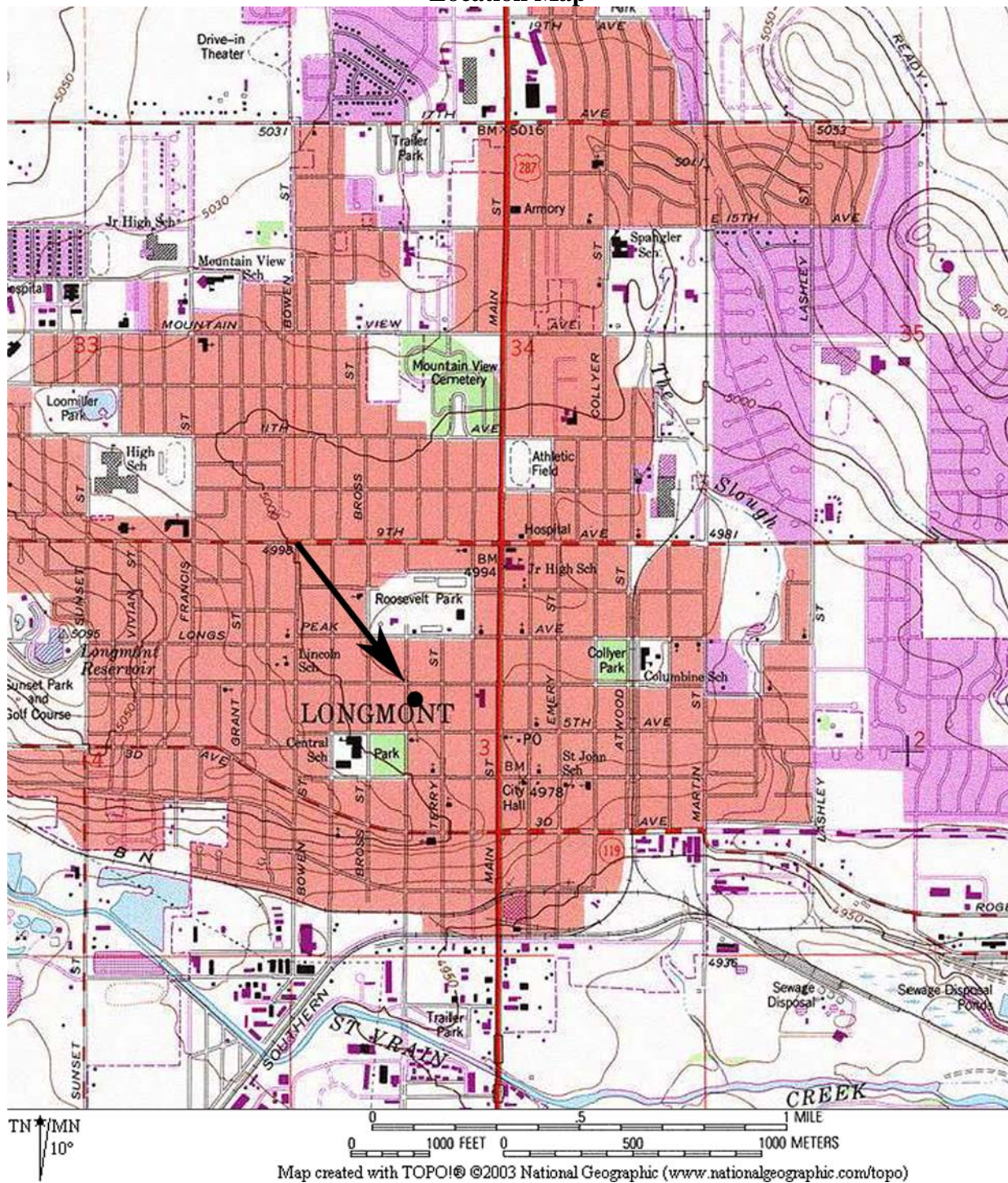
Page 8 of 9

## Sketch Map



# Architectural Inventory Form

## Location Map



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