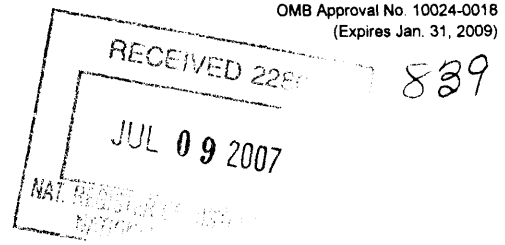


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Christian Science Society Building

other names/site number 5RT1053

2. Location

street & number 641 Oak Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Steamboat Springs [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Routt code 107 zip code 80477

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wolfe Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/22/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Elson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper 8.22.07 Date of Action

Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements
Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Log
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The 1934 Christian Science Society Building is a one-story, rectangular plan 24 ft. by 35.5 ft., front gable-roofed structure with an entry vestibule. The log walls rise from a rubble stone foundation. Multi-light wood frame windows on both side walls provide interior illumination. The gable-roofed vestibule contains an arched wood battened door within a broadly framed opening. Diagonal logs fill the gables of the vestibule and the main roof. The front eaves contain a saw-toothed bargeboard of unpeeled logs. The roof is sheathed with metal panels. The interior walls are of stained logs, the floor is wood, and the ceiling consists of non-original wood panels. The building stands in a turf covered corner lot containing several mature pine trees. The building fronts northeast to Oak Street at its intersection with 7th Street. Butcherknife Creek flows through the eastern adjacent lot.

The building is supported by a river rock foundation which rises approximately 2.5 feet above grade at the northern end of the building and 3 feet at the rear. A dirt-floored crawlspace is accessed through a trap door in the floor of the church. The crawlspace has one window in each side of the foundation. The crawlspace provided a place for the coal furnace and is only partially excavated. Above the river rock foundation is a decorative belt course of vertical logs, with bark, which measures 8 inches and is painted green.

The original wood windows are in place, consisting of two large sets of triple windows on each side and one smaller window located toward the front entrance on each side. The larger sets of windows consist of two casement windows and a fixed central window, divided by wood mullions, with small panes of glass. The smaller windows consist of three vertical panes of glass and are stationary. The exterior logs are stained in a natural brown finish, the bargeboard trim is painted green, and the original windows are painted off-white. Exterior daubing between the logs has been replaced as necessary and some of the original application has darkened over time due to the restaining of the logs. The brick chimney on the south wall originally vented the coal furnace. This original furnace was replaced in the late 1940s or early 1950s with an oil furnace, and in the mid 1980s the oil furnace was replaced with a natural gas furnace.

The original bare log walls are visible on the interior. Chinking and daubing have been replaced as necessary. The pews and the light fixtures are original to the building. The pews and other furnishings were made of native wood (*Steamboat Pilot*, December 13, 1935). A rectangular area of the wood floor directly in front of the podium has been patched. Originally, a metal grate allowed heat from the coal furnace to flow upward from the crawlspace. With the replacement of the furnace, air ducts were added and the floor opening was filled.

The original ceiling had no insulation and was formed by the underside of the roof. The dropped wood panel ceiling was installed in the late 1940s or early 1950s. It was at this time that cables were installed to stabilize the building. At the same time, the original wood shingle roof was replaced with a metal roof to allow snow to slide off rather than accumulate.

The Christian Science Church Building is an excellent local example of the Rustic Style as it appeared in Steamboat Springs. Although good examples of the style are present throughout the Old Town area, the Church building is the only known non-residential example and maintains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

