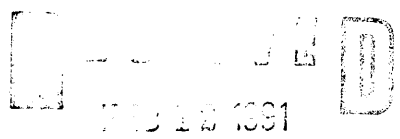


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8/86)  
NPS/CHS Word Processor Format  
(Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: The First Presbyterian Church of Golden/Unger House  
other names/site number: The Foothills Art Center, Inc.

**2. Location**

street & number: 809 15th Street (N/A)not for publication  
city, town: Golden (N/A)vicinity  
state: Colorado code: CO county: Jefferson code: 059 zip code: 80401

**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
(X) private	( ) building(s)		
( ) public-local	(X) district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
( ) public-State	( ) site		<u>      </u> sites
( ) public-Federal	( ) structure		<u>      </u> structures
	( ) object		<u>      </u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this (x) 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 (x) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria.  
( ) See continuation sheet.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

1/30/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*OK* State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Commenting or Other Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

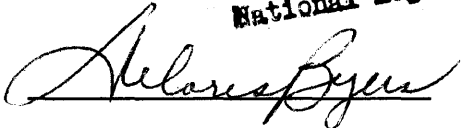
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State or Federal Agency and Bureau

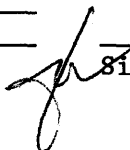
**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this 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.
- ( ) other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Entered in the  
National Register**

 3/14/91  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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**6. Functions or Use**

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**Historic Functions****(enter categories from instructions)**Church: Religion; religious structureManse: Religion; church related residenceHouse: Domestic; single dwelling**Current Functions****(enter categories from instructions)**Recreation and Culture: museumOther: Community Art Center

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification****(enter categories from instructions)**Church: Late Victorian; GothicManse: Late Victorian Queen AnneHouse: Late Victorian Queen Anne**Materials****(enter categories from instructions)**foundations Stone: sandstonewalls Church: brickManse: brick and woodroof Wood: shingledother

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The First Presbyterian Church, its adjoining manse and the Unger house, now the Foothills Art Center complex are representative buildings from the late Victorian period. Each building has characteristic elements of the architectural styles popular at the time of their construction; the Gothic church built in 1872, the Queen Anne manse in 1892 and the Queen Anne Unger House built in 1899. All three buildings, on the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and 15th Street, were constructed at the top of "Courthouse Hill", an area that became the most prestigious residential location in the city of Golden.

Foothills Art Center complex is a combination of 20th century Western art in a 19th century setting. It is a nationally recognized cultural facility housed in three historic buildings. The main gallery, originally the Gothic style First Presbyterian Church, was built in 1872 when the pioneers were settling Golden. The church was the first permanent structure located on what later became known in Golden as Courthouse Hill named after the construction of the Jefferson County courthouse in 1878. In 1892, a Queen Anne style "manse" or residence for the Presbyterian minister, was constructed directly west of the church. The third building in the Foothills complex is the late Victorian house on the south side of the church, at 1510 Washington Avenue built by Perre O. Unger in 1899. Although the builders of all three properties were different people the quality workmanship, use of the same local building materials and late Victorian styles of architecture combine to form these three buildings into a cohesive complex.

(x) See continuation sheet

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      ( ) nationally      ( ) statewide      (x) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria      (x) A      ( ) B      (x) C      ( ) D  
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      (x) A      ( ) B      ( ) C      ( ) D      ( ) E      ( ) F      ( ) G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1872, 1892, 1899

**Significant Dates**

1872, 1892

1899

Community Planning and Development

1872 - 1940

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Church: original architect unknown

Church addition: 1898 Kimball

House: Unger, Perre

**State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.**

The Foothills Art Center Complex, made up of the First Presbyterian Church, the Manse, and the Unger House, meets criterion C for architectural significance. These three buildings represent the architectural designs, methods of construction and the use of local materials in late 19th century Golden. Criterion Consideration A has been used because the church derives its primary significance from its Gothic Revival architectural design. The complex also meets criterion A for its significance in Community Planning and Development in Golden from 1872 to 1940. These buildings were part of the area known as Courthouse Hill, one of Golden's more prestigious neighborhoods which developed in the late 1800s.

The First Presbyterian Church established by the Reverend Sheldon Jackson in 1870 and built on land donated by the W. A. H. Loveland's, was the keystone for what became an elegant turn-of-the-century neighborhood. The neighborhood around the church was composed of large brick homes built at first in the Queen Anne style and later in the Foursquare style. These were homes of the town's prominent bankers, builders, lawyers and professors at the Colorado School of Mines. Now that Foothills Art Center has purchased these buildings and converted them to a non-profit art center, they have been returned to their former 19th century glory and are significant for their contribution to the historical development of Golden and their representation of an important architectural period.

