

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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.536.27** Parcel number(s): **131503311003**
- 2. Temporary resource number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Boulder**
- 4. City: **Longmont**
- 5. Historic Building Name: **Methodist Episcopal Church; Elim Swedish Lutheran Church; Seventh Day Adventist Church**
- 6. Current Building Name: **Ahlberg Funeral Chapel**
- 7. Building Address: **326 Terry Street**
- 8. Owner Name: **Ahlberg Properties Partnership**
- Owner Organization:
- Owner Address: **326 Terry Street
Longmont, CO 80501**

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: Range:
NW ¼ of SE ¼ of NE ¼ of SW ¼ of Section 03
10. UTM reference
 Zone: **13** **491075 mE** **4446062 mN** **(NAD83)**
11. USGS quad name: **Longmont**
 Year: **1968 (photorevised 1979)** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Lot(s): **S 51 FT OF LOT 3 & N 30 1.6 FT LOT 4 BLK 62 LONGMONT ORIGINAL TOWN**
 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: **5870 sf**
16. Number of stories: **1 1/2**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**
 Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **Window/Stained Glass**
Chimney
Garage/Attached Garage
Car Port
Tower

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21. General architectural description:

In its present configuration, the building at 326 Terry Street consists of the historic 1882 Gothic Revival style Methodist Episcopal Church building, with four subsequent additions. Built circa 1882, the original church is of red brick construction, and measures 32' N-S (across) by 54' E-W (deep), with an 11' by 13' square tower near the west end of the south elevation. Constructed in 1947, the earliest addition to the original building measures 10' by 10' and is located east of (behind) the tower. At that time the building was used as a house of worship by the Seventh Day Adventists. More recent additions to the building were carried out after the church building became a funeral chapel in the early 1960s. These include: a large single-story concrete block addition which covers the original east (rear) elevation and the east end of the original south (side) elevation, constructed in 1963; a 400 square feet enclosed front entryway addition and a 500 square feet carport extension to the south elevation, built in 1988; and two additions, comprising 1643 square feet of additional space, built between 1994 and 1996. These last two additions include a 1.5 story gabled brick addition to the façade, which measures ~30' N-S by ~ 16' E-W, and a large single story concrete block addition to the east (rear) elevation, which measures ~60' N-S by ~22' E-W. This addition was built onto the east elevation of the 1963 addition.

The original Methodist Episcopal Church portion of the building features solid red brick masonry walls, laid in common bond. Brick columns, with sloping caps, are located on the north elevation. The original church is covered by a steeply-pitched front gable roof, covered with brown asphalt shingles. Painted white rafter ends are exposed beneath minimally-overhanging eaves, and twin red brick chimneys are located just below the roof ridge at the east end of the original building. Four Gothic-arched windows penetrate the church's north wall, while two Gothic-arched windows penetrate the original east wall. Large oculus windows penetrate the upper gable end on the east elevation, and the south and west elevations of the corner tower.

The gabled addition to the façade (west elevation) is also penetrated by a large oculus window in its upper gable end. This addition also features red brick exterior walls, laid in running bond, a steeply-pitched gable roof covered with brown asphalt shingles, and painted white exposed rafter ends covered by a fascia board beneath the eaves. The foundation of the addition is faced with red brick, and is separated from the main brick wall surface by a decorative projecting flagstone water table. A skylight penetrates the addition's south-facing roof slope. A set of paired glass-in-steel-frame entry doors lead into the enclosed front entryway addition at the south end of the façade. A set of paired stained natural brown wood doors, with stained glass lights, enter the building from beneath the carport extension on the south elevation. Two utility entry doors enter the 1963 concrete block addition on the south elevation, and a white metal-paneled roll-away garage door provides vehicular access to the more recent concrete block addition at the east end of the south elevation. The carport extension on the south elevation features a flat roof which is supported by four red brick pillars.

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

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features: **This building is located on the east side of Terry Street in the block between 3rd and 4th Avenues. A vacant lot, occupied until recently by the Bemis House, is located to the south of this property. The Longmont Times-Call newspaper facility is located to the north.**

24. Associated buildings, features or objects:

1: Type: **N/A**

Describe:

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IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of construction: Estimate: Actual: **1882**
 "Methodists to Celebrate 75th Anniversary Sunday." Longmont Times-Call, May 17, 1946, pp. 1,
 4. Source of information: "Preliminaries for a New Methodist Church."
 Longmont Ledger, May 3, 1882.
26. Architect: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
27. Builder: **Unknown**
 Source of information: **N/A**
28. Original owner: **Methodist - Episcopal Church**
 Source of information: "Methodists to Celebrate 75th Anniversary Sunday." Longmont Times-Call, May 17,
 1946, pp. 1, 4.

