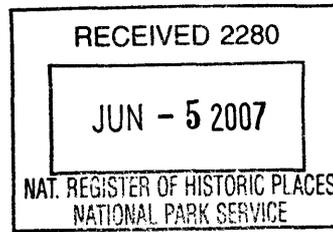


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



696

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, 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 Rankin Presbyterian Church

other names/site number 5MR.614

2. Location

street & number 420 Clayton Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Brush [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Morgan code 087 zip code 80723

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title: Mark Wolfe, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 5/22/07

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper: Edson H. Beall; Date of Action: 7-18-07

Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing                      Noncontributing

1	0	buildings
<hr/>		
0	0	sites
<hr/>		
0	0	structures
<hr/>		
0	0	objects
<hr/>		
1	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.**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Function**

(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 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS /  
Late Gothic Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone  
walls Brick  
\_\_\_\_\_  
roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 1

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## DESCRIPTION

The Rankin Presbyterian Church is prominently located on the southwest corner of Clayton Street and Emerson Street, two blocks north of downtown Brush. It faces Clayton Street on the east and Emerson Street on the north. A concrete parking lot abuts the church on the west, or rear, next to a north/south alley. Constructed in 1907, the Gothic Revival church includes an educational wing that was added off the southwest corner in 1963.

The church has an irregular plan roughly measuring 75 feet by 50 feet, walls of red brick laid in a running bond, and a concrete foundation faced with regularly coursed sandstone ashlar. The steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, with its longest section running in an east/west direction along Emerson Street, is sheathed in grey asphalt shingles.

A two-story square bell tower conspicuously highlights the junction of the north and east gables (photo #3). The tower has a slightly larger base than its upper section. Centrally positioned on each of the four sides of this upper section are two large lancet openings that reveal the large church bell. Sandstone trims the tops of each arch creating a hood mold; sandstone also forms an inset Greek cross above each pair of lancet openings (photo #4). The tower culminates in crenellated parapet walls capped with sandstone coping (photo #5, #6). Four tie irons provide structural support on each side of the bays.

The base of the bell tower includes one of two church entrance vestibules on the east façade (photo #2). A Tudor-arched stained glass window with a sandstone hood mold allows light into the vestibule from the north (photo #3). A front gabled roofed porch with decorative stick work, decorative pendants, and flared eaves covers the Gothic arched double leaf entry (photo #17). The double doors are six-paneled metal painted white to match the surround and the framing of the porch roof. A stained glass transom incorporates the date "1907." A course of rowlock brick highlights the arch of the transom. Nine concrete steps transport visitors from the ground to the porch area entrance.

Located at the corner of the south and east gable is the second entry vestibule (photo #15). A short square tower with a pyramidal roof marks this entrance; a corbelled cornice with a dentil stringcourse encircles the four sides. Mirroring its northern counterpart, a Tudor arched stained glass window with a sandstone hood mold allows light into the vestibule on the south elevation. As in the north entry porch, a gabled roof with decorative stick work, pendants, and flared eaves extends over the double leaf entrance. The double doors mirror those on the north vestibule with the exception of the stained glass transom that incorporates "1887" into its design (photo #16, #18).

The east/west gabled roof section, the prominent feature of the façade, measures approximately 33 feet wide and projects beyond its two flanking vestibule entrances (photo #1). Centered on this facade is a large Gothic-arched stained glass window with soldier brick surrounds and sandstone tracery. Flanking the large window are two smaller Tudor arched stained glass windows with sandstone hood molds. All three windows rest on a decorative sandstone sill course. Stepped brick buttresses with sloping sandstone coping add support to the building between the large window and the smaller windows. Above the large window in the apex of the gable are three decorative arched vents sharing a sandstone sill.

The north side (photo #7) west of the bell tower closely mimics the east façade with a large gabled roof running north and south projecting from the main section. The gabled section ends approximately one

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 2

foot short of the bell tower's north side. Repeated from the façade are the trio of decorative arched vents, the twin stepped brick buttresses, and the two small Tudor arched stained glass windows flanking a large centered Gothic Revival arch stained glass window with sandstone tracery. All three windows rest on a decorative sandstone sill course. West of this gabled projection, a smaller shed roof portion with a closed eave extends from the main section (photo #8). A large red brick chimney pronouncedly sits atop the shed roof. Directly under the eave is a cornice with the established dentil brick pattern present on the south vestibule, north wing projection on the west side, and on the north and south elevations of the east wing projection. Evidence of a former coal chute located in the foundation continues to show where coal was delivered to the furnace room. The church converted the furnace to natural gas heating during the 1950s prompting the sealing of the chute with concrete.<sup>1</sup>

The south elevation (photo #13) replicates the north elevation with the exception of the chimney and coal chute. An additional element that the south elevation originally featured was an exterior basement entrance on the southeast corner of the church. This allowed individuals to access the basement fellowship hall, classrooms, and kitchen without going through the sanctuary. In 1952, the church added a large cover to the exterior basement entrance. The small brick addition extended from approximately the vestibule porch west along the south vestibule. A flat roof covered the entrance while two south facing windows provided light and double doors allowed entry. Spindles filled a gable arch that extended from the flat roof and emulated the vestibule porch spindle work. After completion of the educational wing addition, this entrance was no longer a necessity. Removing the cover and filling in the entrance with concrete occurred in the late 1960s.<sup>2</sup>

