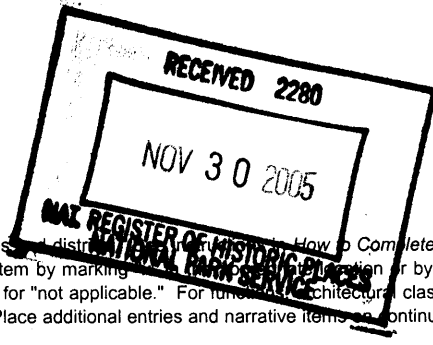


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties... Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking... For 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 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

other names / site number ECKERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / 5DT1379

2. Location

street & number 13011 & 13025 STATE HIGHWAY 65 N/A not for publication

city or town ECKERT N/A vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county DELTA code 029 zip code 81418

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ([ ] See continuation sheet.)

Mark Wolfe 11/21/05  
Signature of certifying official FA State Historic Preservation Officer 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.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
John Edson H. Beall 1.11.06  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT  
 Name of Property

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	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**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(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 / Craftsman

OTHER / Rustic

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT
Name of Property

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more locations 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.
X 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 locations that apply.)

Property is:

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
B removed from its original location
C a birthplace or a 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

Period of Significance

1921
1949

Significant Dates

1921
1949

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

VALK, LAWRENCE B.
VALK, ARTHUR L.
HUNT, S. JOSEPH

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
X Other

Name of repository:

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT  
Name of Property

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** LESS THAN ONE ACRE

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	13	242118	4301733	(NAD 27)	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing
2					4			
						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 RON SLADEK, PRESIDENT (for the property owner)  
 organization TATANKA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATES, INC. date 2 SEPTEMBER 2005  
 street & number P.O. BOX 1909 telephone 970 / 221-1095  
 city or town FORT COLLINS state CO zip code 80522

**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 ECKERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 street and number 1301 HIGHWAY 65 telephone 970 / 835-3441  
 city or town ECKERT state CO zip code 81418

**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 average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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**Description of the Property and its Surroundings**

The First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is located in the small town of Eckert along State Highway 65 nine miles northeast of the city of Delta in southwestern Colorado's fruit growing region. Surrounding Eckert are high altitude mesas, orchards and crop fields in all directions (elevation approximately 5,500' above sea level), with most of the area's development concentrated along the Highway 65 corridor.

Found on the northwest corner of Highway 65 and North Road, the property slopes downward from the highway toward the west in the direction of Surface Creek. (see photos 1-3) The site is dominated by a tall stone church building with a modern addition to the southwest. A manse is located to the south of the church across a landscaped courtyard. The manse and modern church addition are both compatibly designed to match some of the stylistic elements of the original church building. These buildings are situated along the north, west and south sides of a central courtyard, with the remaining eastern edge of the courtyard open to the adjacent landscaped grounds and the main road.

Constructed between 1915 and 1921, the church is located in the northern area of the site, with its facade and soaring bell tower facing toward the south. The area east of this building is planted with grass along with mature trees and shrubs. North of the church is an entry drive and parking lot. The 1949 manse, located in the southern area of the site, is a one-story cottage constructed of the same stone as the original First Presbyterian Church of Eckert. This building is surrounded by landscaped grounds to the north, east and south, along with a parking lot to the west.

Southwest of the church and northwest of the manse is a stone office and classroom addition that was designed to complement the original church. This unobtrusive addition, constructed in 1987, connects to the southwest corner of the church by way of a narrow recessed enclosed causeway. Much of the addition is hidden from view due to its placement along the west edge of the courtyard with the majority of its bulk sitting below the downgradient slope on the site. Thus from the north, south and east, little of the addition can be seen and its two-story height is only fully visible from the western parking lot. Set back from the south front wall of the church, the causeway that connects the church and addition is lower in height and constructed of the same exterior materials to compatibly blend the old with the new. These carefully-considered design elements, especially placement of the addition to take advantage of the slope, have allowed the old church building to continue to dominate the site.

West of the church complex, occupying the entire western area of the site, is a parking lot accessed by way of entry drives at the northeast and southwest corners of the property. Bordering the western parking lot are mature trees to the south and west. Beyond the property lines of the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert, the site is surrounded by a residence to the north, Highway 65 and residences to the east, residences to the south across North Road, and by Surface Creek and residences to the west. In general, the site area appears to have changed little over the past fifty years.

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National Park Service

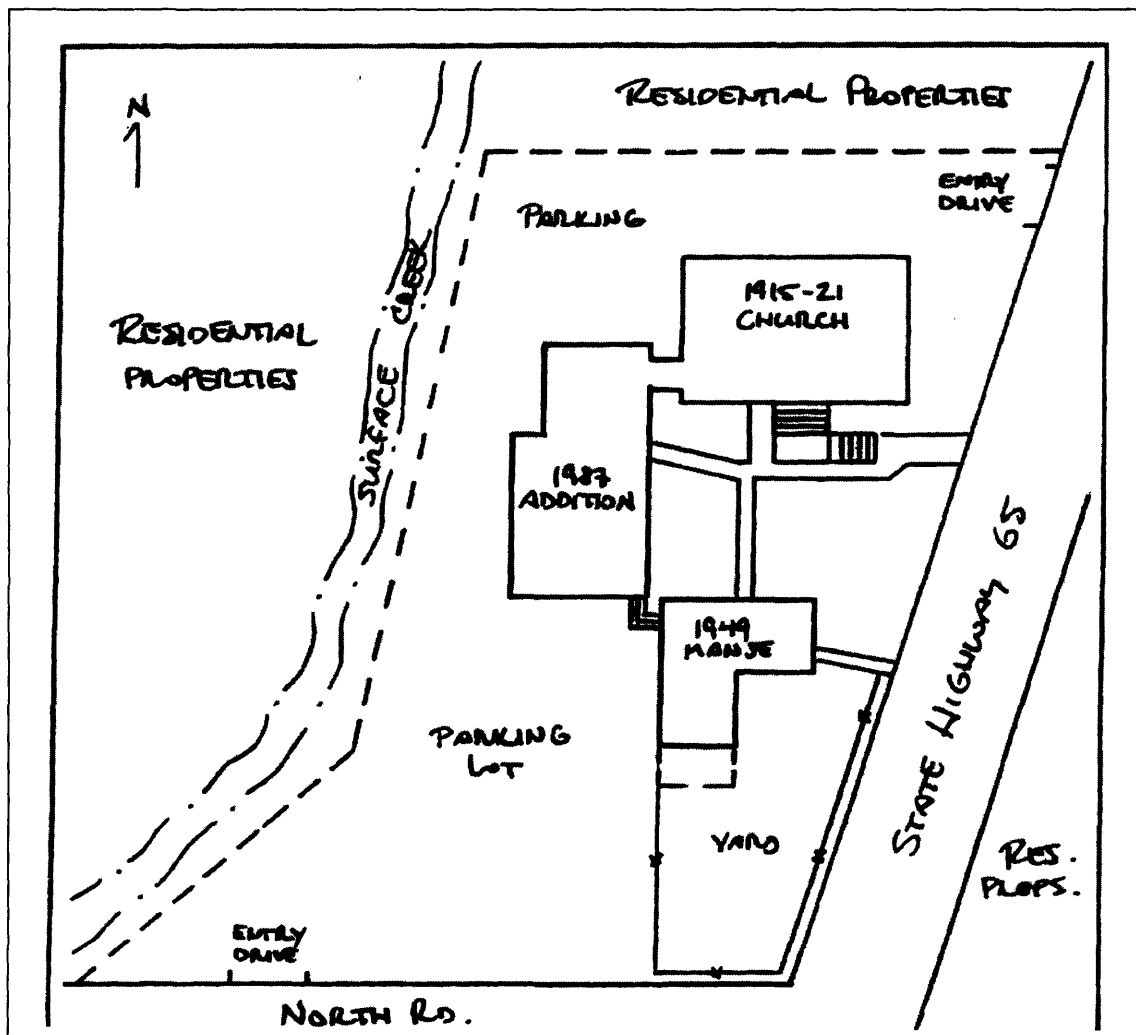
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

**Site Plan**  
(not to scale)



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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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**Description of the 1915-1921 Church Building**

The First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is a 35' x 72' rectangular building that was constructed in two stages over the period from 1915 to 1921. (see photos 4-20) Generally the building consists of a raised basement and tall main floor that together rest upon on a concrete foundation. The height of the basement above grade increases toward the west as the ground slopes downward in this direction. On the building's exterior, the walls are finished with locally-collected basaltic rubble stone ranging in color from grey to black. These stones are all set with concrete mortar in random coursing.