29. Construction history:
 The original Gothic Revival style portion of this building was constructed in 1882 as a house of worship for Longmont's Methodist Episcopal congregation. The brick church stood as originally built until 1947 when a small 10' by 10' addition was constructed behind the square tower on the south elevation. The building was converted into a funeral chapel in the early 1960s. According to City of Longmont building permit files, in 1963, a large concrete block addition was built onto the east elevation and to the east end of the south elevation. Ray Storm is listed as the general contractor. Also according to the building permit files, in 1988, a 400 square feet enclosed front entryway addition, and a 500 square feet carport extension were built onto the south elevation. These additions were designed by architect David Bishton. Between 1994 and 1996, a 1.5 story gabled brick addition was built onto the façade, and a large concrete block addition was built onto the east (rear) elevation. These two additions reportedly increased the building's size by 1643 square feet. They were designed by Thomas Moore and David Bishton, architects. Kee Construction Company served as the general contractor,

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): **Funerary/Mortuary**
34. Site type(s): **Former church, utilized as a funeral chapel from 1963 to the present.**

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35. Historical background:

The Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1882, and served as that congregation's house of worship until 1903. In that year, a new Gothic Revival style church building was constructed nearby at the southeast corner of Terry Street and 4th Avenue. That church subsequently became known as Longmont's First Methodist Church. This older church building at 326 Terry Street, meanwhile, became the Swedish Lutheran Church (also known as the Elim Swedish Lutheran Church) between 1904 and 1937. It then served as Longmont's Seventh Day Adventist Church between 1938 and circa 1963. At that time the building was acquired by Rodney Ahlberg for use as a funeral chapel. Originally named the Ahlberg Church Chapel of Funerals, the building has been utilized continuously as a funeral chapel by the Ahlberg family from that time to the present (2005).

The Methodist Episcopal Church (later known as the First Methodist Church), traces its roots in Longmont to the early 1870s. According to a church history published by the Longmont Times-Call on May 17, 1946, the church was organized on June 21, 1871, with Seth Terry, superintendent, Chancey Stokes, assistant superintendent, C. Bliss, secretary, A.W. Coffman, librarian, and Miss Isadore Terry, treasurer. All were member of the Chicago-Colorado Colony which founded Longmont in 1871. Reverend R.J. Van Valkenburg was reportedly the first church's first preacher.

The congregation's first church building in Longmont was reportedly built prior to 1872, and was located on Main Street south of 3rd Avenue. The congregation worshipped there until 1882 when they built their new church here at 326 Terry Street. In 1903, a new Methodist Episcopal Church was built at the southeast corner of Terry Street and 4th Avenue, and this church building was then taken over by the Swedish Lutheran Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church was renamed the First Methodist Church in 1939 following the union of three bodies of the Methodism religion in the United States. The 1903 church at the corner of Terry and 4th was razed in the mid-1960s to make way for the Longmont Times-Call newspaper building. The older church building at 326 Terry Street, though, has remained in use as the Ahlberg Funeral Chapel.

36. Sources of information:

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation - Architectural Site Detail, January 1, 1984.

"Rodney Ahlberg Buys First Methodist Church for Funeral Chapel." Longmont Times-Call, February 24, 1958, p. 1.

"Preliminaries for a New Methodist Church." Longmont Ledger, May 3, 1882.

"Methodists to Celebrate 75th Anniversary Sunday." Longmont Times-Call, May 17, 1946, pp. 1, 4.

Boulder County Assessor Property Records.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1900, 1906, 1911, 1918, 1930, 1956.

City of Longmont building permit files.

Boulder County Assessor Real Estate Appraisal Card - Urban Master.

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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-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.

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

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

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

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.

39. Area(s) of significance: **Not Applicable**

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

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

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42. Statement of significance:

The former Methodist Episcopal Church building at 326 Terry Street is historically significant for its association the themes of community development and religion, dating from the time of its construction in 1882. In particular, the former church building is historically significant for its associations with members of the Chicago Colorado Colony, and for the role it played in Longmont's establishment and its early formative years. From 1882 through circa 1963, the building served as a house of worship for the Methodist Episcopal, the Swedish Lutheran, and the Seventh Day Adventist congregations.