On the west side, or rear of the church (photo #9), the east/west gabled section is flanked by two shed roof sections, one to the north and the other to the south. In the gable end, a rose window originally allowed sunlight into the sanctuary. The church removed the rose window in the 1930s leaving no record of its final location, and in its stead added plywood with a vent. Directly under the rose window opening, two thin sandstone stringcourses top a blind arcade of four Gothic arches. A sandstone sill course runs below the arcade and another sandstone stringcourse tops the off-set rear entrance. A sandstone hood caps the single door entrance. On either side of the east/west gable are two brick stepped buttresses with sloping sandstone coping extending to the height of the rose window. The sloped coping frames the sandstone courses of the gabled section. Four more stepped brick buttresses with sloping sandstone coping, in graduating decreased height, support the north and south shed roof sections. Small one-over-one windows with sandstone hoods and lug sills accent each of the wall sections between the buttresses. A second rear entrance exists on the south end of the main section. The church added this solid metal door in 1987 to provide handicap access. Immediately inside the door, an elevator transports individuals up to the sanctuary and educational wing. An expanse of concrete serves as a parking area adjacent to the rear wall of the church.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Interview with Wilma Lawther [member and former church elder], by Eleanor Tedford, 26 July 26 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Wilma Lawther (compiler), "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes, 1987-1961"; (Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives), 1952 entry; Interview with Gary King [member and former session/board of trustee member], by Heather Peterson, 17 June 2006; Interview with Evelyn King [member and former session member], by Heather Peterson, 17 June 2006.

<sup>3</sup> Lawther interview, 26 July 2006; *Rankin Presbyterian Church: The First Century 1887-1987* (Brush, Colorado: Rankin Presbyterian Church, 1987).

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Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 7 Page 3

The interior of the main floor consists of the nave and sanctuary, a storage room, and the two vestibules. The former classrooms, kitchen, and original fellowship hall are in the basement. A tall gambrel arched ceiling with evenly spaced wood beams blankets the nave and sanctuary while a quatrefoil accents the crest of the arched ceiling. The nave consists of a large room with three sections of pews in the north-south gabled section and a smaller room extending into the east gabled section with one section of pews dating to 1900. Large folding raised panel wooden doors offer the separation of these two sections. Carpet covers the original wooden floors. The vestibules at either side of the east gabled section serve as entrances and coat rooms for worshipers. At the west end is the slightly raised sanctuary that includes the altar, pulpit and choir area with the organ pipes lining the wall. The organ and choir are behind the altar. A small room to the north and west of the choir area provides storage for music and worship supplies. From this storage room, a descending staircase leads to the basement and a west-facing door acts as the rear entrance. The church's basement originally housed classrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall, and the coal and furnace room all with concrete floors. Near the southeast corner was the former exterior basement entrance with an existing entrance on the west wall that ascends into the music supply room off the sanctuary.

Maintenance and improvements have occurred over the years. These included re-pointing the exterior masonry, re-leading the stained glass windows and adding a protective covering, enlarging the chancel, installing carpet, and upholstering the oak pews.

### **Educational Wing**

Architecturally, the most visible alteration to the church occurred in 1963 when an educational wing containing classrooms, a modern fellowship hall, and a kitchen was added to the southwest corner of the church. The bulk of the addition extends west and south beyond the main building (photo #13). The one-story addition has a rectangular plan, walls of red brick laid in a running bond, and a low-pitched side gabled roof with overhanging boxed eaves. With its raised basement, the addition meets the church's height by nearly one-half. The wall of the east façade is broken by four evenly spaced bays. Three bays contain at-grade slider windows aligned with an upper level slider; propanel serves as a spandrel between the two windows. The fourth bay contains a metal door with an off-set vertical light. A sidelight with two rectangular stained glass pieces decorates the left side of the door, while rectangular and square stained glass extend from the top of the door and sidelight to the roofline. Two aluminum conical light fixtures flank the entry. The south elevation contains no windows or doors (photo #12). The west side is similar to the east façade except the fourth bay contains the aligned sliders with a propanel spandrel instead of a door and transom (photo #11).

The north end (photo #10) of the education wing attaches to the church at the northeast corner with a small passageway. Eleven concrete steps lead to a landing and a metal door covered by a flat roof that serves as the rear entrance to the wing. The interior of the educational wing consists of a kitchen, lounge, fellowship hall, and restrooms on the upper level with classrooms, pastor's office, secretary's office, and restroom on the basement level.

To reduce the overall visual effects to the original building and to minimize changes to the church, the Denver architectural firm of Murrin, Kasch, Kahn, and Associates sympathetically altered only one window of the main church section. The firm vertically extended the window located on the south elevation at the rear, or west end, into a doorway keeping the window's Gothic Revival arch at the top and narrow width. This became the passage between the sanctuary and the new fellowship hall.

Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes 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.
- 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 the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

### Periods of Significance

1907

### Significant Dates

1907

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Sweetland, Henry Hale

## 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
- # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior  
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Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

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## SIGNIFICANCE

The Rankin Presbyterian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture as a very good example of the Gothic Revival style. Gothic Revival was an enduring style in America and remained the most influential expression for churches well into the twentieth century. The church epitomizes this style by exhibiting the primary characteristics in its crenellated square tower, pointed-arch windows and doors, tracery, stepped buttresses, drip molded windows, steeply pitched cross-gabled roof, and masonry construction. The church has undergone minimal alterations since its construction in 1907 maintaining its original craftsmanship in the windows, woodwork, and design for one hundred years. Although an educational wing was added to the southwest corner in 1963, the building's integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, design, feeling, and association remains intact. As a religious property that derives its primary significance from architectural distinction, Criteria Consideration A applies.

## Historical Background

### Early History 1883 – 1906

Situated in the 70-mile long Beaver Valley, which empties water into the South Platte River, Brush (originally known as Beaver Valley) had its start as a cattle-shipping station on the Texas-Montana Trail. Jared L. Brush was an early cattle rancher in Colorado Territory when he joined John L. Routt and managed a herd of 32,000 head of cattle in 1867.

