

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 1 1980
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

St. Mark United Presbyterian Church of Elbert

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

225 Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Elbert

VICINITY OF

5

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Colorado

CODE

08

COUNTY

Elbert

CODE

039

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Mark United Presbyterian Church - controlled by The Denver Presbytery

STREET & NUMBER

325 Banner Street

CITY, TOWN

Elizabeth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 80107

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Elbert County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kiowa

STATE

Colorado 80117

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

20/04/0004

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located at 225 Main Street in Elbert, Colorado, the St. Mark United Presbyterian Church is a single detached structure. Built on a wooden foundation, the building is constructed of clapboard and is one and one-half stories in height. It has a high gable roof and a brick chimney that is straddle ridge. A church tower extends up from the foundation projecting from the main or east facade, but is placed evenly with the south facade and extends to the center of the main facade, thus forming the narthex section at the base. On top of the tower is a spire with a four-sided cupola. It has eight open bays and the church bell is placed here. The main or east facade has two bays. The doors are double leafed with a semi-circular design. A few years after construction two bays were added on the south side of the tower to allow better access to the main structure primarily for funerals. These bays are later modeled double leaf doors with two panels of glass in each leaf.

Because the site donated was on a hillside, there are two levels of steps leading to the main (east) facade. The top level of steps are wooden with wooden railings. The steps were originally built in 1899. During construction the contractors built a coal bin under the steps. At this time the top level of steps was the only access to the church. Pictures of the early church show the contour of the street in front of the building to be much higher in relationship to the building. Over the years the street has eroded away, making the building site higher in elevation. Because of this, a lower flight of steps was added in 1948. In later years a road was built on the southeast side of the hill leading to a parking area on the south side of the structure.

The interior maintains the simple architectural design and style of the early white-framed churches on the eastern plains. The walls are lathe plastered, with wainscoting one-fourth the way up on three walls. The original roll back pews are still in use. An outstanding feature of the church is the stained glass windows, a rarity in the churches of the plains. These windows were installed at the time of construction. There are eight stained glass windows, on the north and south facades. On the main or east facade there is one window of stained glass that has two sections, the remaining window is on the north side of the bell tower entrance. All the windows are of a Gothic design. There is no record of where the builders obtained the glass.

In 1950, an addition was built on the north and west facades, one being the kitchen area (west) and the other a dining/class room area (north). The lots on which the north addition was built was donated by Mr. Theodore Petersen. The members and friends of the Elbert Church raised the money and did the work.

Geographically, the church is across from the Kiowa Creek bed which drains into the Platte River. Elevation of the church site is 6,723 feet. Directly behind the church building and running north and south the elevation rises to 6,857 feet.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1880 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Taylor Green

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The St. Mark United Presbyterian Church in Elbert, Colorado is significant for its role as the first Protestant Church to be organized and constructed in Elbert County. At this time it was known as the Elbert Cumberland Presbyterian Church and remained under control of the Cumberland Presbytery until the summer of 1891, when the church was sold and transferred to the regular Presbytery of Denver, Colorado. The church represents the early form of the architecture common in the eastern plains churches of that era. Another important aspect of the church was the stability it provided for worship, social gatherings and at one time, a relief station during the floods of 1935.

In 1885, one Reverend Shull canvassed all nearby settlers for support in building a church. He asked for contributions of money and time for the erection of the first church in Elbert County. In 1889, with the help of \$500.00 from the Cumberland Presbytery, the little church was built by some of the prospective members under the direction of a local carpenter, Taylor Green. Jacob Frick, one of the earliest settlers, donated the two lots on which it stands. On July 19, 1891, the church was re-organized with eight members and adopted a new name, The Presbyterian Church of Elbert, Colorado, and remained as such until February of 1975 when the church merged with the Elizabeth and Kiowa St. Mark United Presbyterian Churches and became the Elbert St. Mark United Presbyterian Church.

From an architectural perspective the church reveals much about the early days of Elbert County and the eastern plains of Colorado. Most structures were void of the Victorian styles so predominant in the mining towns of Colorado. The general relationship of the prairie churches to late Victorian taste was a negative one. Whereas Victorian architecture suggested wealth, there was so little of this among the homesteaders that pretense was impossible. A practical design was sought and retained throughout. The church building served not only as a place of worship, but as a meeting place for social events and was a definite influence on the community at large.

In 1899, membership of the church was recorded in the early Session minutes as having 62 members and was very influential with local politics. In 1900, a committee was appointed by the Session to see that the saloon keepers of the town of Elbert comply with the state laws in running their businesses in the interest of law and order. This is one example of the concern of the church for the welfare of the community. Another event took place in May of 1935 that adds to the social significance of the Elbert Church. On Memorial Day of that year and the following day, two devastating floods hit the eastern part of Elbert within hours of each other. Homes, businesses, and lives were lost. The Elbert Church members immediately turned the church building into a refuge for the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams, Robert Hickman, White Churches of the Plains (Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1970).
 Corbett, Ethel Rae, Western Pioneer Days (Denver: Reliable Graphics, 1974).
 Matthews, Carl F, Early Days Around the Divide (St. Louis: Sign Book Company, 1969)
Old Session Minute Book (July 19, 1891 to July 19, 1959)

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Elbert

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 53991510 43411210
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 6 and 7, Block 4, Frick's Addition - Town of Elbert, Colorado

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jackie Sorensen, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

St. Mark United Presbyterian Church

DATE

August 17, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

325 Banner Street

TELEPHONE

(303) 646-4825

CITY OR TOWN

Elizabeth

STATE

Colorado 80107

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

Arthur C. Sorensen June 26, 1980

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

John W. Ray June
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/18/80

ATTEST: Shirley Jones Reed
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

9/15/80

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flood victims, gathering food and clothing to aid all that needed their help. The Red Cross came in and set up a large tent on the north side of the building which is now the north addition area. With the combined efforts of the Elbert Church people and the Red Cross, the horror of the floods of 1935 was greatly reduced.

ED. JEF 4/80