Capping the basement level is a concrete water table that runs around the perimeter of the building except for along the projecting main entry and tower on the south. The mortar work on the basement level was skillfully completed. However two feet above the water table the quality of the mortar work changes significantly, with finer work below and rougher work above. In addition to a change in quality of work, it also appears that the mortar mixture is different above and below this point. Historically this physical change in the mortar work marks the margin between the first and second stages of construction, which occurred approximately six years apart.

The building faces toward the south and is marked by a wide central stairway, raised main entry, and tall stone bell tower. Secondary entrances are found both below the main entry and on the exposed basement level of the west elevation. The large side-gabled roof is finished with exposed rafter ends and purlins, asphalt shingles and beadboard soffits. Heavy evenly-spaced wood brackets and stickwork ornament the building together with a variety of shaped shingles set high on the gable end walls.

**South (Front) Elevation Details:**

The symmetrical south elevation is the most heavily ornamented, exhibiting not only the masonry details already mentioned, but also a centrally-located raised main entry stoop and tall bell tower. The raised basement level of the south elevation contains a total of five window spaces. Three of these are filled with 2/2 double hung sash windows with wood frames and surrounds, wood sills, arched rubble stone lintels, and frosted glass. The other two, both in a tunnel-like space on the boiler room wall below the main entry stoop, are boarded closed yet retain their original wood surrounds, wood sills, and arched stone lintels. Also at this location is a coal chute with a metal door imprinted with the name "Majestic." West of the entry stoop is a single hollow core wood door with a high band of four small arched lights. Surrounding the door is a wood frame and an arched rubble stone lintel. This door provides access to the basement by way of an interior concrete stairway.

On the raised main floor, the building's primary entrance is accessed from the front sidewalk and courtyard by seventeen concrete steps that rise in two flights, first toward the west to reach a concrete landing and then toward the north to reach the landing in front of the entry doors. Flanking these steps and the landings are low concrete sidewalls finished on the exterior with basaltic rubble matching the remainder of the building. Concrete coping caps the sidewalls,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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which are slanted on the lower flight, flat on the first landing, and then stepped up the second flight to the upper landing. Metal pipe handrails flank the entire stairway.

Filling the main entry is a pair of wood panel doors, each of which contains a small latticed leaded glass window. These doors are not original to the building and were installed sometime after 1960. Surrounding the doors is a wood frame, with an arched rubble stone lintel above. The main entry is minimally protected from the weather by a narrow wood gable, described in greater detail below, that projects from the tower wall above the doors. At the gable peak is a single outdoor metal porch light to illuminate the entry below.

Also on the main floor are four windows. One of these is a small fixed stained glass window located east of the main entrance at the top of an interior basement stairway. This has a metal frame, wood sill, and arched rubble stone lintel. The other three are medium-sized stained glass windows along the main wall of the sanctuary. These are also set in metal frames with wood surrounds, arched stone lintels and concrete sills. While the uppers are fixed, the lower portions of the windows pivot in their frames, providing ventilation to the sanctuary. Geometric patterns ornament the upper portions and the pivoting lowers contain stained glass dedications inscribed for the donors.

Dominating the front of the church is its tall square bell tower, rising from the center of the elevation. The lower engaged portion of the tower contains the basement boiler room, basement stairway from the ground-level exterior, main floor vestibule, and an interior stairway between the vestibule and the basement. As on the remainder of the building, the entire tower is finished on the exterior with basaltic rubble stone laid in random coursing. Projecting more than ten feet toward the south from the main wall of the building, and almost twice the width of its upper portion, the tower's base extends from ground level up to the eaves of the church's primary roof. Centered on this portion of the tower is the main entry stoop. Above the stoop, a projecting gabled wood roof extends along the south wall of the tower base, wrapping around its east and west sides with exposed rafter ends. Equidistant along the front of the gable above the entry stoop are five heavy ornamental wood brackets.

Rising above the tower base and its gabled roof is the free-standing upper portion of the tower, which pierces the eaves of the building's main roof and rises higher than the ridge line above the sanctuary. Centered on the front of the tower's upper portion just above the lower gabled roof is a stained glass window with a concrete sill and wood surrounds. Identical stained glass windows are found on the east and west walls of the tower. Directly above these, on all three sides of the tower, are large wooden louvered openings with concrete sills, wood surrounds, and arched stone lintels. Behind the louvers is the church's bell, cast by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Co. of Troy, New York in 1882. Above the louvered openings is a slightly projecting continuous concrete belt course that runs around the perimeter of the tower. Several feet above this is the tower's stepped parapet capped with concrete coping. The four corners of the parapet rise high, between which the walls step upward to reach high points even with the corners. Obscured behind the parapet wall is the chimney used by the basement boiler.



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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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**West (Side) Elevation Details:**

The west elevation exhibits not only the masonry details already mentioned, but also contains the side entrance to the basement of the church. Because of the slope on the site, the basement level is entirely exposed along this elevation. Here the building has an entry into the kitchen that consists of a wood panel door with four small arched lights. The door is set into a wood frame with an arched stone lintel above. Three windows are found on the basement level, all of them providing light to the kitchen. Two of these are 2/2 double hung sash windows with upper sashes smaller than the lower ones, wood frames and surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. The third window consists of a four-light hopper with wood frame and surrounds, pull-chain latches, a wood sill, and an arched stone lintel.

On the main floor the church has three sanctuary windows. One of these, located near the building's northwest corner and providing light into a storage closet, contains four frosted fixed lights above with a single pivoting leaded glass window below. This lower pivoting window contains a donor's inscription. The other two windows on this elevation are small stained glass windows centered higher on the wall with wood frames and surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. These two are located on the rear wall of the chancel. A louvered attic ventilator is found at the peak of the gable wall, surrounded by fish-scale shingles along with heavy ornamental wood brackets and stickwork.

The west elevation is moderately impacted by the modern two-level causeway that connects the original church with its modern addition to the southwest. This is described in greater detail along with the description of the addition below.

**North (Rear) Elevation Details:**

The north elevation exhibits not only the masonry details already mentioned, but also contains many of the windows that illuminate the interior of the church. Because of the slope on the site, the basement level of the building becomes increasingly exposed from east to west along this elevation. Six windows are found on the basement level, all of them providing light into the fellowship hall. These are 2/2 double hung sash windows with upper sashes smaller than the lower ones, frosted glass, wood frames and surrounds, wood sills, and arched stone lintels.

On the main floor the church has six sanctuary windows placed directly above the basement windows. These are all stained glass windows with metal frames, wood surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. While the uppers are fixed, the lower portions of the windows pivot in their frames, providing ventilation to the sanctuary. Geometric patterns ornament the upper portions and the pivoting lowers contain stained glass dedications inscribed for the donors.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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**East (Side) Elevation Details:**

The east elevation exhibits not only the masonry details already mentioned, but also contains more of the windows that illuminate the interior of the church. Three windows are found on the basement level, all of them providing light into the fellowship hall. These are 2/2 double hung sash windows with upper sashes smaller than the lower ones, frosted glass, wood frames and surrounds, wood sills, and arched stone lintels.