Although very influential in the early ranching days along Beaver Valley, Jared Brush, who later served as Colorado's Lieutenant Governor (1895-1899), never lived in the town that bears his name. Ranching and farming were the chief occupations when the town incorporated in 1884. Organized church services were held in these formative years. By invitation, a visiting Methodist minister, Rev. Casey, presided over the town's first recorded church service held in early 1883 at the home of Mrs. J. P. Kimsey at 199 Railroad Avenue.<sup>4</sup>

Hugh Rankin, born in 1850 in Prescott, Canada, learned the carriage business in New York prior to working in the carriage business in Denver by 1877. While in Denver, he became a member of the Central Presbyterian Church and a preacher. As an energetic circuit preacher, he received invitations to bring his message to the pioneers throughout the state. In 1884, the Board of Home Missions in Denver employed Rankin as its regularly commissioned evangelist. His territory was Colorado and Wyoming and his mission work lasted 30 years. During his tenure, he held several



REV. HUGH W. RANKIN

Rev. Hugh M. Rankin. Photo from Rankin Presbyterian Church Program dated 1912, church archives.

<sup>4</sup> *Brush News Tribune*, 10 October 1935; James E. Mills, *A History of Brush, Colorado: The First 100 Years*. (Brush, Colorado: Brush News-Tribune, 1982), p.10; *The History of East Morgan County Colorado* (Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987), p.14; *Brush News Tribune* (undated clipping from 1952).

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National Park Service  
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**Continuation Sheet**

Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 5

church meetings in Brush beginning on September 28, 1886. From these meetings the formal organization of a Presbyterian Sunday School emerged and by January 1887, the formation of a church.<sup>5</sup>

The church officially came into existence on January 9, 1887, under the supervision of Reverend T. C. Kirkwood, a visiting synodical missionary, and the newly appointed church minister, Reverend G. C. Huntington. The nine charter members were: Mrs. Nettie Ayers, Mrs. Mary M. Baker, Wellington J. Kram, Mrs. Mary E. Kram, Chris H. Liehe, Rasmus Nelson, Mrs. Christina Nelson, H. Gilbert Nelson, and Henry Hale Sweetland. The members named Wellington J. Kram and Henry Hale Sweetland as elders. Following worship service on February 6, 1887, members held their first congregational meeting at the Brush schoolhouse and chose the name Rankin Presbyterian Church to honor the evangelist who had been so prominent in their spiritual lives.<sup>6</sup>

These early Presbyterian worshipers continued holding their services in the two-story, four-room schoolhouse constructed with locally molded bricks. In December 1890, the growth in parishioners prompted the decision to construct a church and to choose Henry Hale Sweetland to purchase the materials, design the building, and act as the contractor. The church borrowed \$600 and applied for a \$500 grant to initiate the process. The church purchased Block 7, Section 1, of the original town site, commonly known as 330 Clifton Street, at the southwest corner of Eaton and Clifton Streets as the site of the church.<sup>7</sup>

The unassuming front gabled clapboard church opened its doors in 1891 with a small centered vestibule from which a bell tower extended. The bell, purchased in 1892 from C.S. Bell and Co., still resonates from the current building's bell tower. The church wanted a bell company that could "guarantee as good a bell as the Brush School House bell."<sup>8</sup> Hand-made pews painted green served the parishioners until 1900 when professionally manufactured pews made their debut from church member donations. These pews continue serving the church in the sanctuary's east section today. In 1893 the church borrowed \$500 to build a \$1000 parsonage on the northwest corner of Clifton and Eaton Streets.

For the manse, the church used a building plan found in a book by David S. Hopkins, an architect of Grand Rapids, Michigan, with Henry Hale Sweetland as the likely builder. Previously the church rented a house to serve as the manse at a cost of \$85.00 per year.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *Historical Sketch of the Presbytery of Boulder, Colorado and Its Enrolled Church, 1883-1938*, Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives; Minutes of Synod, Idaho Synod, Presbyterian Church, USA, 1925; *Brush News Tribune* (undated clipping from 1952).

<sup>6</sup> *Rankin Presbyterian Church: The First Century 1887-1987*, p. 3-5; Mills, *A History of Brush, Colorado: The First 100 Years*, p. 26.

<sup>7</sup> Mills, *A History of Brush, Colorado: The First 100 Years*, p. 25; Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes," 13 December 1890 entry; Wilma Lawther (compiler), "Historical Digest of the Rankin Presbyterian Church, 1884 - 1944," (Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives).

<sup>8</sup> Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes," 24 February 1892 entry.

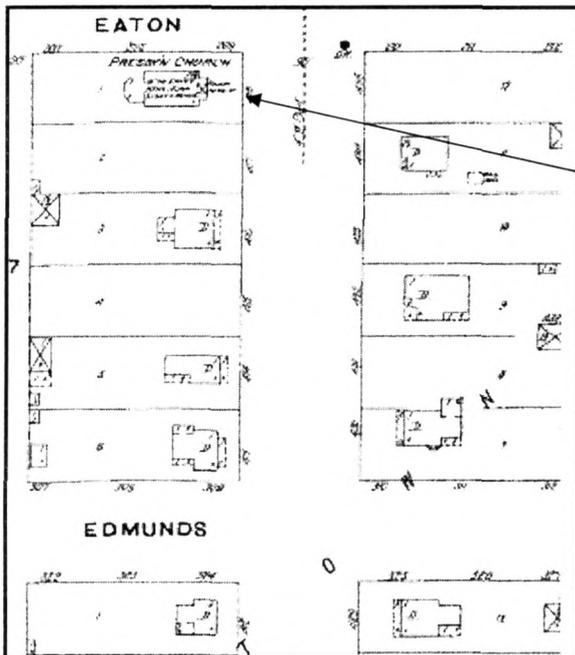
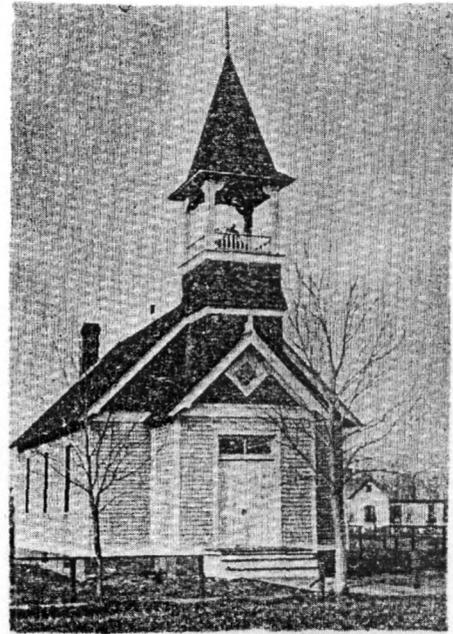
<sup>9</sup> Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes," 13 December 1890 entry, 13 September 1893 entry; Lawther, "Historical Digest of the Rankin Presbyterian Church," 1907 entries; *The History of East Morgan County Colorado*, p. 14. David S. Hopkins wrote several design books from the 1880s to the late 1890s for Late Victorian houses and cottages and sold the plans for the buildings. Depending on the model, the cost to build one of his designs ranged from \$300 to \$15,000.

