

PH0500607

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 6 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1978

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
St. James Episcopal Church
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
368 4th Street
CITY, TOWN Meeker VICINITY OF 04
STATE Colorado CODE 08 COUNTY Rio Blanco CODE 103
NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME St. James Episcopal Church
STREET & NUMBER 368 4th Street
CITY, TOWN Meeker VICINITY OF STATE Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER Rio Blanco Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Meeker STATE Colorado

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites
DATE Ongoing
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Colo., 200 14th Ave.
CITY, TOWN Denver STATE Colorado

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 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

The St. James Church is basically a rectangular stone structure topped by a gable roof with a tower at the northwest corner of the building. There is a modern educational building south of the main church. The property on which these structures sit is surrounded by the original wrought iron fence.

The front of the church building, which faces west, is composed, at least from a visual standpoint, of three elements: the tower, a one story narthex topped by a small gable roof, and the main gable roof. At the base of the tower is a double wooden door which provides the main entrance to the building and is topped by a small lancet shaped stained glass window with a voussoir surrounding. Immediately above, the exterior of the tower is covered by wooden shingles which accent and compliment the stone of the church. The bell was imported from the Blymen Bell Foundry of Cincinnati in 1889. The tower is topped with a flared roof and a simple wooden cross.

The one story stone narthex grows out of the tower and presents an irregular shape as it curves to the south to blend into the south wall. It is topped by a small gable covered by white cut shingles, which draws the eye upward to the lancet shaped stained glass window that is located on the face of the main gable roof. There is also a square stained-glass window in the narthex.

The main gable roof dominates the front facade of the church. It not only reinforces the interplay between stone and shingle, it unites the tower and narthex into a satisfying whole.

The north side of the church features two double buttresses three windows, and a vestibule. The windows, extremely regular in use, are of rectangular shape with a stone sill. The vestibule, providing a secondary entrance to the church, has one rectangular window with a stone sill and is topped by a gable with white shingles. There is a small lancet shaped window with a stone sill on the north side of the tower.

(con't)

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The east facade of the structure is taken up by an apse or chancel and topped by a gable roof. It is of brick construction with two small lancet shaped windows and was added to the church in 1901.

On the south side there are three rectangular shaped windows which are also extremely regular in use and have stone sills. There are five double buttresses and a door which serves as an entrance from the breezeway that connects the two structures.

In 1966 the new educational building was constructed with similar colored stone and accented by natural wood. It is located on the site of the old parsonage which was originally the old military hospital. The presence of the new building does not harm the integrity of the church. In fact, because of the careful selection of materials and the thoughtful consideration given to the lines of the educational building, the architectural values of the main church building are enhanced.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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 St. James Episcopal Church is significant because it is the first church in Meeker, as well as one of the oldest Episcopal churches in Colorado. As such it has played and is still playing an important role in the religious life of the area.

The early activities of the Episcopal Church in Colorado are in large part a result of the personal energy and travel of Rt. Reverend John Spalding, consecrated Missionary Bishop of Colorado and Wyoming on December 31, 1873. At the beginning of his episcopate, the three hundred thousand square mile district had only two self-supporting parishes, ten clergy, three parsonages and over 700 communicants. Fourteen years later, at the creation of the Bishopric of Colorado, Spalding had established a cathedral system, founded a hospital and further developed the Church's schools. In addition there were now seventeen parishes, over fifty missions, approximately 13,000 baptized persons and over 2,400 communicants. Perhaps even more important, the Episcopal Church was represented in twenty-eight counties of Colorado, almost half the total of the state's counties. It was found in the San Luis Valley, down through the Arkansas River Valley and on the western slopes.

Much of the early history of western Colorado emerges from the conflict between the expansion of the frontier and the Indians who owned the land. Since it was widely held that the Indian was unable to gain the most profit from the land, many believed that it was necessary to civilize him and teach him skills to work the land.

(con't)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(enclosed on continuation sheet #9)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY under one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	251710	4485900
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

S.E. corner of 4th and Park.