In 1859 the "rush" was on to find gold in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. At the mouth of Clear Creek, in Golden, miners laid their claims to fame and

(x) See continuation sheet

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Carlson, D., "Architectural Tour of Foothills I and II", Golden, CO 1988.

Drew, William G., "Art Center Description", Golden, CO 1974.

First Presbyterian Church, "65th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet", Golden, CO 1937.  
(x) See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> preliminary determination of individual listing ( 36 CFR 67) has been requested | Primary location of additional data:<br><input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously listed in the National Register                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency<br><input type="checkbox"/> Local government   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> previously determined eligible by the National Register                         | <input type="checkbox"/> University<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> designated a National Historic Landmark   | Specify Repository:<br>_____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____                        |  |

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of property: less than one acre

**UTM References**

A	<u>1 3</u>	<u>4 8 1 2 8 0 </u>	<u>4 4 0 0 1 1 0 </u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting												
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting		Northing		Zone	Easting											

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 1, 2, 3 and N 1/2 of 4, Block 60, South side of Clear Creek, Golden, Colorado Territory, Jefferson County, Colorado  
Township 3 S, Range 70 W, Section 34

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

This boundary includes the property which has historically been associated with the First Presbyterian Church of Golden, the Manse and the P. O. Unger House which are now operating as Foothills Art Center, Inc.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: <u>Toni L. Scheunemann, volunteer</u>	Date: <u>September 1, 1990</u>
Organization: <u>Foothills Art Center, Inc.</u>	Telephone: <u>(303) 279-3922</u>
Street & Number: <u>809 15th Street</u>	State: <u>CO</u> Zip Code: <u>80401</u>
City or Town: <u>Golden</u>	

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

First Presbyterian Church of Golden

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE AND HISTORIC ALTERATIONS

The First Presbyterian Church is basically a rectangular building with an east facing gable front and a north gable wing. At the intersection of the wing and main building is a projecting square bell tower with a Gothic arched entrance and wooden double doors. The tower has shallow corner buttresses, Gothic arched windows on the north side and a pyramidal roof topped with a finial.

The original church was 26' x 50' with an east/west orientation. It had a rectangular plan and a front gable roof. The foundation is constructed of hand shaped blocks of Colorado sandstone. The red and light tan bricks for the walls and trim are from a local Golden brickyard. At the side of each corner of the building are buttresses of red brick with light colored stone caps. Originally there were nine stained glass windows in a simple geometric pattern. Four were on the north and south sides and one large window behind the pulpit in the west end. The roof was steeply pitched and covered with wood shingles and had a small chimney in the northeast corner. In 1898, a bell tower was added to the northeast corner of the church, a gabled roof addition to the north side and a small addition on the south. The same building materials as the original church were used to construct the 1898 additions. The massive, wooden front doors were removed from the original east entrance and installed in the new bell tower still facing east. Two small stained glass windows were purchased to be placed with the large one taken from behind the pulpit and all three were put in the north end of the addition. The bell tower has three Gothic arched openings with louvers set into recessed brick panels. At the top of the panels is brick corbelling. The arches are framed in light colored brick on each of the sides.

The church manse built in 1892, is two stories high with an irregular plan and a combination hipped and gabled roof. On the northeast corner is a massive two story tower topped with an onion shaped dome with a metal finial. The exterior of the manse is of the same Colorado sandstone and red brick as the church. There is one row of dark red brick, set in a serrated pattern linking the tops of the first story windows. There is a wide molding dividing the first and second floors. The second story is faced with fishscale and diamond pattern shingles. There is a molded cornice at the eave line. A rounded, Romanesque

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   3  

First Presbyterian Church of Golden

style archway covers the recessed entry to the manse. The windows are one-over-one wood sash. Those on the second floor have decorative molding on the sills and wood molding at the tops. The upper third of the first floor windows have leaded glass panels.

The third building in the Foothill's complex is the P. O. Unger House on the south side of the church. Unger used a stone foundation and bricks similar to those used in construction of the church and manse, to build the house at 1510 Washington Avenue. The house is two stories with an irregular plan and a hipped roof with gabled ends on the east and south. There is a slight bow on the south side and a two story rounded turret on the northeast corner with a conical roof and finial. There are fishscale shingles around the top of the tower. The first floor of the turret is surrounded by a wraparound porch with fluted columns and wooden balustrade. The windows are one-over-one wood sash and are flat or segmental arched. The second story windows are decorated with wood molding.