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Original Rankin Presbyterian Church building erected in 1891. Photograph from *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, Rankin Presbyterian Church*, Commemorative booklet, 1 December 1912. Rankin Presbyterian Church archives.



Location of Rankin Presbyterian Church from 1891 to 1906 – 330 Clifton Street. Source: 1904 Sanborn Map

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**Continuation Sheet**

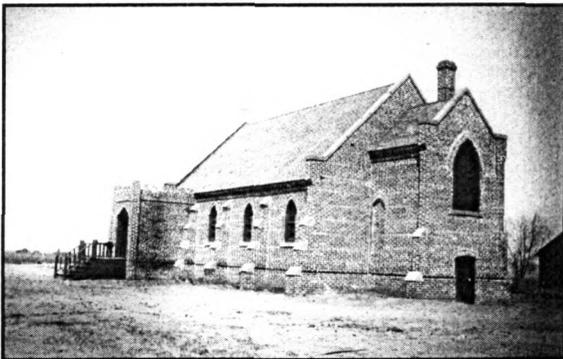
Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Morgan County, Colorado

Section number 8 Page 7

### Construction History

The number of parishioners continued to grow prompting a discussion in 1904 to construct an addition to the church. The church never pursued the addition, resulting in a congregation that had grown so large by 1906 that the church placed tents around the building to hold Sunday school classes. That same year, the congregation voted to purchase lots 1 through 4 and a portion of lot 5 of block 4 for \$1850 and erect a new building with enough land for a parsonage later. Pleased with his prior work, the building committee again chose charter member Henry Hale Sweetland to design and build the new church.

Born in Cazenovia, New York, in 1848, Henry Hale Sweetland attended Cazenovia Seminary prior to moving to Denver in 1879. He moved to Brush in 1882 and designed three known churches and possibly other buildings. Although it is unknown where he acquired his architectural training, the statement in the Civil Works Administration interview indicated, "His knowledge of architectural lines is extensive and he has been of great assistance to many people in the vicinity of Morgan County in drawing plans for buildings."<sup>10</sup> In 1891, he was the designer and contractor for the original Rankin Presbyterian Church and in 1906 he designed St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, of which the cornerstone and cross became a part of the altar for Eben Ezer's All Saints Chapel in Brush built in 1918.<sup>11</sup> Sweetland designed and completed the second Rankin Presbyterian Church in 1907, the subject of this nomination.



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church, circa 1906.  
Colorado Historical Society.



St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in background with patients, workers and Rev. Jens Madsen in carriage. Date unknown. Colorado Historical Society.

In addition to his work in architecture, Sweetland's career varied widely in that he worked as the Assistant Superintendent of the State Industrial School in Golden (now known as the Lookout Mountain

<sup>10</sup> Henry Hale Sweetland, Civil Works Administration Interview Collection, Interviewer M.B. Gil, 1934. Colorado Historical Society, Denver, Colorado, 213.

<sup>11</sup> Eva M. Guenzi, "All Saints Church of Eben Ezer National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form," 1980.

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Rankin Presbyterian Church  
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School for Boys) for two years prior to moving to Brush. During his tenure in Brush, he served as a Justice of the Peace, the town clerk, and the police magistrate before leaving Brush by 1920.<sup>12</sup>

Initially, the church purchased 70,000 bricks for the construction; however, within two months found that an additional 80,000 bricks were necessary. Brick manufacturing was one of the earliest industries in Brush. Mr. Chris Elling, who had his brick kiln southeast of Brush along Beaver Creek, sold all 150,000 bricks to the church. Several members contributed to the total cost of the elaborate stained glass windows. Total cost of the church came to \$14,000.<sup>13</sup>

Once the church moved into its new building, it sold the original church building and land for \$1,200. Shortly after completion of the new church in 1907, a 1 ½-story front gabled frame parsonage joined the church on the south side of the new site. Although it is likely that Henry Hale Sweetland built the parsonage, records do not reveal the architect or builder. It served the Rankin Presbyterian Church ministers and their families as home until ca. 1964.<sup>14</sup>

By 1957, membership numbers were again escalating. The Mariners' Club (one of the church's organizations) initiated an effort to add an educational wing that same year. Church membership peaked in 1958 with nearly 500 members. The church established a building committee to evaluate and recommend current and future space needs. The committee explored various options for expanding its educational facilities space including: 1) acquiring the apartment building to the west of the church; 2) buying land on an entirely new site to build a larger church; 3) converting the existing parsonage to an educational facility; 4) demolishing the current facilities and building a new larger building; or 5) moving the current parsonage and then building a new educational wing in its space.<sup>15</sup>

The committee determined that the most cost effective and sound option was to move the current parsonage and build an educational wing. Church groups began a building fund campaign to raise money toward the estimated \$63,000 project. The church borrowed \$30,000 for the addition, with only half that debt remaining by 1965. Murrin, Kasch, Kahn, and Associates was the architectural firm for the project while Brush contractor Reynold Olson was the builder. A groundbreaking ceremony took place July 28, 1963, and the church dedicated the new educational wing and fellowship hall on April 26, 1964. The new facility provided space upstairs for a fellowship hall, a modern kitchen, restrooms, and a lounge area with classrooms, additional restrooms, the pastor's office and a secretarial office downstairs.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>12</sup> *Colorado State Business Directory* (Denver, CO: The Gazetteer Publishing Company, 1900, 1905, 1907, 1915, and 1920).

