

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Laramie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-249-0011 0001	DATE 2/26/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1908 Central Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49 COUNTY: Laramie CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
1908 Central Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Laramie County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
City and County Building

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .5

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Site, Markers & Mon.

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer-Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to tradition the inspiration for the design of St. Mark's came from the Stoke Poges Church near London. This ancient church, dating from 1080 A.D., was made famous as the site where Thomas Gray wrote "Elegy in a Country Church Yard." The architectural style of St. Mark's is Old English with pointed arches, massive buttresses, plain finishing and a high-pitched shingled roof. The architect was Henry M. Congdon of New York City.

Construction was begun in 1886. The stone work was done by Mr. William Toorey and the interior woodworking was done by Mr. George East. The red lava stone was quarried at Castle Rock, Colorado.

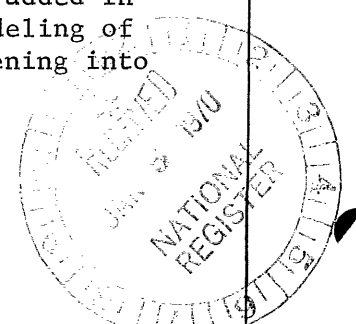
Care has been taken to preserve the original exterior design of the Church. Only the addition of the bell tower in 1925 has altered the profile of the 1886 construction. In 1912 a Parish House was carefully designed to match the main Church in style. The same Colorado stone was used. Periodic landscaping, fencing, a stone wall known as the Kingham Close and a new entry on the west have further enhanced the building over the years.

The interior of St. Mark's contains the original altar, wooden fixtures, pews and open beams placed in the building in 1888. The handcarved and simply embellished woodwork is complemented by deep red kneeling and seat cushions. The wooden cross that once graced the first St. Mark's of Cheyenne is mounted on the west wall of the nave.

Like the exterior, the interior of St. Mark's has had numerous improvements and additions over the years. Great care has been taken to retain the original design leaving the basic furnishings as they were in 1888. Modern improvements include the installation of a Reuter Pipe Organ and marble floor (1951), Christian Education Classrooms (1964), and a Passageway Addition (1968) providing a Youth-Choir Room, Vesting Room, Organist's Office, Curate's Office, passageway between the Parish Hall and Church, rest rooms and a new west entrance. Again, great care was always taken to match design and materials with existing appointments.

All the large stained glass windows now seen in the nave and those flanking the altar were in place at the dedication of the Church in 1888. The clerestory windows date from the 1920's to 1951. All the windows are from the workrooms of master craftsmen and most of them are signed. One, now in the Passageway foyer, is by Tiffany. This was added in 1890 and completed the main "set" of windows. In the remodeling of 1968, the place of the Tiffany window was needed for an opening into the Passageway and the window was moved into the foyer.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

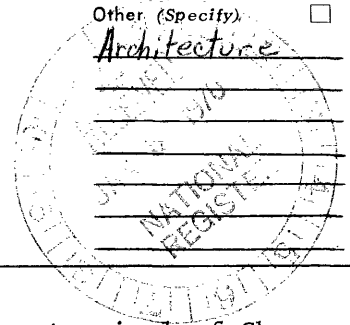
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Aboriginal | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | | Other (Specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>Architecture</u> | |
| Agriculture | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Art | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Commerce | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | | | |
| Communications | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Conservation | Military | <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

When the Union Pacific Railroad reached its winter terminal of Cheyenne in the fall of 1867, the Episcopalians were among the first to hold religious services in the rough new settlement.

On January 14, 1868, a determined Episcopalian clergyman, the Reverend Joseph W. Cook, arrived in Cheyenne. Appalled by the rampant sin and wickedness, he immediately set about organizing a parish. Later that month, St. Mark's Church was organized and named after St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia because the older parish donated \$1,000 toward establishing a church in the west. The first task confronting the new parish was to erect a Church edifice. In June, 1868, tangible results of the first building program appeared at 18th and Ferguson (later Carey Avenue). On August 23, 1868, the new Church was dedicated. It was the first Church building erected in the Territory of Wyoming. The architectural style was Gothic and the frame structure cost between three and four thousand dollars.

A feature of the small frame Church was a 600-pound bell costing \$300 donated by the S. E. Fallons of St. Mark's Church in Philadelphia. The inscriptions on the bell read "From St. Mark's, Philadelphia, to St. Mark's Cheyenne, Wyoming" and "The Mountains and Hills shall break forth before you into singing." The bell was first used on April 4, 1869, and is considered the oldest Church bell in the State of Wyoming. It now hangs in the bell tower of St. Mark's.