On the main floor the church has three tall round-arched sanctuary windows placed directly above the basement windows. The central window is taller than the others, and the pattern of three is symbolic of the Holy Trinity. These are all stained glass windows with metal frames, wood surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. While the uppers are fixed, the lower portions of the windows pivot in their frames, providing ventilation to the sanctuary. Geometric patterns ornament the upper portions and the pivoting lowers contain stained glass dedications inscribed for the donors. A louvered attic ventilator is found at the peak of the gable wall, surrounded by fish-scale shingles, heavy ornamental wood brackets and stickwork.

**Interior Details:**

The interior of the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is made up of the basement fellowship hall and main floor vestibule and sanctuary. While the basement is simple in design and ornamentation, the sanctuary is richly appointed and contains many of its original features. Rather than having the main entry vestibule, or narthex, traditionally located at the rear of the sanctuary, this side-gabled building is entered from the south along the side of the sanctuary. With the narthex in this case located in the projecting tower to the south, the west-facing sanctuary consists solely of the nave and chancel.

The basement contains the open fellowship hall, kitchen, and boiler room. Access to this area of the building can be gained from four directions, two exterior and two interior. An old concrete stairway drops to the fellowship hall from the secondary exterior entrance adjacent to the main entry stoop on the south. Another exterior entrance directly into the kitchen is found on the west elevation. An interior wood stairway with squared newel posts and balustrade provides access between the vestibule in the tower and the fellowship hall. Finally, another interior doorway provides access between the fellowship hall and the causeway to the modern addition to the southwest.

The fellowship hall is finished with carpeting over a concrete floor, plastered walls (one covered with wood paneling), an acoustical tile ceiling, and both metal and timber supports for the sanctuary floor above. The vertical and diagonal timber supports, and the wooden stairway to the vestibule, are the most obvious historic features that remain visible in the fellowship hall. The kitchen is entirely modern, with no historical features of note. At the base of the tower is the boiler room, which consists of a concrete floor, walls and ceiling. The original boiler has been replaced and is no longer present.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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Inside the vestibule are two original pairs of stained wood swinging panel doors on the north wall that enter the sanctuary and a single panel door on the east to the basement stairway, all retaining their original brass hardware. Hanging in one corner of this room is the rope for the bell in the tower above. The sanctuary is rich in decorative features, many of them original to the building. Among these are plastered walls, stained glass windows, the raised chancel floor, and wood trim along the leading edge of the chancel arch. The stained glass windows all feature geometric patterns and inscribed dedications. The most notable feature of the sanctuary is its ceiling, which exhibits an exposed array of stained beadboard paneling, rafters, purlins, and projecting timber braces that ornament the room with the feel of a Craftsman interior. Mounted overhead along the center of the ceiling are pendant lights with glass globes. On either side of the chancel is a single wood panel door, one entering a storage closet and the other the causeway to the new addition. The original wood floor in the sanctuary is covered by carpeting and wood pews were installed to replace the original wood folding chairs.

### **The 1987 Office and Classroom Addition:**

The 1987 addition to the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is a rectangular 25' x 69' two-story building constructed on and below the slope southwest of the original church. (*see photos 29-32*) Generally the building appears to be one-story in height from the main road and central courtyard. Its true two-story bulk is hidden by the slope and can only be seen from the parking lot to the west. Resting upon a concrete foundation, the addition's exterior walls are finished with locally-collected, random-coursed basaltic rubble stone designed to blend with the church and manse. The building is also finished with double hung sash windows with wood surrounds and concrete sills, and a side-gabled roof with exposed rafters, stickwork, and asphalt shingles.

Connecting the southwest corner of the church to its addition is an unobtrusive enclosed causeway. With two floors of short hallways and an elevator that provide handicap access between the church basement and sanctuary, as well as access between the church and its adjacent addition, the causeway is largely hidden from view. Shorter in height than the church and addition, this narrow connection obscures about nine feet of the west elevation of the original church and is set back about one foot north of this building's southwest corner. It is finished on the exterior with basaltic rubble stone matching the church building. From the north and south the causeway is hidden by low roofs that obscure it from view from almost any angle.

### **Alterations:**

Alterations to the exterior of the church are limited to removal of several of the main entry steps in 1957, replacement of the main entry doors after 1960, and construction of the addition at the southwest corner in 1987. Remodeling of the sanctuary in 1987 included removal of a historic room partition, carpeting of the wood floor, and the installation of new pews. None of these exterior or interior alterations have seriously diminished the overall character of the building, which still exhibits a high level of historic integrity.

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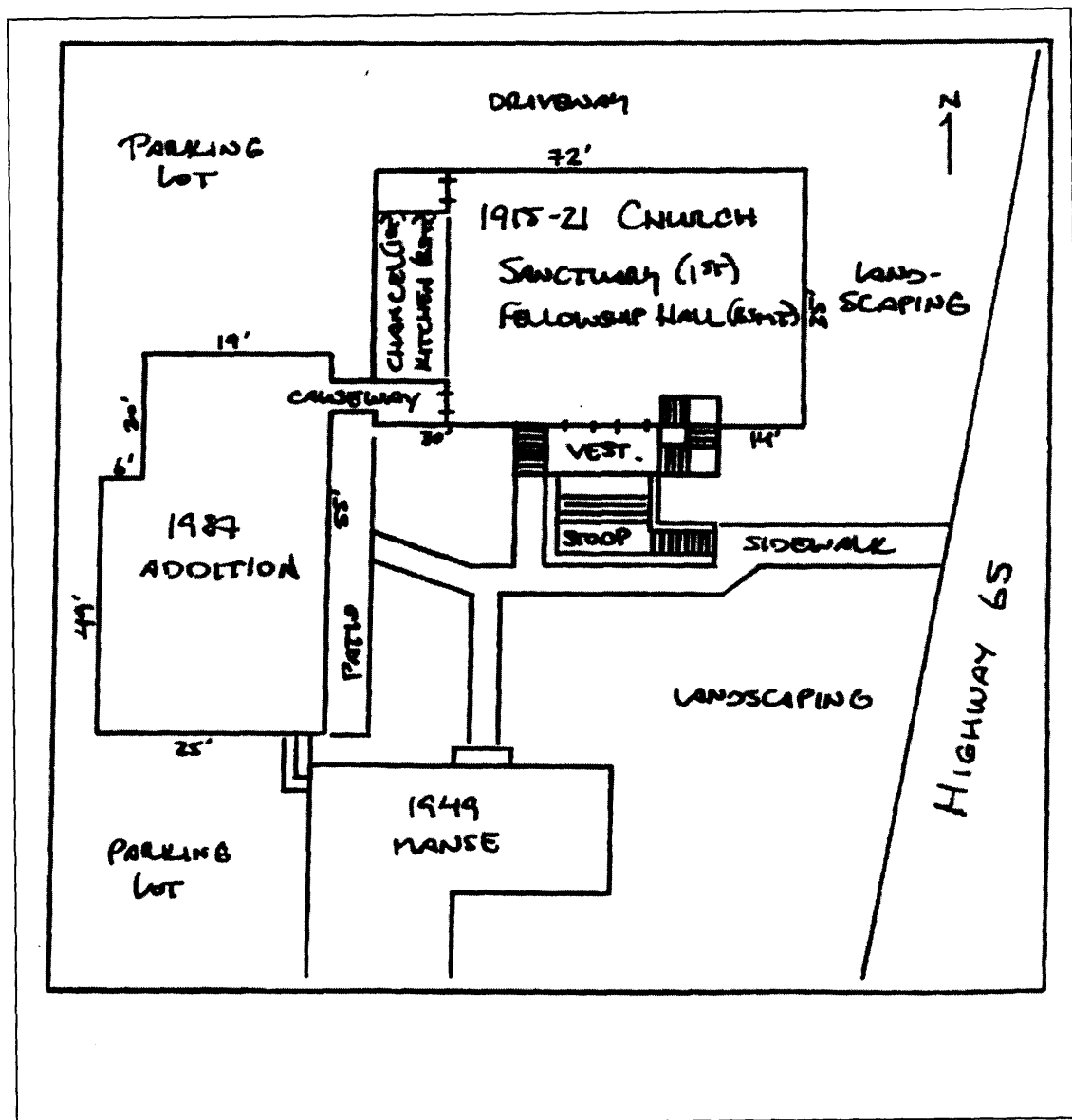
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 8

Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECERKT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

Church Diagram  
(not to scale)



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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 9

Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

**Description of the 1949 Manse**

The manse is an L-shaped, one-story, Rustic style building constructed in 1949 on open ground across the courtyard just south of the church. (see photos 21-28) The 38' x 40' building faces east toward Highway 65, although the north side entrance onto the courtyard and church is more frequently utilized. Surrounding the residence is the courtyard to the north, a chain-link fenced landscaped yard to the east and south, and the parking lot to the west. Built upon a slope like the church and its addition, the building is increasingly exposed as the ground drops toward the west. Only the main floor is above grade along the north, east and south elevations. The west elevation, however, exhibits the main floor and a fully exposed basement level. Also on the west elevation is the home's single-car auto garage, which was placed into the slope adjacent to the basement and underneath the south patio.