The cornice detail is alternating rows of dentils and fishscale shingles along the roofline. There are also fishscale shingles in the gables. Around 1923, the southeast corner of the house was extended in an ell to enlarge the front parlor and every other brick was removed from the southeast and southwest corner of the parlor to make the addition an integral part of the existing structure. When it was finished the whole exterior was painted to cover the subtle difference in the shade of the new brick. To balance the addition on the south side, the rounded porch was enlarged from three to five columns, wrapping around the front of the house to the side garden.

**ALTERATIONS SINCE 1940**

The repairs and additions to the church, manse and house since the late 1940s to the present have had little adverse impact on the original exterior appearance of the buildings. Much of the architectural and historical integrity of all three buildings has been maintained.

In 1947 a flat roof, one story west wing was added to the church by Golden architect Bob Dunham, which included a new kitchen, fireplace and social room. A brick, covered walkway to connect the church and the manse was also built from the west rear of the church to the south rear of the manse creating a small U-shaped open space between the two buildings. Two restrooms were also added at

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   7   Page   4  

First Presbyterian Church of Golden

the west end of the walkway. When Foothills Art Center moved into the church and manse in the 1960s, the interiors were renovated to accommodate the art gallery and offices. In 1968, a covered walkway was created between the south rear wall of the manse and the north side of the social room by adding a roof. In 1980 Foothills began construction of a two story addition to the rear of the west wing and a second story was added onto the west wing. This work, designed by architect Alan Peterson, incorporated the first floor kitchen and social room addition of 1947. The roof of the new addition has the same degree of slope and ridge height as the original church roof. The south portion of the new second story addition has a flat roof which extends out from the middle of the roof slope. (See photo #5.) The exterior of the new west wing is brick on the ground floor and square cut shingles on the second story, which is compatible with the manse. The second story of the new west wing addition, combines elements of both buildings. The west wing addition does not detract significantly from the original design of the church and manse when viewed from Washington Street or 15th Street.

During the 1950s the Unger House became a fraternity house for Theta Chi. Because of the nature of the residence, the fraternity had to do some remodeling. They added a bathroom on the first floor for the house mother and enclosed the back porch. The porch is now faced in aluminum siding. In the 1960s, rooms in the house were rented out. A small concrete stoop and five steps with a new door were added on the north side as a rental entrance in the mid 1960s.

The landscape around the art center has undergone some changes. The south wall of the west wing is covered with ivy, a part of the plan to enhance the landscaped environment of the three buildings. Aspen trees, low shrubs, mountain wildflowers and blue spruce trees that frame the contours of the buildings were added to the original plantings, which consisted of a few mature evergreens.

At the rear of the Unger House on the alley, is a parking lot and a non-contributing garage. This building consists of a two car flat roof addition to the an older one car garage. The garage, faced in vertical wood siding, is not compatible in design or materials with the other buildings.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Foothills Art Center

fortune. With the prospectors came men like W. A. H. Loveland, an entrepreneur who built the first store in Golden. Loveland went on to become one of Colorado's most prominent citizens, establishing the Colorado Central railroad and playing a major role in the development of the city of Golden. He donated land to the city for a park on the rise of a hill at the south end of Washington Avenue and also donated land in that same area to the Presbyterian congregation for their church. The congregation had originally been started in 1860 by Reverend Sheldon Jackson a Presbyterian minister and missionary. Jackson founded many churches in the Rocky Mountain region and went on to serve his church and country in Alaska as one of the first missionaries in that state. When the Civil War started in 1861 Jackson enlisted as a Chaplain and he did not return to Golden until 1870. There were five early churches built in Golden during the gold rush and territorial period and today, the only ones remaining are the First Presbyterian and the Calvary Episcopal. The other three churches have been torn down and replaced by parking lots. But the little church on the hill where Miranda Loveland was baptized and W. A. H. Loveland was a trustee, served its congregation for 86 years, with only minor changes or additions to the original structure.