<sup>13</sup> *Rankin Presbyterian Church: The First Century 1887-1987*, p. 5; Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes," 1906 entries; *The History of East Morgan County*, p. 14.

<sup>14</sup> Lawther, "Historical Digest of the Rankin Presbyterian Church," 1907 entries.

<sup>15</sup> "The Church Building Committee's Finding and Recommendations," undated Report by the Building Committee, p. 8-15 (Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives).

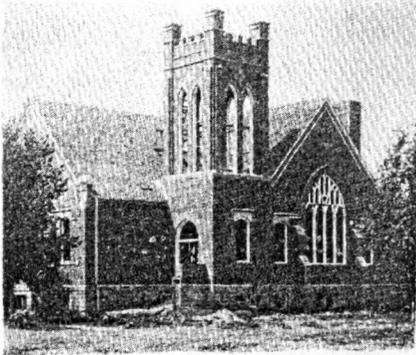
<sup>16</sup> "The Church Building Committee's Finding and Recommendations," p. 8-15; Minutes of Session Meetings Rankin Presbyterian Church, Brush, Colorado, 19 October 1961; "The Story of a Building," bulletin printed for the dedication service for the Educational Wing, 26 April 1964; Deed of Trust to the First National Bank of Brush dated 9 April 1964.

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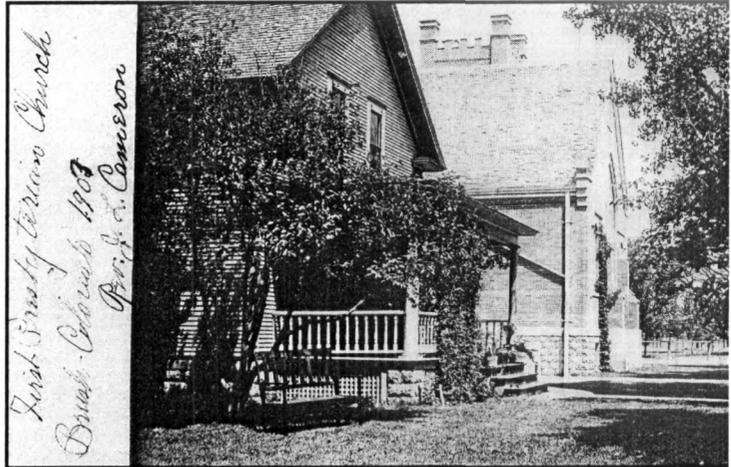
Section number 8 Page 9

**The Coming of the New**

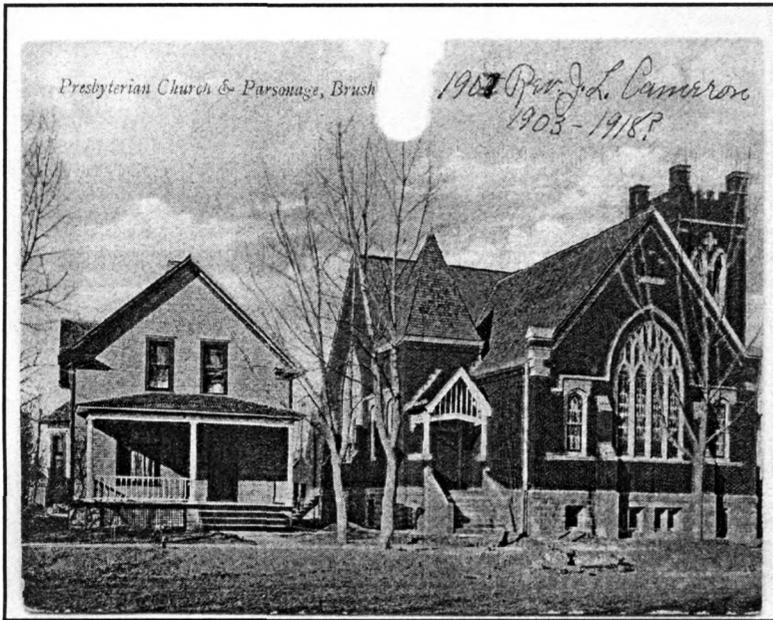


..1907..

Rankin Presbyterian Church in the final phases of construction, 1907. Photo from Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives.



Rankin Presbyterian Church parsonage and church, view from the southeast. Ca. 1907. Photo from Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives.