Resting upon a stone foundation, the manse's walls are finished with randomly coursed basaltic rubble stone as on the church and its addition, with square butt shingles covering the gable end walls. The building's roof consists of two intersecting gables with exposed rafter ends, fascia boards, and asphalt shingles. At the peak of the north-south ridge is a short brick chimney. One shed-roof dormer, a later addition, is present on the rear west slope of the roof. An open cutaway front entry porch is found on the east side of the house, with an open patio on the south.

**East (Front) Elevation Details:**

The east elevation of the manse contains the main entry, which is found under an open cutaway porch with a concrete floor, three square posts supporting wood beams, and a stuccoed ceiling. The main entry contains a metal screen door and a wood panel door with four small lights. As on the rest of the building, the east elevation walls are finished with basaltic rubble stone with square butt shingles covering the gable end wall above. Four windows are found on this elevation, all of them 1/1 double hung sash windows with metal frames, wood surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. The front concrete sidewalk just outside of the porch contains impressions of three small children's shoes.

**South (Side) Elevation Details:**

The south elevation of the manse contains a secondary entry, which is found under a projecting open patio with a concrete floor, ornamental wrought iron posts supporting a shed roof, and a metal balustrade along its west side. The concrete patio floor forms the roof of the auto garage directly below. A metal screen door is found on the entry, along with a wood panel door with four small lights. As on the rest of the building, the walls are finished with basaltic rubble stone with square butt shingles covering the gable end wall above. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows are found on the main floor, both with metal frames, wood surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. On the attic-level gable end wall is a pair of 1/1 double hung sash windows identical to those on the main floor. Above these at the peak of the gable wall is a small attic ventilation louver.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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### West (Rear) Elevation Details:

The west elevation of the manse, with its fully exposed basement, contains a secondary entry to the home. This is found at ground level toward the center of the elevation and contains a wood panel door with a single light and an arched stone lintel above. As on the rest of the building, the walls are entirely finished with basaltic rubble stone. One large fixed light window with flanking single light sliding windows is found on the basement level, with metal frames and surrounds, a concrete sill, and a large arched stone lintel. Four 1/1 double hung sash windows of varying size are found on the main floor, all with metal frames and surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. Projecting from the west slope of the roof is a shed-roof dormer covered with square butt shingles and containing one small 2-light sliding window in a metal frame. The auto garage at basement level off the south end of the manse has an overhead door with wood surrounds, concrete floor and walls, and a concrete ceiling that also serves as the floor of the patio above. Extending to the south from the southwest corner of the home and garage is a stone retaining wall that supports the higher yard to the east.

### North (Side) Elevation Details:

The north elevation of the manse contains a secondary entry that is used more frequently than the others because it opens onto the central courtyard and provides more direct access to the church and its office/classroom addition. This entrance consists of a metal screen door along with a wood panel door with four small lights. As on the rest of the building, the walls are finished with basaltic rubble stone with square butt shingles covering the gable end wall above. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows are found on the main floor, both with metal frames, wood surrounds, concrete sills, and arched stone lintels. On the attic-level gable end wall are two 1/1 double hung sash windows identical to those on the main floor.

### Interior Details:

The interior of the manse retains a number of historic features, including concrete and plastered walls, exposed stone foundation walls, wood floors, newel posts and balustrades on the stairways, and a stone fireplace in the basement.

### Alterations:

Alterations to the exterior of the building are limited to installation of the dormer around 1980 on the rear slope of the main roof. Minimal changes related to periodic remodeling have taken place on the interior of the building over the years. Even with these changes, the manse retains a preponderance of its original materials and appearance. None of the interior or exterior alterations have seriously diminished the character of the building, which overall retains and exhibits a high level of historic integrity.

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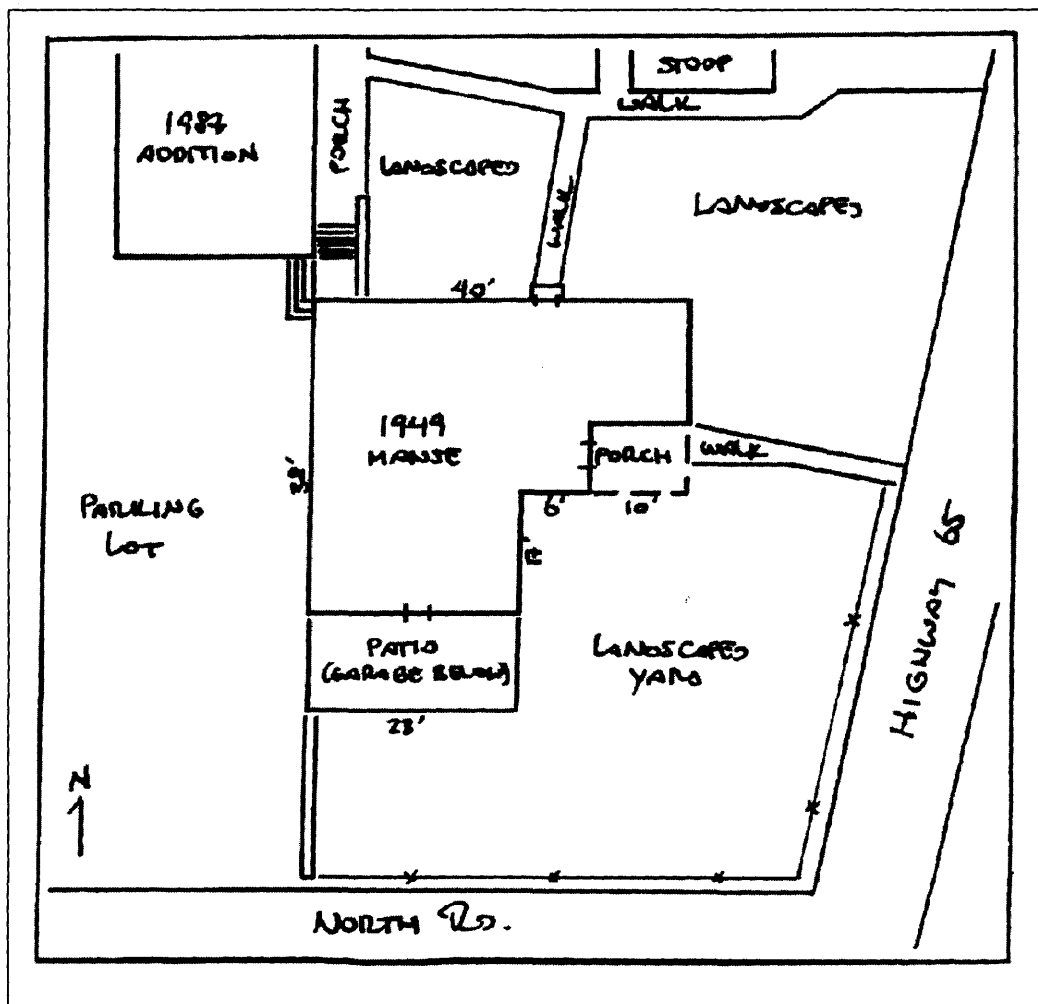
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Manse Diagram  
(not to scale)



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### **Statement of Significance**

The First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, deriving distinction from the church's Craftsman style. Furthermore, both the church and the manse exhibit the skills of local craftsmen and the use of native building stone. Finally, the church is an excellent example of the work of master architect Lawrence B. Valk, who had spent the previous six decades designing churches throughout the country. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, Criteria Consideration A applies.