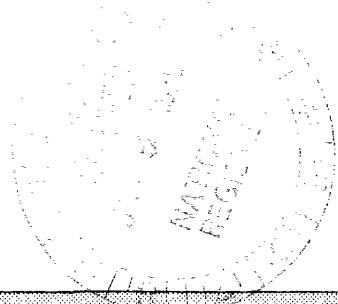
During the 1870's St. Mark's Church and the City of Cheyenne struggled for survival. However, during those lean times the seeds of the cattle industry were sown and were to bear fruit in the early 1880's. The few years following 1880 were the Golden Years for Cheyenne. Cattle raising attracted wealthy, well educated and adventurous men from the East and Europe. The price of cattle was high and fortunes quickly made. With the fortunes came the desire for culture, beauty and buildings of permanence and dignity. In response to this and backed by the need for larger facilities, St. Mark's Church undertook a building project.

Lots for the construction of a new Church were obtained in 1885 at the corner of 19th Street and Central Avenue. Work began on the new Church in 1886; by fall the walls and roof had been completed and the cornerstone laid. However, the disastrous winter of 1886-87 killed thousands

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Flynn, Shirley E., Our Heritage (Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Co. 1968.)



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	08'	10"	104°	48'	56"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

13/515/60
455-650
CD

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bill Barnhart, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Wyoming Recreation Commission** DATE: **Dec. 19, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Cheyenne** STATE: **Wyoming** CODE: **49**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Paul N. West*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 19, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 26 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Montoya
Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Laramie	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10249-001	2/26/70

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Statement of Significance *(Continuation Sheet)*

(Number all entries)

of cattle on the open range and the financial depression that followed prevented the Church from being finished for another two years. A loan from the American Church Building Fund was required before the interior of the building could be finished. The first services were held in the new building August 19, 1888.

Many memorable events have occurred in St. Mark's history through the years. In November of 1903 Cheyenne was alive with the Tom Horn affair. Accused of killing young Willie Nickell, Horn was tried by jury, found guilty and sentenced to be hung. St. Mark's assistant rector, the Rev. Mr. Watson, tried converting Tom Horn the night before his execution and the rector, the Rev. Mr. Rafter, prayed on the hanging platform right up until the time of Horn's death. A special service was held at St. Mark's for Tom Horn after his death.

The funeral of the wife and three small daughters of General John J. Pershing took place at St. Mark's on August 31, 1915. Mrs. Pershing, daughter of Wyoming's United States Senator Francis E. Warren, along with three of her four children had met their death in a fire at the Presidio army post in California. Following an impressive ceremony at St. Mark's the burials took place at Lakeview Cemetery in Cheyenne. In spite of this great loss, Pershing went on to attain international fame as General of the Armies in World War I.

October 11, 1936, was another noteworthy day at St. Mark's. That day President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, accompanied by Secret Service guards, entered the Church and quietly worshipped with the congregation. Roosevelt was in Cheyenne campaigning for his second term as President. The occasion also marked Eleanor Roosevelt's 52nd birthday.

Long recognized as the Church of the Governors, eleven of Wyoming's twenty-six governors, representing every area of the State, have been members of St. Mark's congregation. These include Amos W. Barber (Acting), 1890-1893, who served during the Johnson County Cattle War; Fenimore Chatterton (Acting), 1903-1905; Bryant B. Brooks, 1905-1911; Joseph M. Carey, 1911-1915; Robert D. Carey, 1919-1923; William B. Ross, 1923-1924; Nellie Tayloe Ross, 1925-1927, who was the first woman governor in the United States; Lester C. Hunt, 1943-1949; Milward L. Simpson, 1955-1959; Jack R. Gage (Acting), 1961-1963; and Clifford P. Hansen, 1963-1967.

St. Mark's has served the affairs of the Cheyenne community admirably throughout the years, including the two World Wars and the missile construction "boom" of the 1960's. These were periods when heavy demands were placed upon the Church.

Being one of Cheyenne's historic landmarks, St. Mark's Episcopal Church is visited annually by hundreds of people from every denomination, from all parts of the country and from all walks of life. Visitors take special interest in the plaques that mark the appointments and items of historical significance. The Church is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to those interested in its historical, architectural, aesthetic and spiritual values.