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

Virginia Garcia

Jan. 31, 1977

ORGANIZATION

State Historical Society

DATE
321-7265

STREET & NUMBER

200 14th Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE
Colorado

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Colo S H P O

DATE

6/8/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

3 8 78

ATTEST:

Clathouse Cole

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3.14.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The Brunot Treaty of 1873 relocated the Ute Indians at three agencies, one of which was along the White River in western Colorado. It was here the Indian problem escalated to physical confrontation. The man in charge of the White River Agency, Nathan Meeker, and all the other white males were massacred Sept. 30, 1879. Responding to the attack, U.S. Cavalry companies were dispatched and quickly succeeded in re-establishing control. Citizens, angered by the massacre and interested in opening Ute land to settlement, demanded the removal of the Indians. This was accomplished in 1881, and by 1882 the lands were declared by Congress to be open for filing. The result, a turning point in the history of northwest Colorado, was a boom in the settlement and establishment of towns in the area.

During the course of military operations, a post was established at the present town of Meeker. Beginning in the summer of 1883 the government gradually removed the soldiers and sold the army buildings to interested settlers. The new town, named Meeker after the slain Indian agent, was incorporated in 1885.

Three years later Episcopal services began in the town. On May 13, 1888, St. James Church was formally organized as a mission through petition to Bishop Spalding. The first rector, Reverend Arthur Llewelyn Williams, was received the same year and remained until Dec., 1890. Reverend Williams was active in the social life of the Meeker community, attending many gatherings and hosting more in his own home. He actively canvassed for monetary support in constructing a church, and even found time to assist in the physical labor.

Arthur Williams symbolizes the flexible and talented pioneer minister, active along the frontier. After receiving his

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training at Western Theological Seminary, he served in Colorado from 1888-1893. His first parish was St. James in Meeker, where the construction of the church took place during his tenure. After leaving, in 1890, he was at St. Paul's in north Denver until 1892. After that he left Colorado but his ties remained strong to where he had begun his career. As Bishop of Nebraska he participated in the funeral masses of both the Bishops John and Frank Spalding. Reverend Williams' active participation in his parishes and the resulting promotion within the church is typical of the successful pioneer priest.

In 1892, the Missionary District of Western Colorado was created. Taking in that part of the state approximately west of the Continental Divide, it was born out of a belief by Bishop Spalding that the west would approach the eastern part of Colorado in terms of population. The short history of the Mission District -- it was disbanded in 1919 -- is one of optimism and frustration. There was continued hope that the western part of the state would grow to meet expectations, and there was continued frustration of trying to minister to the needs of small groups of people spread over vast distances.

From the beginning, the church at Meeker played a significant role in the struggle to place the Mission District on a sound basis. Reverend Ostenson, rector at St. James from 1892 to 1896, for example, worked closely with the Bishop in his missionary efforts, and in one year alone travelled 16,000 miles. It was during this period that a series of missions was established. These included Angora (1911-1916), Maybell (1910-1920), Axial (1901-1920), and Buford (1911-1916).

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Today the St. James Church continues to play an important and viable part in the life of the community of Meeker. Aware of its historical heritage, as evidenced by the careful design of the education building to harmonize with the pioneer church, it continues to minister to the spiritual and social needs of the town.

Moreover, from an architectural point of view, St. James Church has significance as a provincial manifestation of a nineteenth-century romanticization of church architecture. In the early years of the century such English architects and critics as A.W.N. Pugin and John Ruskin sought to establish principles for church architecture, principles that would reflect a "true" religious style whose characteristics predated Renaissance influence. The ideas of Pugin, Ruskin, and others spread throughout the English-speaking world and were eventually adopted in the United States.

St. James Episcopal Church is a provincial example of church architecture influenced not only by these ideas and principles but also by the contemporary architecture of its own time. The building material (native stone), the rectangular shape, the heavy roof, the use of buttresses, and the arched doors and windows all reflect the revival of Romanesque and Medieval forms. Other elements of the Church, however, such as the colored band on the roof, the shingled, patterned gables, and the wooden tower encased in shingles were inspired by contemporary late nineteenth-century architecture. The combination of these disparate elements, which resulted in such dis-

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jointed connections as that between the tower base and belfry, reveal a use of architectural forms without a full comprehension of their meaning. This was a frequent characteristic of provincial, vernacular architecture. Thus, St. James Church is representative of a type and a style of architecture interpreted in a provincial setting.

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- Athearn, Frederic J. An Isolated Empire: A History of Northwest Colorado. Colorado State Office, Bureau of Land Management. Denver, 1976. pp. 45-59.
- Breck, Allen du Pont. The Episcopal Church in Colorado, 1860-1963. Denver: Big Mountain Press Co., 1963. p. 90,119,126,136,171, 177,178, 376.
- Bury, Susan and John, ed. This Is What I Remember. Rio Blanco Historical Society. Meeker, Colorado. c. 1972. pp. 197, 198, 199.