Constructed in two stages between 1915 and 1921, the church is an excellent ecclesiastical example of the Craftsman style, embodying distinctive characteristics of the style and period of construction. Overall the church has the look and feel of a Craftsman building with its exterior of locally-collected and randomly coursed basaltic rubble stone, tall stone bell tower, triangular wood knee braces and stickwork, and exposed rafter ends. On the interior, the sanctuary features a notable ceiling exhibiting an array of beadboard paneling, exposed trusses, and timber braces with shaped ends. Well-known to area residents and travelers through Delta County for most of the past century, the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is one of the most picturesque historic buildings in this region of the state.

Rare among Colorado churches, the building presents an unusual form of ecclesiastical architecture with its side-gabled plan, basaltic stone exterior, and Craftsman style. The building does not fit the basilica plan of most historic churches with their tall central steeples mounted above a gable end wall or the pattern of corner bell towers with main entries that bring worshipers into the building from the rear of the sanctuary. Nor does this church fit within the various forms of Akron Plan churches throughout the state. In this case, the side-gabled building brings worshipers up the stairs and into the tower's main entry vestibule. From the vestibule they are ushered into the Craftsman styled sanctuary from the side of the pews rather than the rear.

Popular during the period from around 1905 to 1930, the Craftsman style was frequently utilized in the design of residences. In the case of churches, the style was periodically employed for the design of buildings that made use of locally-available materials such as field stone and timber. In early 20<sup>th</sup> century Colorado, few documented churches are found in the Craftsman style. Of those surveyed to date, only two have been documented from the period between 1905 and 1930. These are the 1915 Nederland Presbyterian Church and the circa 1920 University Lutheran Student Center in Boulder. These buildings, finished on the exterior with shingles or siding, are very different from the church in Eckert in both layout and details, and neither has been listed in the State or National Registers of Historic Places.

One other undocumented church of interest is the 1922 United Methodist Church in Cedaredge, four miles north of Eckert along Highway 65. This Craftsman style building is constructed of basaltic rubble stone with a low-pitched roof, wide eaves and brackets. Compared with all of these Craftsman buildings, the Eckert church exhibits an intact, creative and impressive example of period architecture and construction methods. The church's historic exterior is intact with relatively minor modifications, none of which have diminished the building's historic integrity.



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Architect Lawrence B. Valk enjoyed a long career that was national in scope, resulting in the design of numerous churches and residences throughout the United States between 1859 and 1924. Valk's junior partner in the firm from 1885 on was his son Arthur, and together they operated under the name L. B. Valk & Son. During the decades when they were based in New York, Lawrence and Arthur Valk completed commissions for many churches in New York and other states east of the Mississippi River. After moving to Los Angeles in the late 1890s, they spent the remainder of their careers designing Craftsman bungalows along with a smaller number of known churches. In addition, Arthur Valk is credited with designing some of California's early movie theaters. The First Presbyterian Church of Eckert is a rare example of the firm's later ecclesiastical work and the influence of their years working with Craftsman buildings can be seen both on and within this rural church. This is the only building attributed to this nationally-active architectural firm that has been identified in the state of Colorado.

The 1949 manse, situated across the courtyard to the south of the church, exhibits a Rustic style cottage design that made use of basaltic stone walls and woodwork to complement the church. Its historic exterior is intact with relatively minor modifications, none of which have diminished the building's integrity. The 1987 office/classroom addition is almost entirely separated from the original church building. The two are minimally attached at the southwest corner of the historic church by a modest enclosed causeway that houses hallways and an elevator. Not only does the causeway connect the church to the addition, but it also provides handicap access between the two levels of the church. To distinguish between the old and the new, the causeway is set back from the original building's facade and is largely hidden from view. Taking advantage of the slope on the site to hide much of its bulk, the addition as a whole is unobtrusive and compatible with the church in style, color, materials and scale. These characteristics mitigate its visual impact, resulting in a modern addition that blends into the background while the original church building continues to dominate the site.

Other churches in Colorado with similarly attached modern additions have been listed in the National Register in recent years, including the Methodist Episcopal Church in Montrose and the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Windsor. These buildings both have sizable additions connected through narrow, unobtrusive causeways that minimally impact the historic churches. Together with the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert, these buildings serve as excellent examples of solving the need for increased space without destroying the historic integrity of their original churches.

The First Presbyterian Church of Eckert exhibits a high level of design and craftsmanship, and is a well-preserved example of Craftsman architecture applied to a small town setting. The church and manse are historically intact, in very good condition, and still used for their intended purposes by the same community and denomination that erected the buildings years ago. Despite the described changes to the property, the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert exhibits an excellent degree of historic integrity through its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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**Historical Background**

Eckert emerged in the late 1800s along Surface Creek in the newly established fruit-growing and cattle-raising region ten miles northeast of the town of Delta, Colorado. The town was named after Adelbert Eckert Slates, whose husband established the first store and post office there in 1891. Throughout the 1890s and into the new century, commercial buildings, homes, schools and churches were erected along State Highway 65 and Eckert grew into a small market and community center for the surrounding agricultural region. Growth remained slow but steady and with increasing population the community saw the development in their midst of more buildings and the establishment of new institutions. In 1912, Eckert became part of incorporated Orchard City, a rural agricultural area of eighteen square miles that organized in order to borrow funds to establish a water supply system.

Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists all launched small churches in the Eckert area during the community's nascent period, some of them successful and others disbanding after a few years. However by 1912 discussion arose about the idea of merging some of these into a new church. That fall, Rev. J. R. Lamb of Grand Junction visited Eckert to encourage the formation of a new Presbyterian church there and on 24 February 1913 a meeting held at the new high school resulted in a favorable vote to move forward. Two months later, with the support of the Gunnison Presbytery and the Synod of Colorado, an organizational meeting and service were held in the Odd Fellows Hall and 37 local residents presented themselves as charter members of the new First Presbyterian Church of Eckert.

Leading the congregation as its first pastor was Rev. James A. Hunsicker, who with his wife Kate and six children had arrived in Eckert in 1910. There they purchased land along the west side of Highway 65 to the north and south of North Road. After farming for a short time, Hunsicker returned to his previous career as a teacher and was soon appointed principal of the newly-formed Eckert High School. On 1 June 1913 he took on a second, concurrent career as he was called to serve as the founding pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert. Hunsicker served the community as its honored pastor from 1913 until retiring from the position in 1940 at the age of seventy-two.

Services were initially held in the second floor meeting room of the Odd Fellows Hall, located above the town blacksmith shop along the main road. Informal discussions about constructing a church soon cropped up and continued throughout 1914. By January 1915 the membership was holding fundraising events, including a chicken pie supper organized by the Young People's League in the high school basement. Church trustees met at the home of Rev. Hunsicker the following month to discuss the need for a building and a committee was appointed to coordinate fundraising and engage in planning. The building committee visited a church at Lazear and the Coombes home on the road to Cedaredge to determine whether use of the area's abundant supply of basaltic rubble stone might be preferable to brick. They concluded that this freely-acquired stone would be their material of choice.

Rev. James and Kate Hunsicker donated a parcel of land (1/5 of an acre, amounting to 2¼ building lots) near the northwest corner of Highway 65 and North Rd. to the church for the purpose of erecting a building there. This original parcel, where the church sits today, was added to over the coming decades to bring the property to its current size. Through the combined efforts of Rev. Hunsicker, the

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building committee, and the members of the church, more than \$1,500 in local donations was raised along with a \$1,000 grant from the Colorado Synod and a bank loan of \$1,785 secured through the Board of Church Erection of the Presbyterian Church. Because the Eckert community was modest in size and everyone knew one another, contributions of funds and volunteer labor came from both church members and area residents who were unaffiliated.

