

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **MAY 7 1982**
DATE ENTERED **JUN 3 1982**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Clifton Community Center and Church
AND/OR COMMON
Clifton Christian Church

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

F and Main Street

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Clifton

N/A VICINITY OF Grand Junction

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Mesa

077

CLASSIFICATION

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

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Gene L. Forney

STREET & NUMBER

535 Tiara Drive

CITY, TOWN

Grand Junction

NA VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado 81501

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mesa County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

540 Road

CITY, TOWN

Grand Junction

STATE

Colorado 81501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

Ongoing

NA FEDERAL STATE *NA* COUNTY *NA* LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society; 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado 80203

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Clifton Christian Church (Clifton Community Center) is located at F and Main Street, Clifton, Colorado, which is approximately five miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado. It is a single detached structure, built on a concrete foundation. The church is approximately 4000 square feet on the main floor, 4000 on the basement floor and 2000 in the balcony. It has a cross-gabled roof with plain boxed cornice roof trim on the front and back gables, and decorated side gables. The decorative head above the upper floor doors is double recessed paneled with a plain pediment above each. The staircases leading to the doors have concrete railings. The four doors leading to the basement floor are located below the staircases. Twelve windows, three on each facade, are arcaded with the original stained, leaded glass and hinged openings. The forty remaining windows have plain glass with hinged openings.

The exterior walls consist of mesh metal lathe covered with a stucco mixture of cinder and cement which has been preserved remarkably well in its original state for the past sixty years. The interior of the building is spacious with lathe plastered walls and hard wood floors. In the auditorium, the balcony is semi-circular and has room for two rows of chairs. At the left of the pulpit is the baptistry which was built to be plainly viewed from the seating area. The basement is complete with kitchen serving tables and cupboards for banquet purposes.

The church today remains in its original state at its site on the southwest corner of F Road and Main Street. At the time the church was constructed, this was the center of activity for this fruit growing community. It was close to town, but still provided easy access for the neighboring farmers.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
NA PREHISTORIC	NA ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	NA COMMUNITY PLANNING	NA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
NA 1400-1499	NA ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	NA CONSERVATION	NA LAW	NA SCIENCE		
NA 1500-1599	NA AGRICULTURE	NA ECONOMICS	NA LITERATURE	NA SCULPTURE		
NA 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	NA EDUCATION	NA MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
NA 1700-1799	NA ART	NA ENGINEERING	NA MUSIC	NA THEATER		
NA 1800-1899	NA COMMERCE	NA EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	NA PHILOSOPHY	NA TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	NA COMMUNICATIONS	NA INDUSTRY	NA POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	NA OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		NA INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1920-present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Clark Bower

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Clifton Christian Church is significant for its role as the first community center in Mesa County. As such it was widely used for all school graduations (since there were no school auditoriums), plays, harvest festivals, Chatauquas (traveling entertainers), community choir, and political gatherings. The building is also significant architecturally as an example of an indigenous structure cleverly designed to suit the needs of its time and place. It was designed with fire prevention in mind. The eight exits made for quick and easy access in and out, and with an exit at each corner, a packed house could be discharged speedily without any danger or crowding.

The early leaders of the church felt that their church had a duty to serve the community and so the spacious structure was designed for that purpose. The basement and the main floor (called the auditorium) were designed to seat large groups of people with a balcony for the overflow. Even though the church membership at the time of construction numbered under one hundred members, the structure was able to comfortably seat six hundred people on the main floor and balcony, with an additional capacity of four hundred in the basement.

People gathered at the church for most major community events. During the harvest festivals, political candidates would attend from surrounding communities to make speeches, for they knew they would be able to catch a good portion of the community in attendance.

On Sunday, January 19, 1921, during a meeting of the church members, \$34,000 was raised to free the new Clifton Church of building debt. It was a remarkable event for the entire Mesa County. A small group of Christians pledged their own personal funds to free the church of debt while allowing the entire community to use the structure for community events and activities.

Reverend Clark Bower organized the Christian Church in 1910 and supervised the construction of the church in 1920. He later went on to become a political leader in Colorado and in 1939 served as Chaplain of the House in the State Legislature. Mrs. Jim Barr was also a charter member of the Christian Church and later went on to become an active leader in the Women's Christian Temperance Union. A third charter member, J. E. Hornbaker, became a Democratic State Representative in 1920.

The Clifton Church for many years served its purpose well, as a true "community center" for this agricultural area of Colorado.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Burckhalter, Burton - interview March 15, 1980

Christian Church Memorabilia, scrapbook, memoirs, etc.

Daily Sentinel articles, Jan. 10, 1921; Sept. 4, 1919; June 20, 1937; Jan. 11, 1942; Jan. 11, 1943; Feb. 27, 1960.

NOT RECORDED
DATE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1

QUADRANGLE NAME Clifton

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	7,2,0	6,2,0	4,3	2,9	8,2,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C							D			
E							F			
G							H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 to 6 including block 7 First Addition to Clifton Section 11.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	N/A		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
	N/A		

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Pat Knight,

ORGANIZATION

N/A

DATE

5/30/80

STREET & NUMBER

502 Riverview

TELEPHONE

303-245-6219

CITY OR TOWN

Grand Junction,

STATE

Colorado 81503

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL NA

STATE NA

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

William C. Immersand

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3.27.82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Debra Byers
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

6/3/82

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION