

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 678139

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAY 1 1979

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Evergreen Conference Complex

District

AND/OR COMMON

The Evergreen Conference Complex

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CO 74

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Evergreen

--- VICINITY OF

2

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Jefferson

059

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mixed Ownership - see continuation sheet

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

--- VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

1700 Arapahoe

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Golden

Colorado 80439

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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 within a three-block area at the eastern edge of town, the Evergreen Conference Complex is a historic district that includes twenty-three structures. Eighteen of this number contribute to the historic and architectural integrity of the district while another five are modern buildings compatible with their older counterparts. The entire district is surrounded by meadows, rocks, and heavily wooded mountains so that the district remains much as it was when it served as a music camp about 1900.

The boundaries of the district are well-defined. They are the historic boundaries that comprise the music camp itself, the old mission, and the properties of the Sisters of St. Mary, all of which made up the Conference Complex. These boundaries may be readily seen on the accompanying U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map and the map of the Jefferson County Planning Department, drawn 200 feet to the inch. The latter shows the placement of the buildings and their relationship to one another.

Visually, the buildings fit together well and reflect an earlier time. The architecture varies from western shingle to English style to modified chalet. Most structures are cottages one or two stories in height and based on a rectangular plan; most have a porch, gabled or hipped roof, and dormers. The larger structures include chapels or buildings to hold larger congregations. The principal building material throughout is wood and native stone.

Buildings Contributing to the Evergreen Conference District

1. Meeting House: 1924, western shingle style, single story, native stone foundation and chimneys, shallow gabled roof, shingle siding, single wall construction; main room has high ceiling supported by massive wood trusses and an octagonal stage with steps approaching the stage on three sides.
2. Williams House: 1923, dormitory and dining room, three stories, medium gable roof, shingle siding, rock foundation, and chimney, western shingle style, large open porch on two sides of the building supported by log posts and with railing of log.
3. Hart House: 1920, western shingle style, double gable roof, two stories with large open porch supported by log posts and with log balustrade, brick fireplace, stone foundation.
4. See below
5. See below
6. Chalmers Cottage: 1923, hipped roof, rock pillar foundation and rock chimney, resort camp style, large screened porch.
7. See below

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evergreen Conference District is significant for its association with Canon Charles Winfred Douglas, an internationally known expert on the plain-song mass; for its architectural features which to some extent reflect the original construction and appearance of Evergreen a century ago; and for its associations with music, education, religion, and social/humanitarian activity.

Once known as Bergen Park, Evergreen owed its existence to the Denver South Park & Pacific Railway, which established the village as a logging camp to provide ties for the road. One of the oldest buildings still remaining, Stewart's Hotel (structure #20) originally served as a bunkhouse for workers. Later, Evergreen had a number of sawmills cutting wood for construction in Denver, a relatively short distance away, but on the high plains where timber was scarce. During this time some people began to acquire land for summer homes, notably Mrs. Mary Neosho Williams, widow of Brigadier General Thomas Williams. Upon the dissolution of Mrs. Williams estate in 1914, Evergreen became popular for tourists and for others seeking summer homes. It also became a haven for those seeking relief or cure from asthma or tuberculosis, as evidenced by the large, screened sleeping porches still seen in the vicinity. Finally, in the 1960s and 1970s new road construction brought a housing boom to Evergreen as it now lay within an easy commute to Denver.

It was in 1893 that Mrs. Williams began the work that evolved into the Evergreen Conference Center. That year she began holding Episcopal church services in tents, and eventually gave land and money for buildings. Among the first purchases was the Stewart Hotel, which was converted into a church, St. Mark's in the Wilderness, later renamed the Mission of the Transfiguration. In 1897 Canon Charles Winfred Douglas was attracted to Evergreen in search of better health. He immediately gave direction to summer music camps and retreats, and as he developed his own international reputation as an authority on church music, in particular the plain song mass on which he made extensive studies in England and France, the reputation of the summer music camp grew and attracted noted Episcopal churchmen of the time. As priest at the Mission of the Transfiguration he remained with the organization for over forty years. During this time the Community of St. Mary was attracted to Evergreen largely through Douglas' association as Director of Music at the Mother House in Peekskill, New York; they began to attend the summer conferences and do social work in the county.