Searching for a project architect, Rev. Hunsicker located the Los Angeles firm of L. B. Valk & Son to prepare plans for the new building. How he was introduced to this firm, which specialized in church design, is lost to history. **Lawrence B. Valk** was born at sea in 1836 off the coast of Florida, the circumstances of which are unknown, and is believed to have been raised in Charleston, South Carolina. He later relocated to New York City and launched an architectural firm there in 1859. Valk's career was placed on hold during the Civil War when he enlisted in Company F of the 83<sup>rd</sup> New York Infantry Regiment on 27 May 1861. Over the following six months he saw action on three separate occasions, including Harper's Ferry on July 4th, prior to receiving a disability discharge on 13 November 1861. His military duty over, Valk moved back to New York, married Ellen Leonard, started a family, and resumed his architectural practice. The firm initially maintained offices at 544 Broadway in lower Manhattan, relocated to 229 Broadway throughout the 1870s, and then in the mid-1880s moved to larger quarters in Brooklyn.

Valk's early commissions appear to have been primarily for residences and in 1869 he published a book titled *Architecture for the Country: Valk's Cottages and Villas*. A number of his homes are known to exist today throughout New York and New Jersey. In 1873 he published a work titled *Church Architecture*, which espoused the Akron Plan and was further described to include discussion of the "Most Prominent Buildings Recently Erected in Iron, Brick and Stone, Together with a Full Explanation of the New Form of Plan for Churches." Within this book he wrote that "churches are built for the Salvation of souls, not for architectural display to the sacrifice of comfort, of acoustic, lacking in cheerfulness, and the very essentials to make religious worship a matter of pleasure." Other Valk designs for residences and churches were published in 1874 in several volumes of *The American Builder*.

During the 1880s, Lawrence Valk's architectural firm grew to include his son Arthur. **Arthur Lawrence Valk** was born in New York in 1865 and attended schools in Brooklyn. In 1884 he graduated from the Hemstead Military Academy on Long Island and the following year went into architectural practice with his father. The younger architect became a junior partner in the firm, whose name was changed to L. B. Valk & Son. Throughout the last four decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lawrence and Arthur Valk became widely known and sought after as designers of churches, many of which have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Among the many buildings attributed to the firm are the following:

- Church of the Disciples (New York, NY – 1872)
- First Presbyterian Church (Canton, NY – 1876)
- Ossining Methodist Church (Ossining, NY – 1877)
- Second Presbyterian Church (Paterson, NJ – 1877)
- Sixth Avenue Baptist Church (Brooklyn, NY – 1880)

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Central Christian Church (Jonesborough, TN – 1881)  
North Baptist Church (New York, NY – 1882)  
Congregational Church (Groton, NY – 1883)  
First Presbyterian Church (Flint, MI – 1885)  
Christ Church Cathedral (New Orleans, LA – 1887)  
First Presbyterian Church (Hastings, NE – 1888)  
St. Paul's (Zion's) Evangelical Lutheran Church (Red Hook, NY – 1890)  
New Utrecht Reformed Church Parish House (Brooklyn, NY – 1892)  
Congregational Church of Patchogue (Patchogue, NY – 1893)  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Watertown, NY – date unknown)  
Congregational Church (Germantown, PA – date unknown)  
Episcopal Church (Baltimore, MD – date unknown)  
Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, PA – date unknown)

During the mid- to late-1890s, Lawrence and Arthur Valk moved their families and architectural practice to Los Angeles, where they established offices downtown in the Union Oil building. Soon afterward, some of their residential plans for an eclectic variety of villas began to appear in issues of the *Ladies Home Journal*. Over the following decades, L. B. Valk & Son continued designing churches and cottages not only in southern California but in other states as well. Around 1900 Lawrence Valk published two more books entitled *Southern California Cottages* and *Southern California Dwellings with Patios: The Ideal Home*. These showed a variety of Craftsman style homes, Mission style residences, and even villas based upon Pompeian themes. The firm expanded beyond churches and cottages when Arthur Valk began designing movie/vaudeville theatres around southern California, including the Argus Theater (1913) in Santa Barbara and the Sunbeam Theatre (1914) in downtown Los Angeles.

On 2 August 1915, the church in Eckert received a contract from Lawrence Valk with a letter of transmittal agreeing to produce plans for a building that would cost no more than \$3,500. The cost to prepare the plans would be fifty dollars, although this was later raised to eighty. Valk's plans for the Presbyterian Church of Eckert called for a Craftsman style building with a side-gabled roof and a tall bell tower centered on the south elevation above the main entry. The interior was planned to consist of the sanctuary on the main floor, with the basement occupied by a fellowship hall, classrooms, a kitchen, and a boiler room. Through the use of a moveable partition hung from framework at the midpoint of the sanctuary, the back half of the room could be closed off to form a separate classroom or meeting room. When holidays and larger events were scheduled, the partition doors were rolled to the sides to add overflow sanctuary seating. Entering the sanctuary from the vestibule, the two sets of swinging doors allowed worshipers to join either services in the front of the sanctuary or classes and meetings in the closed-off rear area. The exposed wood floor throughout the entire sanctuary combined with moveable wooden chairs to make it a noisy space for those attending services and events in the building.

The imposition of a \$3,500 budget placed limitations upon the project that had to be hammered out over the following weeks. For example, it was decided that the basement would remain unfinished, the idea of a raked floor for the sanctuary was scrapped, the bell tower was shortened in height, building stone was to be collected and hauled to the site by volunteer labor, and a central heating plant would

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have to be installed at some future date when funds became available. Valk wrote to the church again on 26 October 1915, encouraging the building committee to "build it durable and churchly or don't build it at all."

Over the following month, correspondence between the church and the architect became strained as they argued about design details. The building committee desired to make the basement usable as a basketball court by installing a high ceiling, along with a tall ceiling in the sanctuary above. Valk responded that they should "stick to the plan," encouraging them to install stone walls 16" thick rather than 12" and to use cement rather than lime mortar. As the building committee continued to search for cost-cutting opportunities, Valk wrote them on November 30 to complain that "This putting up of a barn of a church is a sacrilege to God." He also noted that he had received fifty dollars for the plans but was waiting for the remaining thirty. Finally, in early February 1916 Valk sent the church revised plans for the building along with a note stating that "whatever you do, do not spoil the general effect and you will have as picturesque a church fit for holy worship as it is possible to make." One month later, the committee appears to have paid him his remaining hard-earned thirty dollars.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on 17 October 1915 following a worship service and excavation of the basement by team and scraper began ten days later. Volunteers from the church community set to work collecting basaltic rubble stones from the fields around Eckert that were hauled to the site in wagons. By late December the basement was fully excavated and in March 1916, Mr. House of Cedaredge launched the masonry work. Progress continued slowly, with budget constraints and war-time manpower and supply shortages considerably delaying the project. In April 1917, men, women and children from the church joined resources to haul thirty-three wagonloads of basaltic rock from area fields to the site so the masonry work could continue. When the basement walls were finished in March 1918, over two years since the groundbreaking ceremony, a roof was constructed over the top of this portion of the building.

The postwar influenza epidemic again delayed completion of the project through much of 1918 and into 1919, a time when few public meetings, church services or school classes met. Eckert's high school seniors were tutored throughout the winter months and on 4 June 1919, with the epidemic subsiding, staged their senior play in the church basement before a large crowd. More than 100 members of the congregation gathered several days later for their first worship service in the truncated building. An inadequate heating system in the basement, however, drove the congregation to hold services and Sunday school classes in the high school building over the following winter of 1919-1920. Services were held again in the building that spring, at which time work finally resumed on the upper portion of the church. Throughout the years of construction, a number of skilled tradesmen participated in the project at different times. These included stone masons Mr. House, George Hibbs, and the Walker Brothers of Delta. J. W. Watkins of Eckert served as carpenter on the project.