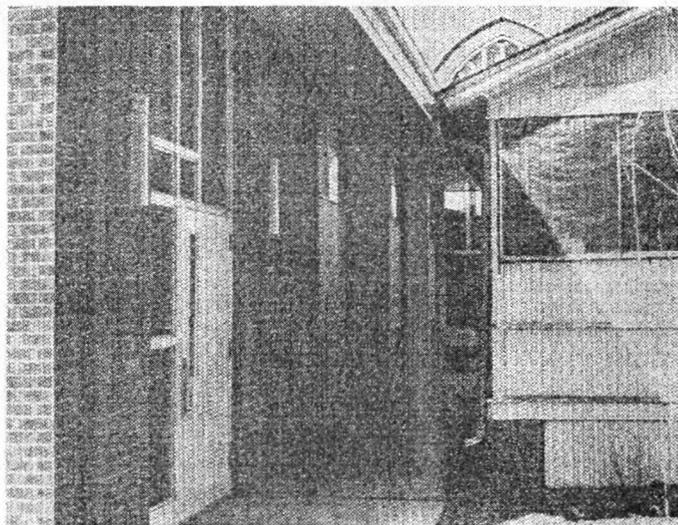
Rankin Presbyterian Church and parsonage shortly after completion. Postcard from Rankin Presbyterian Church Archives. Ca. 1907.

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The educational wing co-existed with the parsonage briefly until the church found a buyer willing to move the house to a new site. Today the former parsonage serves as a private home in Munn's Addition located in the north section of Brush. In 1966, the church purchased a Craftsman style home one block north of the church (opposite the Carnegie Library) at 417 Everett Street to serve as the church manse. It served the church until 2004 when the church sold the property.<sup>17</sup>



**Back view of the Manse and the new Fellowship Hall**

The educational wing and parsonage both briefly occupied the site south of the church in 1964. Photo from "This We Have Done: Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall at the Rankin Presbyterian Church," Undated brochure. Church Archives.

During the Depression years, the church deemed it necessary to install a false ceiling in the sanctuary to save energy costs. This included covering the embossed pin ceiling, which was against the interior roof, and the removal of the rose stained glass window above the choir area on the west side. Plywood replaced the rose window opening. By the 1950s the original ceiling was again present complete with its original detailing. However, the rose window did not return. The records are silent as to its final destination. No known photographs exist and to date a plywood covering with metal vents remain in its stead. The church converted the furnace to natural gas heating during the 1950s and sealed the coal chute with concrete.<sup>18</sup>

During its centennial year celebration in 1987, the church planned various activities and received commemorative gifts. One donation was replacement vestibule doors from Mrs. A. G. Wallace in memory of her husband who served as the church pastor from 1948 to 1958. Although constructed of metal, the new doors are otherwise identical to the original ones in their Gothic Revival style. To accommodate handicapped visitors, the church installed an elevator lift in September 1987 as part of

<sup>17</sup>"This We Have Done: Educational Wing and Fellowship Hall at the Rankin Presbyterian Church," undated brochure, Church Archives; *Rankin Presbyterian Church: The First Century 1887-1987*, p. 4.

<sup>18</sup> Lawther interview, 26 July 2006; Evelyn King, interview, 17 June 2006.

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its centennial year projects. It added a solid metal door to the west elevation on the south section of the main church. Immediately inside the door, an elevator transports individuals up to the sanctuary and educational wing in a small room formerly used as the pastor's study. Another centennial initiative was completing a time capsule in November 1987. Church members placed it in the northwest basement room of the church, which was the former coal room, embedding it in concrete.<sup>19</sup>

#### Rankin Presbyterian Church 1907 - 2006

In 1910 the church purchased a Moller Opus 1104 pipe organ manufactured by the M.P. Moller Pipe Organ Company for \$2,000. The Carnegie Foundation provided \$1,000 in matching funds and the congregation donated the remaining \$1,000. The organ is one of very few left in the United States that operates using forced air to produce sound from over 500 pipes. Installed in the church before electricity was available, an organist played it with the assistance of some of the young boys operating the hand bellows by pumping pedals. Church minutes note that electrification of the organ was proposed in 1941; however, the actual date of electrification was not indicated.<sup>20</sup>

In 2003 the organ was in need of refurbishing and this \$55,000 project was funded by donations from the congregation and the Presbytery of Peaks and Plains. The upgrade added two more bellows for air, making a total of three. The result was a much richer, fuller, sustained tone. The estimated value of the organ according to Morel and Associates of Denver, who did the refurbishing work, was \$150,000.<sup>21</sup>

Throughout the century, Rankin Presbyterian Church has reflected the economic and social changes of the community. As early as 1908 the church provided space for other organizations, churches, and schools, charging a small rental fee. Brush's Central School, located directly east of the church on Clayton Street, occasionally rented the classrooms in the original church basement for use as overflow classrooms and student activities. After a fire ravaged Central School in December 1927 until the school rebuilt as the Central Platoon School and reopened in April 1929, the school district rented the church basement, along with other facilities, to serve its educational needs. The church has always been a center for worship and fellowship with ceremonies including baptisms, weddings, and funerals that play a vital role in the life of the community. Rankin Presbyterian Church has welcomed community organizations and others to use the facility for meetings. Some of the organizations over the years included the Women's Christian Temperance Union, 4-H clubs, P.E.O., Red Cross, and Alcoholics Anonymous.<sup>22</sup>

Organizations within the church have functioned and then been disbanded according to the need and interest of the parishioners. Throughout the 120-year church history, these included the Christian Endeavor Society, the Ladies' Aid, Women's Missionary Society, the Evening Guild, the Martha Guild, the Philathea Guild, and a Men's Fellowship group. The Mariners group emerged as an organization for both men and women and the Westminster Fellowship was for the youth. The present youth organizations are the Youth Group for teenagers and Kidz Klub for younger children. The purpose of

<sup>19</sup> Minutes of Session Meetings, September 1987; Dave Graves, "Rankin Presbyterian Centennial Celebration to Begin Sunday," *Brush-Morgan County News-Tribune*, 7 January 1987.

<sup>20</sup> *Fort Morgan Times*, 26 February 2004

<sup>21</sup> Ibid; Letter from Morel and Associates to Rankin Presbyterian Church dated 10 November 1999.

<sup>22</sup> Minutes of Session Meetings, 1908 – 1941; Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes, 1928 entries.