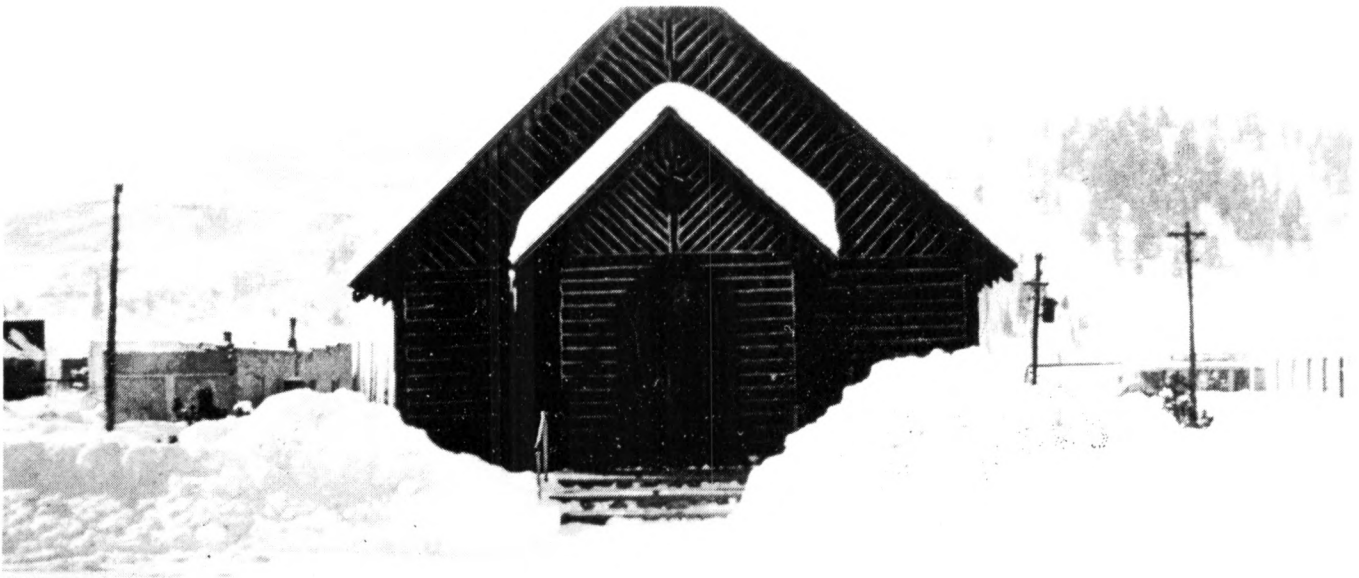
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2



Both photographs show the Christian Science Society Building in about 1939.
Source: Tread of Pioneers Museum, Steamboat Springs



Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Periods of Significance

1934

Significant Dates

1934

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Campbell, Ernest

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 3**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1934 Christian Science Society Building in Steamboat Springs is eligible to the National Register under Criterion C in the area of *architecture* as a good local example of the Rustic style. It embodies many of the defining characteristics of the design philosophy, including the use of native materials in its log construction and stone foundation, the multi-light windows, simple ornamentation, and log wall interior. The building is in harmony with its mountain setting, an important quality of naturalistic design encompassed in the Rustic style.

Rustic Style

Rustic style architecture is characterized by its natural setting and its use of native materials, often log and stone. Designed to blend in with the natural environment, these structures are usually vacation homes, hunting lodges, dude ranches, or tourist-related facilities in national and state parks.

Traditional building techniques emphasizing hand craftsmanship were often employed in the construction of Rustic structures. The majority of these structures in Colorado were built after 1905, though early examples date to the last years of the nineteenth century. Rustic structures are primarily of log construction with stone foundations, battered walls, overhanging roofs, and small paned windows. Interior and exterior ornamentation is often of log construction, sometimes consisting of bent and twisted logs and branches used as balusters and brackets.

Rustic style buildings differ from pioneer log structures that generally were built during initial settlement periods and often exhibited crude construction. Rustic buildings generally have stone chimneys while pioneer log cabins utilized metal flues attached to iron stoves. Rustic buildings have more commercially manufactured hardware and materials, such as window frames, doors, and interior paneling. Such buildings may also employ hip roofs, a form virtually never found on pioneer log structures.

The National Park Service played an early role in popularizing the Rustic style. Many buildings throughout its park system employed the design philosophy, ranging from large guest lodges, to visitor centers, to the lowly comfort station (privy). Rustic design even figured into road and trail construction, attempting to minimize the visual impacts through the use of native materials in retaining wall and bridge construction. Stephen T. Mather, the first National Park Service director, and Thomas Vint, the NPS chief architect, both supported the concept of naturalist design and its architectural expression in the Rustic style. The U.S. Forest Service also adopted the Rustic style for many of its ranger stations and campground facilities.

During the depression years of the 1930s, federal relief programs put many of the unemployed to work in national, state and municipal parks building trails, retaining walls, bridges, picnic shelters, comfort stations, and other structures. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were particularly active in these projects. Often working under the direction of National Park and Forest Service planners, the Rustic style became a hallmark of their projects. The Rustic style carried over to projects outside of parks, and often miles away from the mountain environment so associated with its use.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4

Many private Rustic buildings were the product of their owners, both in design and construction. Others reflect the skilled hands of a local craftsman. John Spence, a native of Scotland and a skilled carpenter and mason, designed and built the Hiwan Homestead in Evergreen (National Register). A number of private architects created Rustic style designs for public and private projects. J.J.B. Benedict designed shelters and buildings for the Denver Mountain Parks system (National Register), in addition to Baehr Lodge for a private party. The project portfolios of Burnham Hoyt and the firm of William E. and Arthur A. Fisher include Rustic style Colorado buildings.