At the congregation's 28 March 1920 annual meeting, Rev. Hunsicker announced that \$4,500 had been expended upon labor and an additional \$4,000 in materials. A debt of \$1,500 remained and loans secured for construction were finally paid off in 1935. The building was finished and dedicated on 5 June 1921 with a large community service and celebration. Rev. David Fouse of the Seventh Avenue Community Church in Denver and Rev. James MacInnes of Ouray were the guest preachers.

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During construction of the sanctuary, donors were offered the opportunity to underwrite the cost of the stained glass windows (between \$25 and \$75 per window) in exchange for the opportunity to dedicate them as they chose. These dedications were then imprinted on the lower operable parts of the windows and remain there today. A. L. Reynolds, owner of the market in Eckert, made the donation that paid for the single largest window on the building, found at the center of the east elevation. Another on the north elevation was donated "In Honor of Our Soldiers of 1917-1919" by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. McMurry. Mounted high in the tower is the church's bell, cast by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Co. of Troy, New York in 1882. Between 1825 and 1951, Meneely was one of the most important bell makers in the United States, supplying many of the country's churches with their products. The Eckert church's bell was cast many years before the church was built and probably came from another building, however its origins prior to arriving in Eckert in July 1920 are no longer known. What is known is that the bell was lifted into the tower by employing a hay stacker and a team of horses brought to the site for that purpose.

Over the decade after the building was completed, the members installed a kitchen and restrooms in the basement and surrounded the church with landscaping, including shade trees donated in 1922. The church was originally heated by coal-fired pot-belly stoves, two in the sanctuary and a third in the basement, all providing what turned out to be inadequate climate control during the winter months. In 1925, arrangements were made for an account to be established at the Eckert Store for church members and others to donate eggs and produce there, the proceeds from which would go toward a furnace fund. One year later this creative effort had resulted in a balance of just \$30, hardly enough to install the central heating plant. In 1935, the church found that it still had only \$242 in its furnace fund when an additional gift of \$500 allowed them to secure a loan for the remaining amount needed and to finally replace the pot-belly stoves. These funds were used to install a central heating plant in the basement coal room at the base of the bell tower.

Due to the limited resources available to a small rural community and the centrality of schools and churches, area residents participated in the construction of the Presbyterian Church of Eckert and in turn used the building for a variety of purposes. Pastor Hunsicker's role as principal of the high school, along with membership in the church of many local teachers, led to the building being used for school activities as well as ecclesiastical ones. Lacking in public space for activities such as athletic competitions, dramatic productions, and social occasions, the high school arranged to use the spacious basement of the Eckert church for these activities. Basketball games and plays were staged in the basement, which at the time had a wood floor, a stage on its east end, and did not include its current central support beams (these were added in the 1940s to support the sagging sanctuary floor above).

Over the years, plans for new pews, hymnals, and a furnace were continually shelved due to financial constraints. Membership and donations declined during the Depression, when as few as thirteen people would show up for Sunday services. Lacking funds to pay for a full-time pastor, Rev. Hunsicker supported his family by continuing to work as an educator and administrator in Eckert and later Cedaredge. His service to area schools continued throughout his years as pastor of the Presbyterian

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Church of Eckert and finally ended when he retired from education at the age of eighty-eight. In honor of his long service to the community, Hunsicker Elementary School in Cedaredge was named after him. Rev. Hunsicker also served as secretary of the local ditch company. In all of these arenas he gained the respect and admiration of the community. By 1940 he was ready to retire from work with the church, and on April 6<sup>th</sup> of that year offered his resignation. Due to the respect he had gained and his many years of dedication to the church, Rev. Hunsicker was honored with the title of Pastor Emeritus until his death in 1959.

Following Rev. Hunsicker's 1940 retirement and the end of World War II, the congregation decided that it needed to provide living quarters for its minister families. Planning began in 1946 and it was decided to erect a home on open ground to the south of the church that had recently been donated by the Hunsickers. The building committee was careful to have the manse located as far as possible to the west on this lot so that it would not obstruct views of the church from Highway 65. Architectural plans for an L-shaped cottage of basaltic rubble stone to complement the church were prepared by S. Joseph Hunt of Burbank, California, and Rev. Hunsicker was given the honor of breaking ground for the project through several inches of snow on 11 April 1948. The community secured \$10,500 for the manse through donations and a loan from the Board of National Missions. William Coutts of Rogers Mesa was hired to complete the stonework and Charles Tucker and Mike Keenan were employed as carpenters. The building was completed in 1949 and over the years since has housed a succession of pastors and their families.

Between the 1940s and 1960s, a number of changes took place at the church. Primary among these were the installation of pews together with sanctuary light fixtures donated in 1941 by the Presbyterian Church in Gunnison, which had recently dissolved. During the early 1950s a basement restroom was installed and the kitchen remodeled. In 1957, the front steps of the church were altered somewhat with the removal of a lower flight on the west as part of an attempt to improve the approach to the building. A new concrete floor was poured in the basement in 1958 to replace the earlier wood one, and the following year the interior was redecorated (the extent of this is unknown) and the stained glass windows repaired. Also in 1961, the official name of the church was changed from its original, First Presbyterian Church of Eckert, to the name Eckert Presbyterian Church by which it remains known today. In 1966 the old coal-fired boiler in the church basement was replaced with a gas furnace and the manse was added to this central heating system.

During the 1970s and 1980s the church saw growth in membership, finances, and the number of students attending Sunday school. Combined with adult activities, the old church building could no longer support the amount of activity taking place there and the need for additional space again came to the forefront. By 1985, the congregation was planning for more construction on the site. After considering various options, the church forged ahead with the process of raising funds and hiring an architect to prepare plans. Ground was broken in July 1986 and the following year the church finished work on this large addition to the southwest of the original building. Designed to house classrooms, a nursery, a library, an office, restrooms, an elevator, and an attic loft for various activities, the community raised \$186,000 to pay for its construction. As with construction of the church and manse, volunteers contributed supplies, machinery and labor. Shortly after the addition was completed, extra funds were used to engage in some remodeling of the original church building, including carpeting of

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the sanctuary, removal of the large partition between the front and rear areas of the sanctuary (this was said to be leaving worshipers in the rear of the sanctuary feeling left out of services), and installation of the cushioned pews found there today.

Over the past ninety years, the First Presbyterian Church of Eckert has been a focal point of the region's social and spiritual life, hosting both church services and many other community events. The church's origins reflect the successful efforts of local residents to erect a spiritual home for the community in the face of ongoing financial challenges, the shortages of the World War I era, and the influenza epidemic following the war. Over the following years, the church survived additional challenges brought about by drought, the Great Depression, and membership numbers that ebbed and flowed. With continued growth in the post-World War II decades, the church constructed a manse in 1949 and in 1987 erected the office/classroom addition that provides adequate space to allow the membership to remain at their historic location into the foreseeable future. Throughout its existence, the picturesque First Presbyterian Church of Eckert has served as one of the best known examples of Craftsman style ecclesiastical architecture in the state, a source of community pride that fostered in the local community a sense of permanence and stability.



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DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

All of parcels 3237-123-00-023 and 3237-123-00-024 in Eckert, Delta County, Colorado.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the land and improvements within the boundaries described above, including the 1915-1921 First Presbyterian Church of Eckert (Eckert Presbyterian Church), its 1949 manse, its 1987 office/classroom addition, and the landscaped grounds, driveways, and parking areas that surround these buildings. These boundaries were selected due to the fact that they include all of the property historically associated with the church, including the surrounding grounds that are important to the setting and historic integrity of the property as a whole.

