

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC - 9 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Church of the Brethren

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Co. Hwy. 10 or 17th Avenue between Longmont and Hygiene n/a not for publication

city, town Hygiene, CO x vicinity of Hygiene

state Colorado code 08 county Boulder code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center

4. Owner of Property

name Church of the Brethren c/o Wilbur R. Hoover ; Hygiene Cemetery Association

street & number P. O. Box 394, 200 E. Kansas Avenue c/o Pat Manwell  
18 Placer Avenue

city, town McPherson n/a vicinity of Longmont, CO state Kansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Boulder County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Boulder state Colorado

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Co. Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Preservation Office

city, town Denver state Colorado

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Church of the Brethren is a gable-roofed structure, erected in 1888 of native rough-cut stone, laid in random course. Surrounded by large cottonwood trees, the church has retained its picturesque rural setting. It is located near the small community of Hygiene and is 3/4 mile west of Longmont. To the rear of the church, and across state Highway 10, is a small cemetery where many of the early members of the congregation are buried.

The building consists of one room, with the formal entrance located on the south gable end. The entryway is arched and consists of a double door with transom. There are five evenly spaced windows placed on the east and west walls. The bays are flat-headed, with wood lintels and sills.

A frame lean-to addition was built across the rear (south) wall to be used as a kitchen.

The interior is plain, reflecting the austerity characteristic of the sect. Walls are plaster and the floors are hand-hewn pine boards.

Also included in the nomination is the historic cemetery associated with the church. Pioneers and early settlers of the Hygiene area are buried there--some of whom include members of the Brethren who built the church. The cemetery is divided by Colorado Highway 10 into two parcels. The northwestern section, located directly behind the church, is 1 1/2 acres and contains about 600 graves, some of which date to the early 1870s. (The land for the church and cemetery was donated to the Church of the Brethren by George and Lucinda Mason in April 1879). The southwestern parcel consists of one acre of land and contains about 400 graves. It was donated to the Pella Cemetery Association in 1879. The two cemeteries were independent of one another until 1945 when both the Pella and Hygiene Cemetery associations merged.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1880 **Builder/Architect** n/a

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Located in rural Boulder County, the Church of the Brethren at Hygiene is an important remaining example of vernacular stone construction. It also represents the oldest surviving house of worship constructed in Colorado by the Church of the Brethren, formerly known as the German Baptist or Dunkard sect.

The Church of the Brethren is a Protestant denomination which originated in Germany in 1708. The doctrine, similar to that of the Mennonites, involves triple immersion baptism--hence the origin of the name "Dunkard." Followers of the faith were forced to flee to Holland after the Treaty of Westphalia, ending the Thirty Years War. By 1729, the last remaining members had emigrated to Pennsylvania, at the invitation of William Penn. Alexander Mack, founder of the Dunkards, settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania, where the mother church was founded.

The Dunkard faith was brought to the St. Vrain Valley in Colorado in the 1870s by a group of German descendants from Pella, Iowa. They established the small community of Pella, Colorado, where the first Dunkard church was organized by Reverend J. S. Flory in 1877.<sup>1</sup> The following year, Flory moved one-half mile distant where he helped found the community of Hygiene, as well as the Church of the Brethren. The church was completed in 1880 at a cost of \$2,000. By the 1890s, members began to leave the Hygiene area and regular services were discontinued in 1907.

Today the church is used as a community center by the Hygiene Cemetery Association for weddings and for annual meetings of the Northern Colorado Church of the Brethren. Ten organized Churches of the Brethren remain in Colorado. (The largest congregation is in Rocky Ford, having a present membership of 296.)

Constructed by settlers of German descent, the church displays the heritage of its builders. The masonry, the semicircular arch above the front entrance is reminiscent of the Pennsylvania tradition of vernacular stone construction and can be seen elsewhere throughout the country--illustrating a continuum of German influence in construction methods and styling.

<sup>1</sup>The Pella church later burned and the small community of Pella has since ceased to exist.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Spangler. D. W. Relatives of Deceased.

March, Etta Marie. The Brethren Church.

Weiss, Manuel. Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites form. Colorado Preservation Office.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Hygiene

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	4	8	5	6	9	0	4	4	4	8	6	3	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	3	4	8	5	6	9	0	4	4	4	8	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

1	3	4	8	5	6	1	0	4	4	4	8	4	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	3	4	8	5	6	1	0	4	4	4	8	5	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

1	3	4	8	5	6	2	5	4	4	4	8	5	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

1	3	4	8	5	6	1	0	4	4	4	8	6	3	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification Deed Book page 461 1/4, Book 54.

T 3N R 70W

Commencing at the SE corner of Section 25 in Township Three North of Range 70 West and ~~running North on Section line 20 rods West--12 Rods South--20 rods to section line-12 rods~~

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries to place of beginning.

state n/a code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pat Manwell and Lori Hood Edited: GM

organization Hygiene Cemetery Association date 1-8-83

street & number 18 Placer Avenue telephone 772-6914

city or town Longmont state Colorado

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/7/83

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Delores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in  
National Register

date 1/5/84

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Church of the Brethern

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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The Church of the Brethren Cemetery is partly located on the south side of State Highway 10 and includes the following area: Beginning at a point 63 rods east of the northwest corner of the northeast on quarter of Section 36 in Township three north of Range 70 west running south 12 rods and 10 feet. Then east 16 rods and 7 feet. Then north 12 rods and 10 feet. Then 16 rods and 7 feet to the place of beginning.