In 1924 the growing workload of the conference prompted the creation of the Evergreen Conference Committee. This organization took charge of many activities including a general conference for church workers, sessions for high school groups, a School for Church Music, the School of the Prophets, and a retreat for priests. This work,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Evergreen, Colorado

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,3	4,7,3	2,7,5	4,3,8,7	4,3,0
ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

B

1,3	4,7,3	2,7,5	4,3,8,7	2,8,0
ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

C

1,3	4,7,2	9,9,0	4,3,8,7	0,9,0
ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

D

1,3	4,7,2	9,9,0	4,3,8,7	4,8,0
ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

E

ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

F

ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

G

ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

H

ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Item #7, paragraph 2, and the maps that accompany this nomination.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandy Crain

ORGANIZATION

Jefferson County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Box 703

CITY OR TOWN

Evergreen

DATE

May 2, 1977

TELEPHONE

(303) 674-6262

STATE

Colorado 80439

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. Townsend

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-1-79

ATTEST: William H. Brasnam

4-25-79

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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The Evergreen Conference

CONTINUATION SHEET Complex ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

Evergreen Conference Incorporated
Post Office Box 366
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

1. Meeting House
2. Williams House
3. Hart House
4. Sowerby Cottage
5. Mathews Cottage
6. Chalmers House
7. Powell Cottage
13. Guest House
14. Bancroft House
15. Nicks House
16. Long House
17. Douglas Hall

Western Province of the Sisters of St. Marys
3288 North Lake Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

8. Sisters Cottage
9. St. Raphaels
10. St. Joseph & St. Marys Chapel

Church of the Transfiguration
Box K
Evergreen, Colorado 80439

11. Stone Library & Cottage
12. Young-Whitney Cottage
18. Church of the Transfiguration
19. Root Cellar
20. Stewart Hotel
21. Bell Tower
22. Potpourri
23. Vicarage

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CONTINUATION SHEET ^{The Evergreen Conference} Complex ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

8. Sister's Cottage: 1880s, early western cabin, one story, gabled roof with shed roof attached, porch extension, vertical split-log siding.
9. St. Raphaels House: 1880s, one story, stone foundation, shingle siding, gabled roof; originally a tavern during the sawmill era, later a mission house.
10. Chapel of St. Joseph and St. Mary: 1920s, one and one-half stories, shingle siding, and board/batten, high gabled roof.
11. Stone library and cottage: 1920, stone building, high windows to accomodate book shelves, attached cabin with low gabled roof, shed roof over porch, split-log siding (vertical).
12. Young-Whitney Cottage: 1920s, long narrow building, extended screened porch in center, covered walkway on either side of the length of building, rock-foundation, gabled roof of two levels, rock fireplace in center room.
13. Guest House: ca. 1900, gabled roof with early western porch extension, vertical split-log siding.
14. Bancroft House: 1892, gabled-hip roof extending over screened porch on three sides, dormers with low gable-hip roofs, rock and brick chimney, vertical log siding.
15. Nicks House: ca. 1900, vertical split-log siding, small porch with shed roof and log post supports, uneven gables intersecting, no chimney.
16. Long House: ca. 1900, one and one-half stories, vertical split-log siding, medium gable roof.
17. See below
18. See below
19. Root cellar: ca. 1870s, native rock wall on hillside, pland door entry to cellar; used by old hotel.
20. Stewart Hotel: ca. 1865, one and one-half stories, gabled roof with dormers and intersecting gables, rustic log siding, tree trunk columns support extended porches, siding in design of cross on Chapel area (1897), rock fireplace and rock foundation.
21. Bell Tower: 1911, massive log structure tapering to small hipped roof over bell, wood shingled roof, top accented with iron Celtic cross, wallway through structure leading to churchyard.

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The Evergreen Conference
CONTINUATION SHEET Complex ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

22. Potpourri: ca. 1910, one room cabin, single wall construction, gabled roof, board and batten siding.
23. See below

Modern Buildings Compatible with Historic Character of District

4. Sowerby Cottage: 1953, small frame cottage, simple rectangle shape gabled roof.
5. Mathews Cottage: 1940s, small frame structure, simple rectangular shape, gabled roof.
7. Powell Cottage: 1940s, small frame cabin, gabled roof, simple rectangular shape.
17. Douglas Hall: 1950, horizontal plank siding, low gabled roof with one intersecting gable.
18. Church of the Transfiguration: 1964, vertical board/batten and natural rock siding, steep wood shingles, gabled roof curving out over main structure, rock entry.
23. Vicarage: 1950, stone foundation, horizontal wood siding, gabled roof.

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CONTINUATION SHEET The Evergreen Conference ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2
Complex

however, required the construction of additional buildings mostly during the 1920s. As the years passed, the Conference continued to expand its activities, from time to time leasing part of the old mission house to the Colorado Philharmonic, allowing the Old Chapel to be used as a theatre for the Evergreen Players and the Meeting House as the scene of productions by the Evergreen Chorale.