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Property FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ECKERT

DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

**Photograph Log**

The following information applies to all photographs submitted with this registration form:

Name of property:	First Presbyterian Church of Eckert
City, county and state:	Eckert, Delta County, Colorado
Photographer:	Ron Sladek
Date of photograph:	22 April 2005
Location of negative:	Tatanka Historical Associates Inc. 612 S. College Ave., Suite 21 P.O. Box 1909 Fort Collins, CO 80522

- Photograph #1: General view of the church property from across Highway 65 to the northeast. View toward the southwest.
- Photograph #2: General view of the church property from across Highway 65 to the southeast, showing the manse on the left. View toward the northwest.
- Photograph #3: General view of the church property from across Highway 65 to the east, showing the 1987 addition on the left. View toward the northwest.
- Photograph #4: View of the south and east elevations of the church. View toward the northwest.
- Photograph #5: View of the south elevation of the church, showing its main entry and bell tower. View toward the northwest.
- Photograph #6: View of the south elevation of the church, showing its main entry and bell tower. This view also shows some of the mature landscaping surrounding the church. View toward the north.
- Photograph #7: View of the south elevation of the church, showing its main entry and bell tower. View toward the northeast.
- Photograph #8: View of the north and west elevations of the church, with the 1987 addition on the right. This view also shows the raised basement that was roofed just above the concrete water table line above the windows during the period of construction. View toward the southeast.
- Photograph #9: Detail view of the north elevation at the northeast corner of the church. This view shows the raised basement that was roofed just above the concrete water table line above the windows during the period of construction. View toward the southeast.

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- Photograph #10: Detail view of the north elevation of the church. This view shows the raised basement that was roofed just above the concrete water table line above the windows during the period of construction. Also seen are the two distinct styles of mortar work on the building related to the two original phases of construction. View toward the southwest.
- Photograph #11: Detail view of the mortar work on the north elevation of the church. View toward the south.
- Photograph #12: View of the sanctuary on the main floor of the church. View toward the east.
- Photograph #13: Detail view of the sanctuary ceiling, showing its Craftsman design finishes. View toward the east.
- Photograph #14: Detail view of the sanctuary and its ceiling, along with pews, the chancel, and panel doors into the vestibule. View toward the southwest.
- Photograph #15: Detail view of a memorial inscription on the lower operable portion of one of the sanctuary's stained glass windows. View toward the north.
- Photograph #16: View of the church basement, with the stairway to the vestibule at center and the exterior entrance stairway on the right. The timber braces along the wall are also original to the room. Between the stairs is the entrance to the boiler room at the base of the tower. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #17: View of the church basement, with the kitchen beyond the wood-paneled wall in the distance. The original timber braces and central pipe braces added in the 1940s to support the sanctuary floor above can be seen in this view. View to the west.
- Photograph #18: View of the basement-level flight of the stairway to the vestibule, with its original balustrade and newel posts. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #19: View of the concrete stairway to the ground-level building entrance located west of the main entry stoop. View to the south.
- Photograph #20: View of the boiler room at the base of the bell tower. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #21: View of the south and east elevations of the 1949 manse located south of the church. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #22: View of the east elevation of the manse and the front porch to the residence. View to the west.

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- Photograph #23: View of the south elevation of the manse and the covered patio there, with the church's bell tower showing over the roof. View to the north.
- Photograph #24: View of the north elevation of the manse with its entrance to the central courtyard. On the right is the southeast corner of the 1987 church addition. View to the southwest.
- Photograph #25: View of the west elevation of the manse with its exposed basement. On the far left is the southeast corner of the 1987 church addition. View to the east.
- Photograph #26: View of the exposed original wood flooring in the manse kitchen. View to the south.
- Photograph #27: View of the exposed original stone foundation wall and a stone fireplace in the manse basement. View to the northeast.
- Photograph #28: View of the original stone foundation wall on the left and the stairway balustrade and newel post in the manse basement. View to the south.
- Photograph #29: View of the east elevation of the 1987 church addition, with the causeway and original church building on the right. View to the northwest.
- Photograph #30: View of the north elevation of the 1987 church addition, with the causeway below the projecting hood at center and the original church building on the left. View to the southeast.
- Photograph #31: View of the west elevation of the 1987 church addition, with the original church building on the left. View to the east.
- Photograph #32: View of the west and south elevations of the 1987 church addition, with the manse on the right. View to the northeast.

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**Historical Photograph**

**Eckert Church  
1921**



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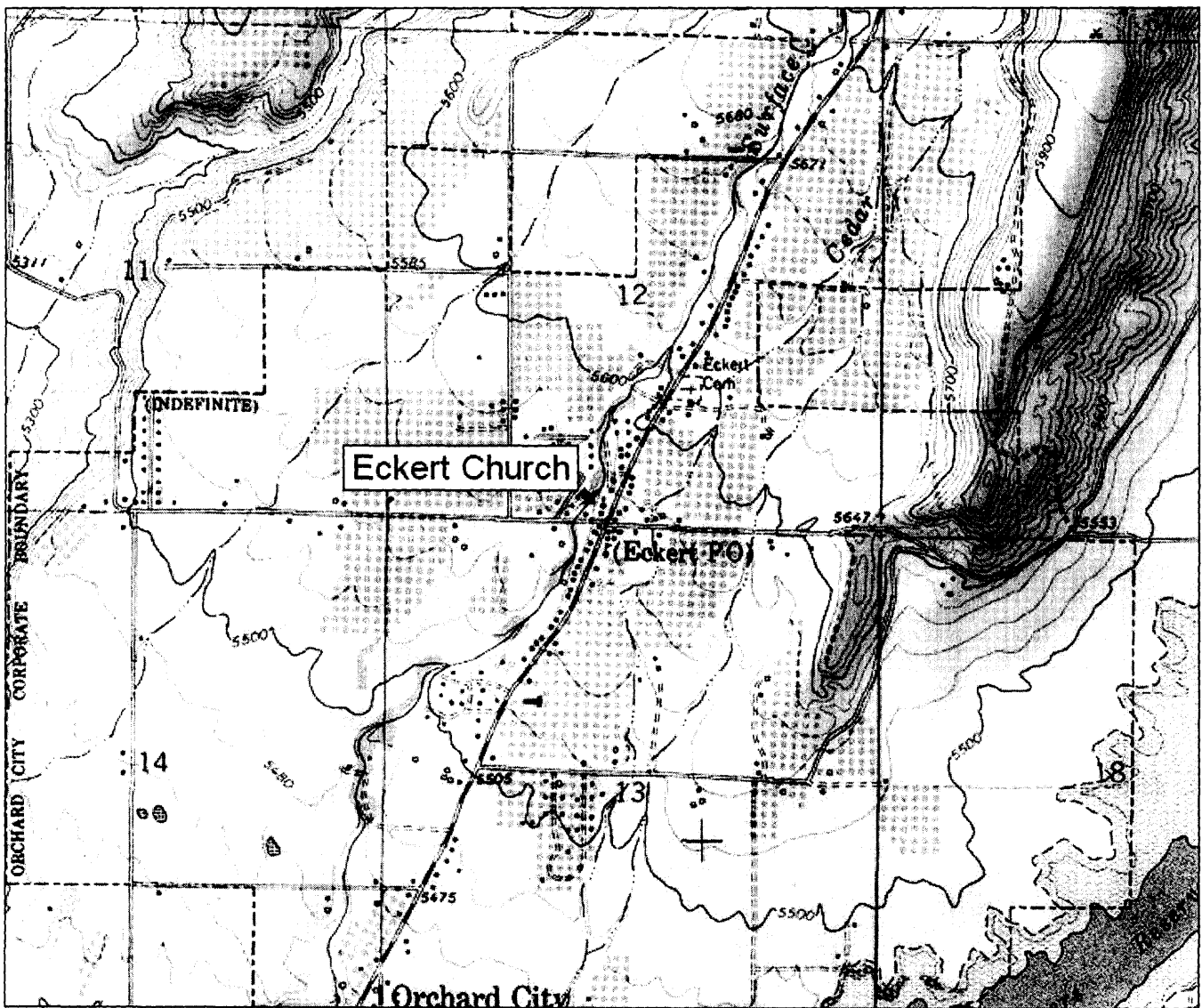
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DELTA COUNTY, COLORADO

**USGS Topographic Map**  
**Orchard City, Colorado**  
**7.5 Minute Quadrangle**  
**Photorevised 1978**



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