The First Presbyterian Church has architectural significance because it is a classic example of the Gothic style of architecture, representing the churches of that period of Golden's history. It has a steeply pitched roof, arched stained glass windows and brick and stone, stair step design buttresses. The high artistic value of the design is further enhanced by the simplicity of the building materials. The exterior structure of the church was built from blocks of Colorado sandstone and bricks from a local Golden manufacturer. All of the structural components of the church embody the distinctive characteristics of the Gothic style of architecture prevalent in the frontier towns of the Rocky Mountain region. In 1874, when the area around the church began to be developed by the Colorado School of Mines, the building style shifted from Gothic to the Queen Anne style. A row of professor's homes, built in this style began directly west of the church and ran along 15th Street, towards Guggenheim Hall. Then in 1878 the Jefferson County courthouse was built across the street from the church

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8  

Page   3  

Foothills Art Center

and this area became known as Courthouse Hill. In 1892 the church elders decided to construct a "manse" or residence for the new minister. The style of the manse was patterned after the homes already in the area. The two story home with its rounded turret, the row of serrated pattern brickwork, recessed arched entryway and fishscale design shingles had many elements of the popular Queen Anne architectural style. Even though the new manse was built in the Queen Anne style, when the trustees decided to build an addition to the church in 1898 they had the builder, George Kimball, return to the original Gothic design. Kimball constructed a two story bell tower and an alcove on the eastern elevation of the church. This addition with its arched windows and corbelled brick and stone trim mirrors the simplicity of the original design. With the addition to the church and the new buildings at the Colorado School of Mines, the area on Courthouse Hill was becoming a prestigious residential location.

In the 1880s lots to the north of Courthouse Hill had been sold for residential development. The Broad House was right across the street from the church and manse and in 1899 the two lots directly south of the church were still available. P. O. Unger took advantage of the town's interest in Courthouse Hill and purchased these lots. He built the house at 1510 Washington Avenue as a speculation in 1899 and later built a house at 1518 Washington for his family. This home was later purchased by William Boatright, Colorado's Attorney General from 1925 to 1929. The Queen Anne Unger House has a rounded turret on the northeast corner surrounded by a wooden porch on the first floor and a balustrade on the second. Jesse W. Rubey of the Woods-Rubey National Bank was the first owner of 1510 Washington Avenue. W. S. Woods had the property for a few years and then he sold it to Alice MacGregor Rubey, Jesse's sister-in-law. Alice Rubey's family built an addition to the house around 1923. They enlarged the parlor and the front porch. From the time the addition was built until the end of World War II this house was one of many elegant homes on Courthouse Hill. However, when a new courthouse was erected, the neighborhood began to decline and the homes were rented out and the church was leased.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   8   Page   4  

The First Presbyterian Church of Golden

In 1968 the people associated with the annual Golden Sidewalk Watercolor Art Show formed the Foothills Art Center and later purchased the First Presbyterian Church and manse for the center's permanent home. The church and manse underwent some refurbishing and a covered brick walkway was added to connect the two buildings. The opening of Foothills sparked a renaissance in the entire block. The old Broad House was converted to an attorney's office, the Boatright House and outlying buildings became the Golden Tea Room and Hampton's Picture Framing and Art Gallery and the Unger House was a Personal Art Center.

With these improvements Foothills Art Center offers the community a diverse cultural experience ranging from the exhibitions at the art center to classes offered by local and national artists, to the gift gallery at Foothills II. What began as a secluded hilltop location and became a cornerstone of a prestigious residential neighborhood is now a center of community activity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   9   Page   2  

Foothills Art Center

Golden Transcript, "Pretty Golden Homes, No. 8", Golden, CO, December 14, 1905.

Golden Transcript, "Pretty Golden Homes, No. 20", Golden, CO, March 22, 1906.

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Warranty Deed, October 16, 1900, Perre O. Unger, grantor and Jesse W. Rubey, grantee, Golden, CO.

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Warranty Deed, August 3, 1904, Rubey Investment Company, grantor and William S. Woods, grantee, Golden, CO.

Jefferson County Assessor's Office, Warranty Deed, May 5, 1910, William S. Woods, grantor and Alice MacGregor Rubey, grantee, Golden, CO.

Rocky Mountain News, "Church Conversion Answered Artists Prayers", Denver, CO, May 17, 1984.

Simmons, R. L. and Whitacre, C., Survey of Historic Buildings in Downtown Golden, Denver, CO. Front Range Research Associates, 1989.

INTERVIEWS

Coomes, Bob, Golden photographer and former trustee of the Foothills Art Center, personal interview at Foothills, July 11, 1990 by Toni L. Scheunemann.

Hudson, Rose, retired Golden teacher and volunteer at Foothills Art Center, telephone interview, July 13, 1990 by Toni L. Scheunemann.