The buildings in the district were constructed over a span of 100 years from ca. 1862 to 1972. The architecture varies from western shingle style to english style to modified chalet with the principal building materials being native stone and local lumber. Notable are the music conference buildings and St. Raphael's, both done in western shingle style with foundation and chimneys of native stone. The remaining structures were simply finished with "turn of the century" vertical slab pine with extended porches and gable roofs. All this reflected the use of the buildings for a summer camp. Most of the old buildings were built by Jock Spence, a master carpenter and accomplished stone mason who put up many structures in the Evergreen area, notably the Hiwan Homestead, now listed in the Register. By utilizing the native pine and moss rock, he erected sturdy structures of lasting quality. Typically, he incorporated vertical whole logs and vertical rough-hewn slabs. The outstanding interior features are his laminated ceiling beams and hand finished panelling with fine molding detail.

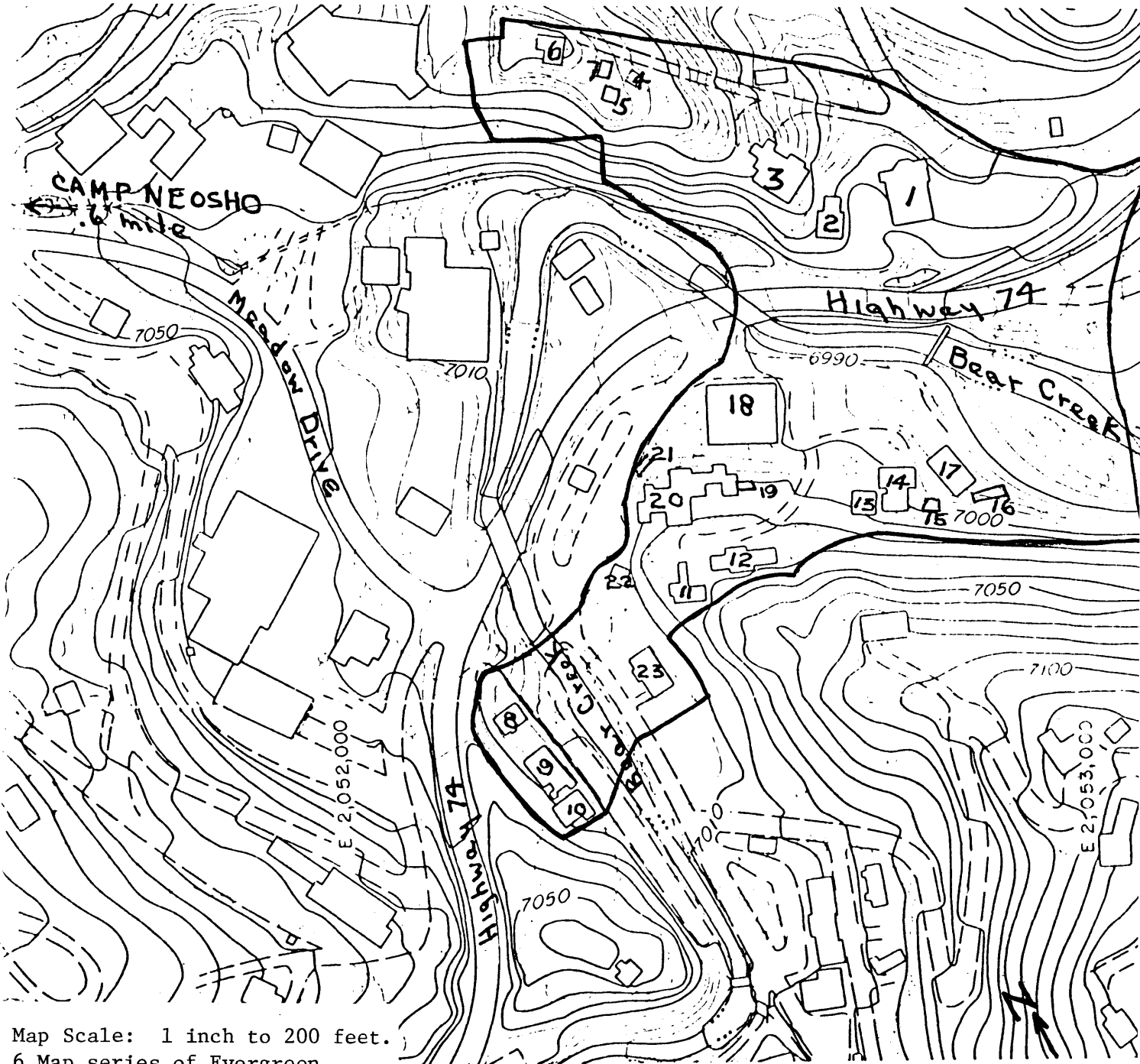
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The Evergreen Conference

CONTINUATION SHEET Complex ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1



Map Scale: 1 inch to 200 feet.
6 Map series of Evergreen
Leo Hargrave-Mapping division
Jefferson County Planning Dept.