The Rustic style remains popular and it continues to influence design in public parks and private construction in the Rocky Mountain West.

The Rustic style appears throughout the Western Slope community of Steamboat Springs, with a very good residential sampling occurring in the downtown area. The best examples of Rustic architecture featured in the 1930s and 1940s, well after the initial settlement and community-building period, when the smaller size and simple design made the buildings achievable. The style also reflected an idealization of the pioneer period in the West and a desire of homeowners to recapture a portion of that history. Most of the extant buildings are of simple origin, with unknown builders and construction history.

The Christian Science Society Building is the quintessential Rustic style mountain church as it appeared in western Colorado. True to the Rustic style, the builders utilized local materials and simple decorative elements to create an indigenous building in harmony with its small-town mountain setting. Traditional construction, hand craftsmanship, and a simple functional design, the hallmarks of the style, feature with the Christian Science Society Building. Although good examples of the style are present throughout the Old Town area of Steamboat Springs, the church building is the only known non-residential example and maintains a high degree of integrity. The Christian Science Church Building has changed very little since its construction and looks much the same today as it did in the 1930s. Constructed by Ernest Campbell, the building is one of the best surviving examples of his work.

Ernest Campbell was born in Canada to parents who had emigrated from England. In Routt County, Ernest Campbell owned and operated a sawmill through the early half of the twentieth century. His name appears often in advertisements and the social happenings of the community. Interestingly, in 1905, Campbell was accused of cutting state timber without a permit and threatened with a fine of \$25 per tree. In addition to the Christian Science Society Building, other buildings known to have been constructed by Campbell include the structures at 600 Lincoln Avenue and 800 Oak Street. The Lincoln Avenue building was called the Campbell Building for many years after its construction in 1904. The Tread of Pioneers Museum is currently housed in the other Campbell-constructed building at 800 Oak Street. Both buildings are of wood frame construction, have experienced modifications, and are not of the Rustic style

Background History

Steamboat Springs residents organized the Christian Science Society on July 22, 1908. The Sunday school started the following year. The church records include a Reading Room sales' book dated 1910 and 1911. In 1919 or 1920, George Shaw Cook delivered the first lecture. Until 1934, Christian Science services were held in various places in the community.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 5

The original eight charter members included Mrs. Nellie Allen, Mrs. Guerina Banning, Mary Weldon Borland, Mrs. Margaret Crawford, Mrs. Sylvia Creveling, Charles H. Leckenby, Laura Leckenby, and Mrs. Molly Lockhart. James and Margaret Crawford founded and named the town of Steamboat Springs in 1875. Margaret came from Sedalia, Missouri, and on a return visit, first heard about Christian Science. She brought its precepts back to Steamboat Springs and introduced Christian Science to her friends and neighbors.

In 1920, the Christian Science Society purchased the corner lot at Oak and 7th streets from F. A. Metcalf for \$650. The property had previously been the site of the Onyx Hotel. The society members decided in the spring of 1934 to erect a church building on the property. They hired local builder Ernest Campbell as the contractor to construct the church for \$1,345. Work began in August and the congregation held its first service in the new church building just three months later on November 4, 1934. Dedication services occurred when the church was free of all debt—Sunday, December 15, 1935. Regular services have since been held continuously.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 9-10 Page 6**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Reiff, Lynn W., "Christian Science Society," Routt County Historic Preservation Board Application Form for Local Historic Designation, January 28, 2001.

Sources cited in above document:

Church history letter date May 19, 1947, from Frances M. Cousar.

Church history letter dated April 19, 1968, from Robert A. Wither.

Newspaper clippings of various dates from the *Steamboat Springs Pilot*.

Richards, Dee. Steamboat Round the Bend, Steamboat Springs: *Steamboat Pilot*, 1976.

Routt County Assessor's Office. Steamboat Springs, CO.

Steamboat Pilot, Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection, 1859-1923 and December 13, 1935.

United States Census, 1920.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The land being nominated consists of Lots 5 and 6, Block 17, in the original Steamboat Springs, Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 84 West, Routt County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the church building.

Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 13 | 344726 | 4483107 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |

The UTM point was derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lauren Lafferty Schaffer/Historic Preservation Officer (prepared for property owner)
organization City of Steamboat Springs date February 1, 2007
street & number PO Box 775088 telephone (970) 871-8278
city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Christian Science Society
street & number PO Box 771826 telephone _____
city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

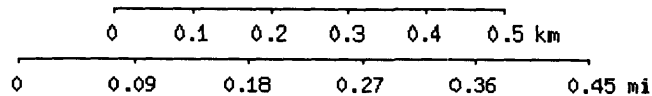
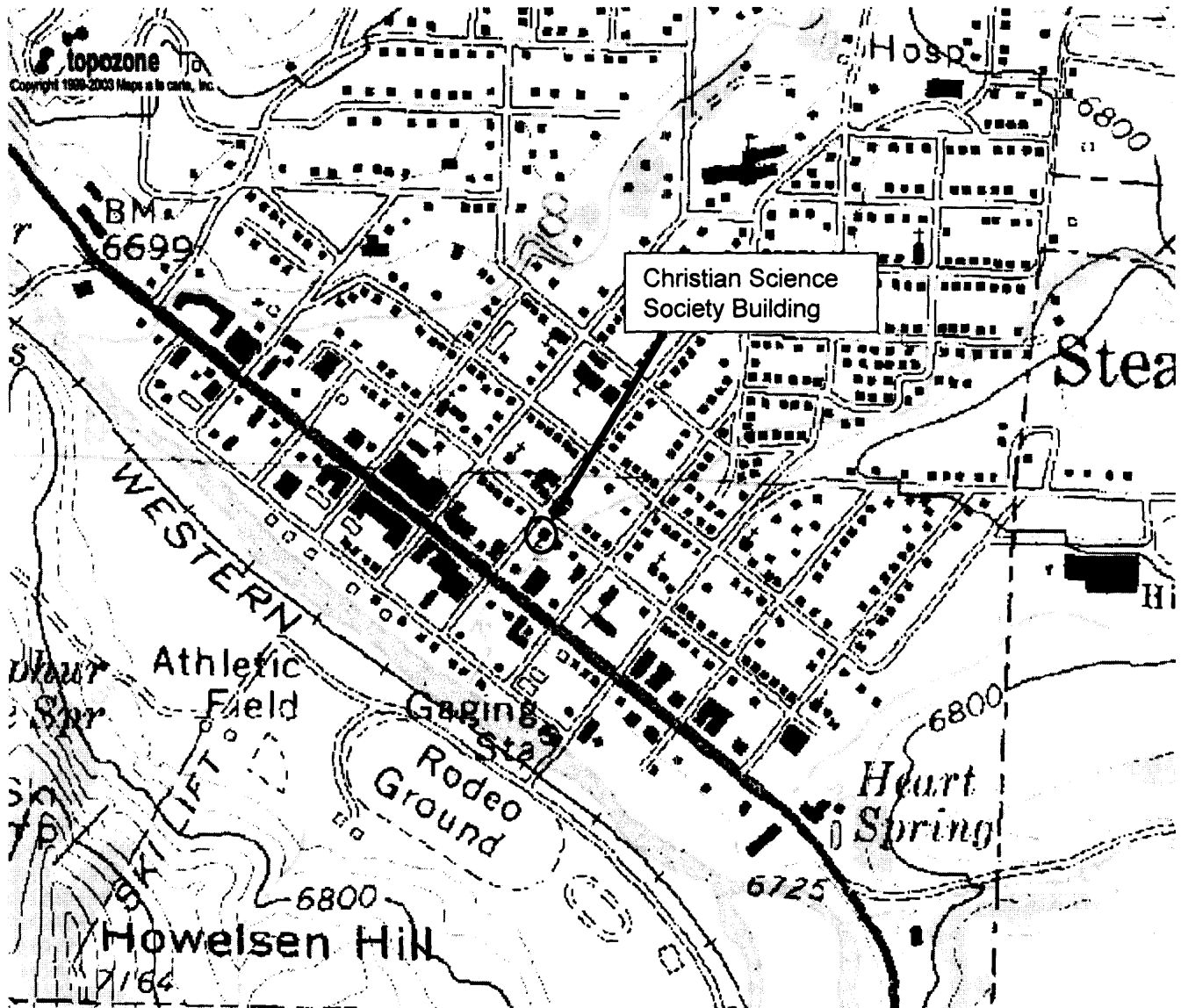
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 7

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP
Steamboat Springs Quadrangle, Colorado
7.5 Minute Series, 1969

UTM: Zone 13 / 344726E / 4483107N (NAD27)
PLSS: 6th PM, T6N, R84W, Sec. 17 NW¼ NW¼ NE¼
Elevation: 6,740 feet Site Number: 5RT1053



Steamboat Springs, USGS Steamboat Springs (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