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these groups has been Bible study, missionary work, support of church programs and fellowship. A church sponsored baseball team formed in 1923 with the church providing uniforms for the team and the provision that the team must not practice or play games on Sunday.<sup>23</sup>

During the 1970s, the pastor felt that adolescents needed a safe place to gather after school. Church volunteers converted the basement space under the sanctuary to the "Subway" by painting the ceiling and walls bright blue. It provided a chaperoned safe place for the youth of any denomination to gather and socialize, study, play pool, ping-pong or other games after school until 9:00 p.m. several days each week. Parents of the youth provided soft drinks, snacks, and sandwiches free of charge.

When interest in the Subway began to wane in the 1980s, the pastor's wife initiated a community project that grew into the start of Caring Ministries of Morgan County, now headquartered in Fort Morgan. In the initial stages of this project, church volunteers gathered, sorted, and repaired usable clothing for a clothing bank that was open to area needy families.<sup>24</sup>

This year the congregation celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the current building and the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its formation.

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<sup>23</sup> Minutes of Session Meetings, 1908-2006; Lawther, "Abstract of Rankin Presbyterian Church Trustee's Book of Minutes," May 1923 entry.

<sup>24</sup> Lawther Interview, 26 July 2006.

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Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Name of Property

Morgan County, Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property** less than one

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 617095 4457127 (NAD 27)  
Zone Easting Northing

2.  
Zone Easting Northing

3.  
Zone Easting Northing

4.  
Zone Easting Northing

[ ] 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 Heather Peterson, historian/member & Eleanor Tedford, Clerk of Session/member (For Property Owner)

organization Rankin Presbyterian Church date 10 October 2006

street & number 420 Clayton Street telephone (970) 842-2349

city or town Brush state Colorado zip code 80723

## 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 Rankin Presbyterian Church (Michael Gross, Lay Pastor)

street & number 420 Clayton Street telephone (970) 842-2349

city or town Brush state Colorado zip code 80723

**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.

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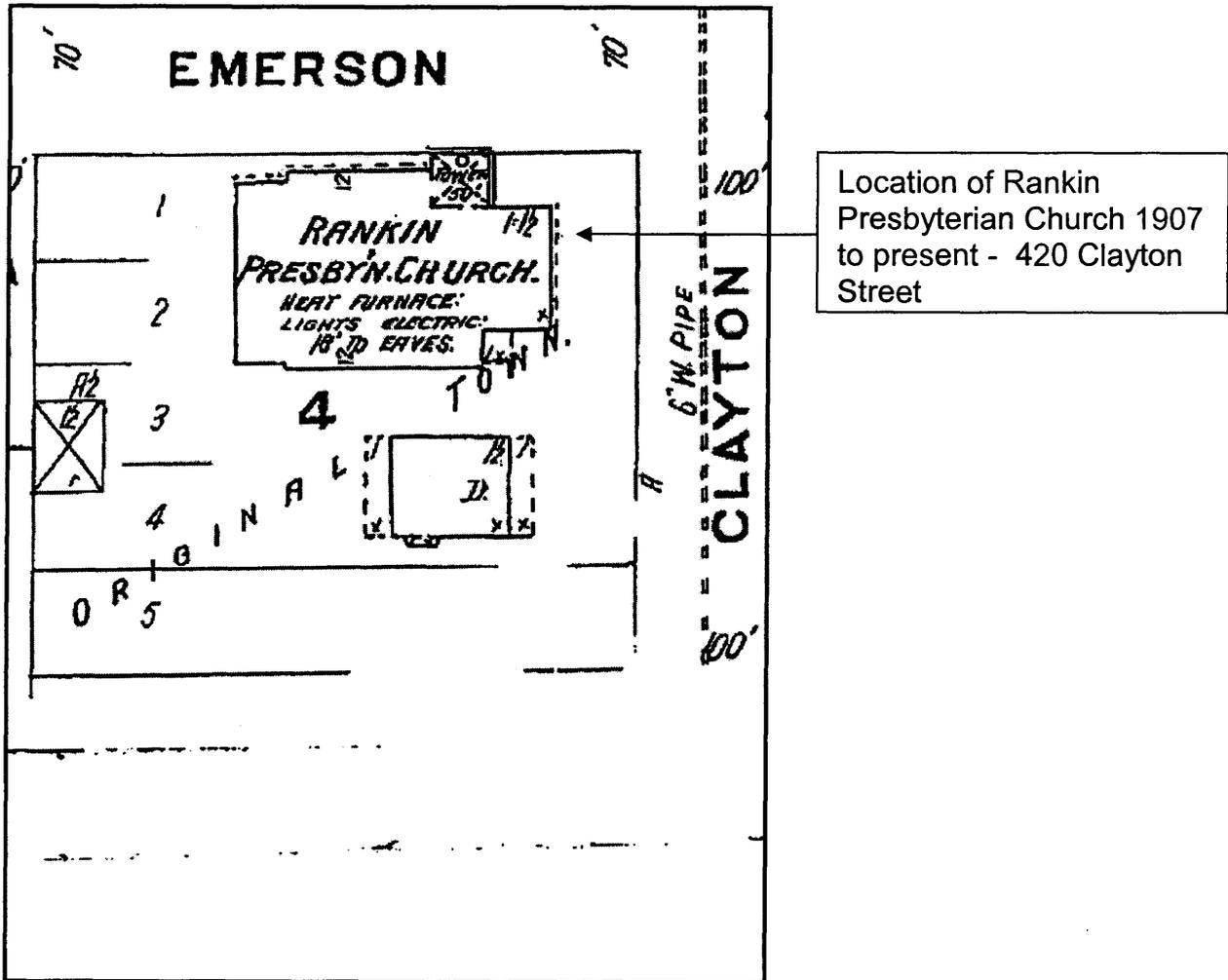
**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Lots 1-4 and the north 10 feet of Lot 5, Block 4, Original Town site, Brush, Colorado.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the church.