The building is also architecturally significant for its Late Victorian era Gothic Revival style of architecture; however, its architectural significance has been diminished due to a loss of integrity. The building's level of historical and architectural significance is not to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or in the State Register of Historic Properties. The building does likely qualify, though, for individual local landmark designation by the City of Longmont, based solely on its historical significance. It should be considered ineligible for local landmark designation based on its architectural significance because much of the historic building is hidden behind non-historic additions.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

The former Methodist Episcopal Church building displays a below-average level of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Additions to the original building (described above in sections 21 and 29) have covered much of the original building. As such it is no longer able to fully convey a sense of its architectural significance as a late 19th century Gothic Revival building. The primary addition to the façade is very well executed, however. It complements the original building in terms of its materials and construction details, and it carries out the same roof line as the original church.

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 across the street from the east boundary of Longmont's existing Westside Historic District, which has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. There appears to be limited potential 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:

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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 1-10,
48. Report title: **Eastside and Westside Neighborhoods: Historic** **Department of Community**
Context and Survey Report **Development, Planning**
Division
49. Date(s): **09/27/05** **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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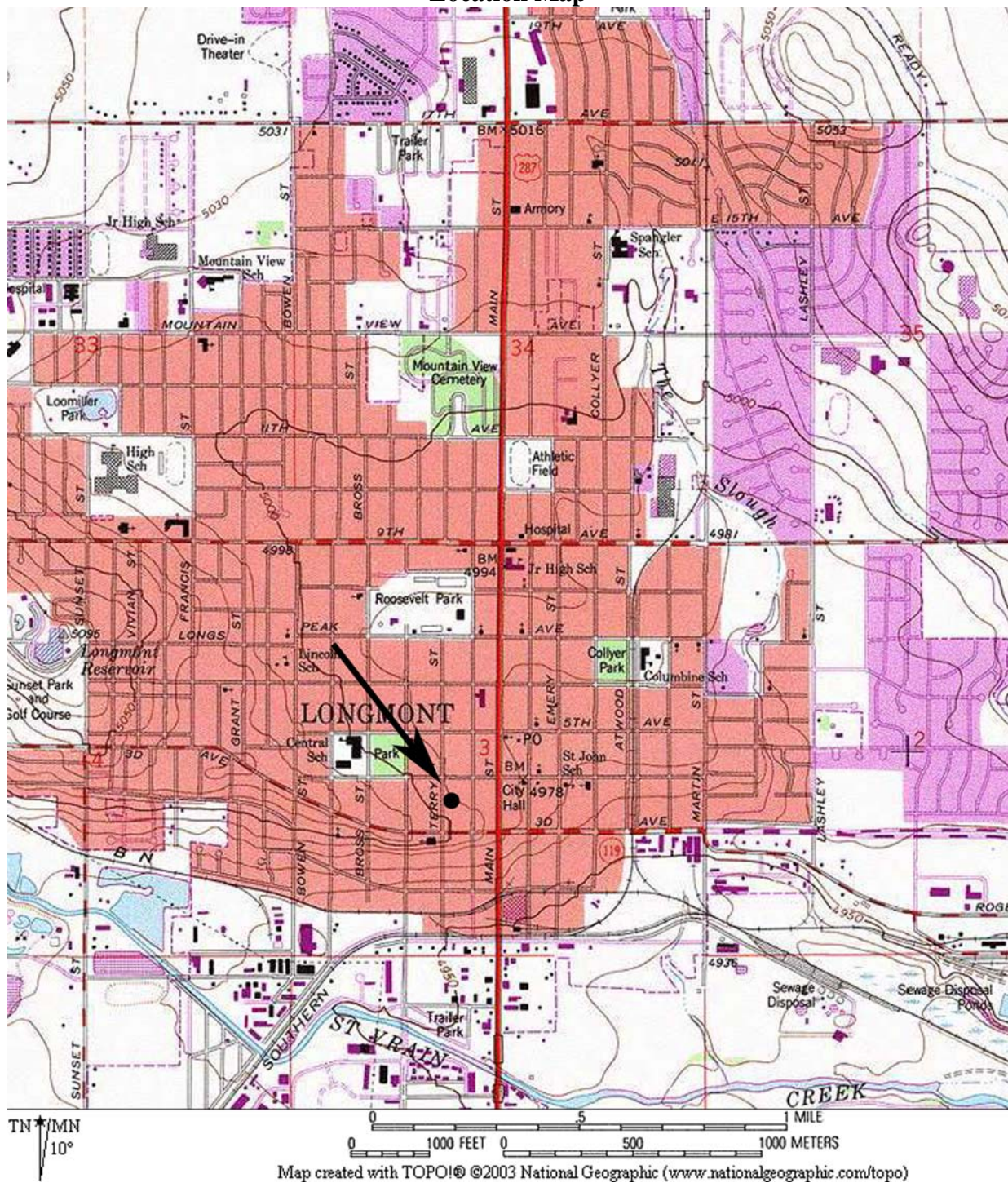
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Sketch Map



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Location Map



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