James Delores, volunteer at Foothills Art Center, personal interview at Foothills II, July 13, 1990 by Toni L. Scheunemann.

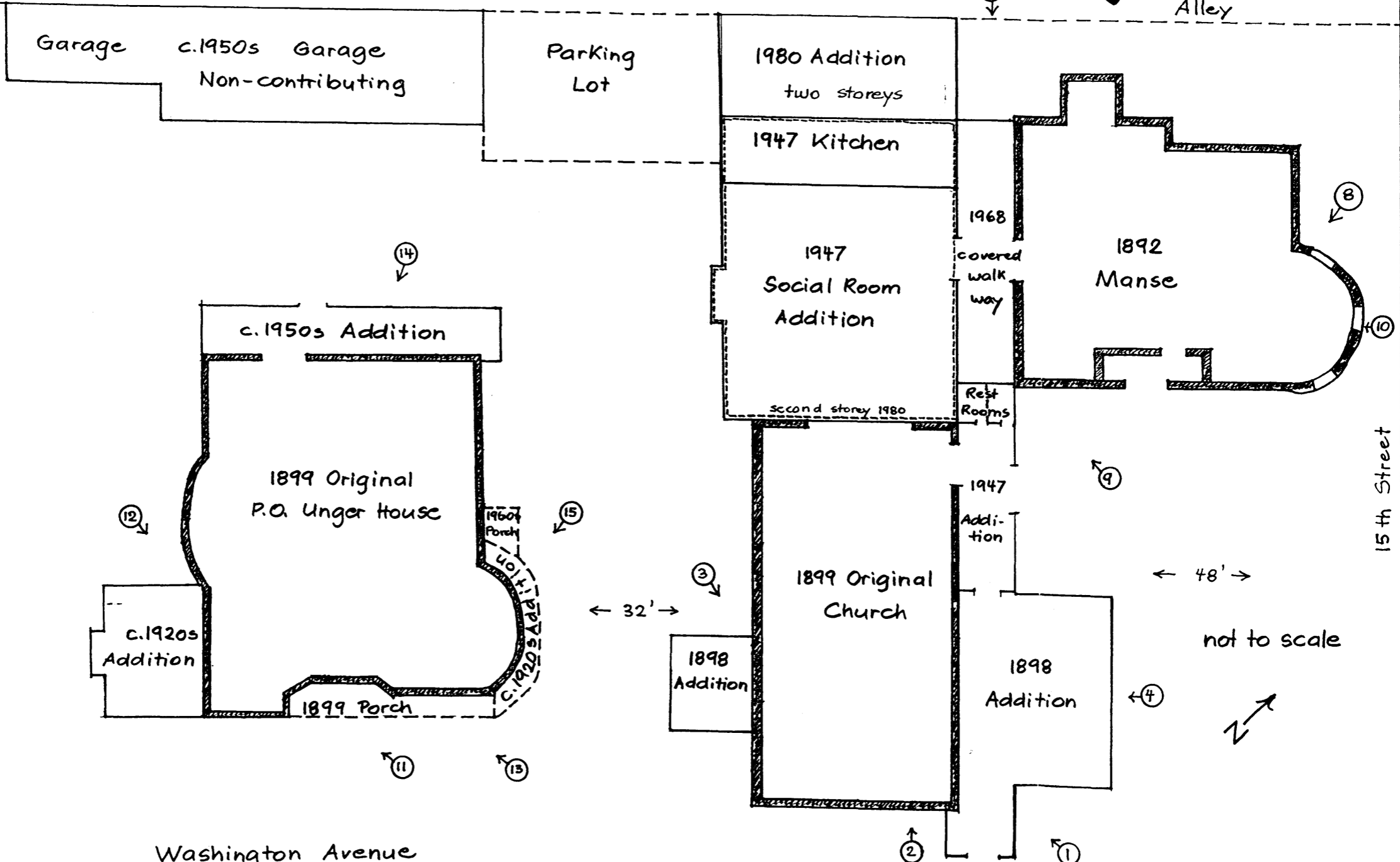
Williams, Leon, owner, "The Golden Tea Room", 1518 Washington Avenue, personal interview at Foothills II, July 13, 1990 by Toni L. Scheunemann.

Wyhs, Irma, Director of the DAR Pioneer Museum in Golden and former first volunteer director of Foothills Art Center, personal interview at the DAR Pioneer Museum, July 13, 1990 by Toni L. Scheunemann.

# The First Presbyterian Church of Golden / Unger House

Alley

Alley



Washington Avenue

15th Street