M=11.051
G=-1.19

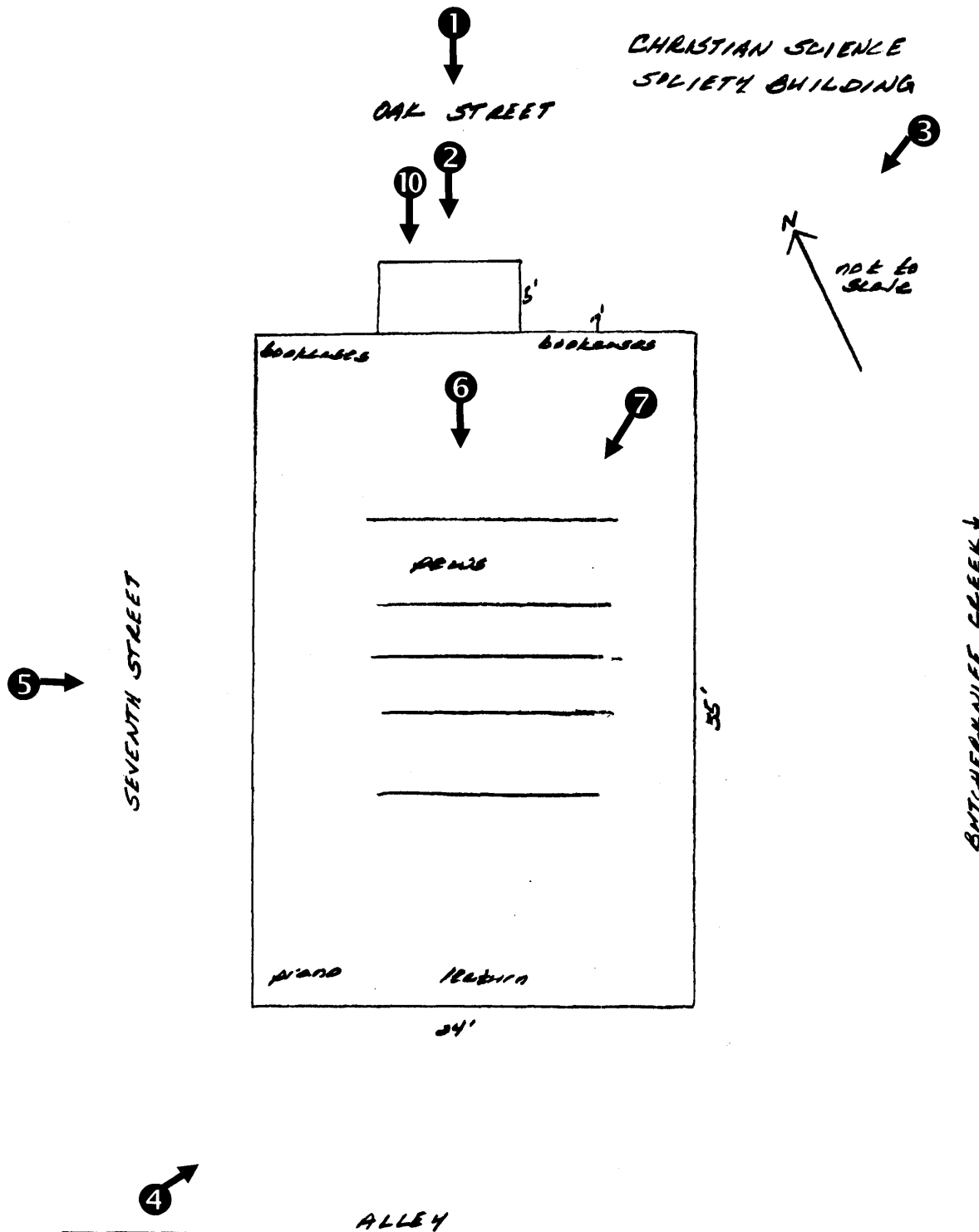
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, Colorado

Section number 10 Page 8

SITE PLAN PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS AND VIEWS



**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number ____ Page 9**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-10:

Photographer: Laureen Schaffer
Date of Photographs: January 25, 2007
Negatives: Steamboat Springs Historic Preservation Office

| <u>Photo No.</u> | <u>Photographic Information</u> |
|------------------|--|
| 1 | Facade view to the southwest. |
| 2 | Facade detail, view to the southwest. |
| 3 | Facade and southeast side, view to the west. |
| 4 | Facade and northwest side, view to the east. |
| 5 | Rear and northwest side, view to the southeast. |
| 6 | Interior view toward front, view to the southwest. |
| 7 | Interior view toward front, view to the west. |
| 8 | Floor access to crawl space. |
| 9 | Interior window detail. |
| 10 | Facade entry detail, view to southwest. |