(Source: 1908 Sanborn Insurance Company map of Brush, Colorado)

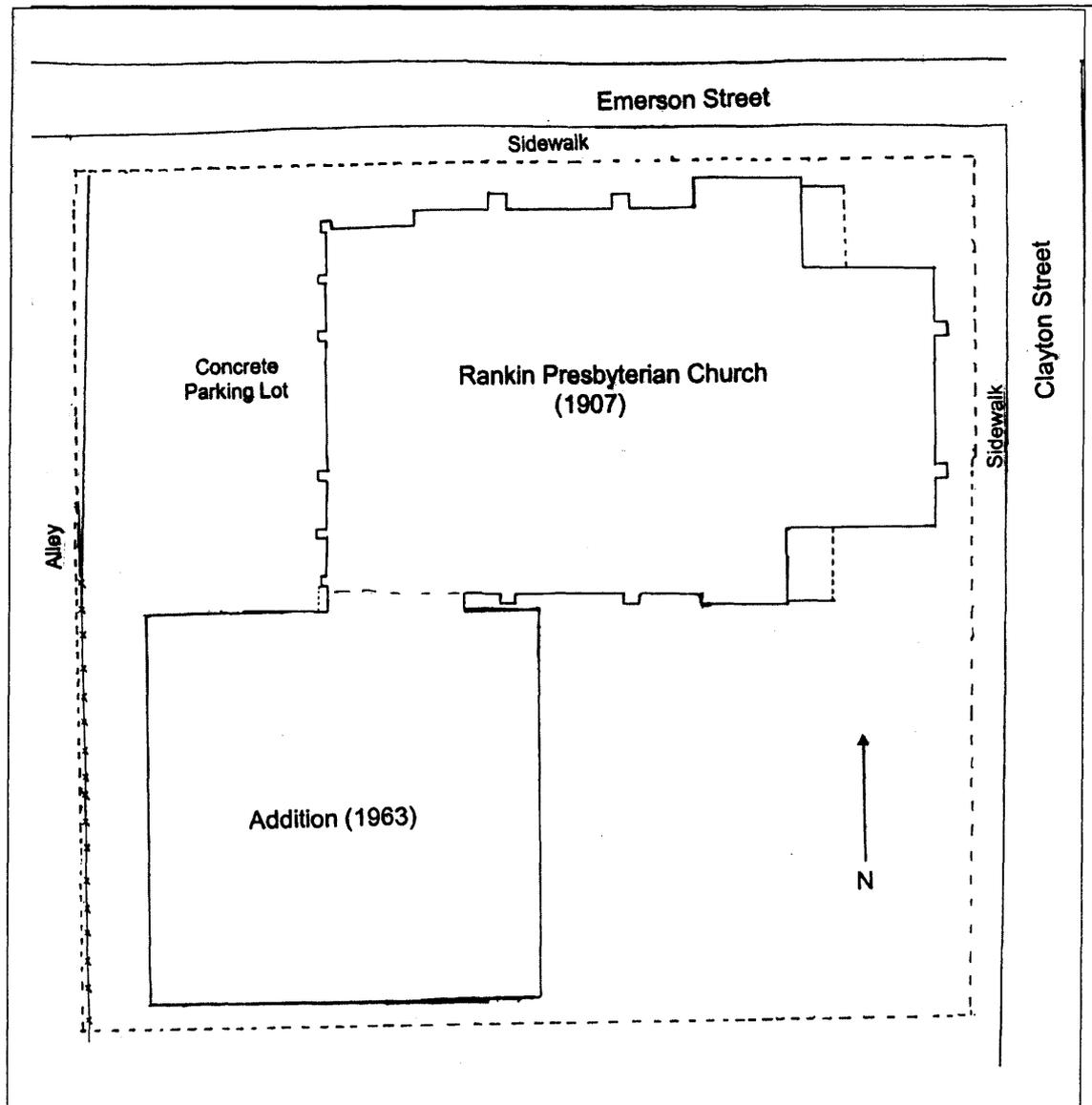
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Sketch Map

The dashed lines indicate the boundary of the nominated area.



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## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Name of Property: Rankin Presbyterian Church  
Location: Brush, Morgan County, Colorado  
Photographer: Heather Peterson  
Date of Photographs: 17 June 2006  
Negatives: Colorado Historical Society

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
------------------	---------------------------------

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Façade (east elevation); camera facing W  |
| 2  | Façade (northeast elevation); camera facing SW                                      |
| 3  | Bell tower at junction of east/west gable and north/south gable; camera facing SW   |
| 4  | Bell tower detail (east elevation); camera facing W                                 |
| 5  | Bell tower (northwest elevation); camera facing SE                                  |
| 6  | Bell tower detail (northwest elevation); camera facing SE                           |
| 7  | Church (north elevation); camera facing S   |
| 8  | Church and educational wing (northwest elevation); camera facing SE                 |
| 9  | Church back (west elevation); camera facing E                                       |
| 10 | Northwest corner of educational wing; camera facing SE                              |
| 11 | West side of educational wing; camera facing E                                      |
| 12 | Southeast corner of educational wing; camera facing NW                              |
| 13 | East façade of educational wing and south wall of church; camera facing W           |
| 14 | Detail of how educational wing is attached to south side of church; camera facing W |
| 15 | South vestibule detail (east elevation); camera facing W                            |
| 16 | South vestibule door detail (east elevation); camera facing W                       |
| 17 | North vestibule detail (east elevation); camera facing W                            |
| 18 | South vestibule door detail (east elevation); camera facing W                       |
| 19 | Interior—north vestibule door detail  |
| 20 | Interior—south vestibule door detail  |
| 21 | Interior—church with stained glass windows on north side                            |
| 22 | Interior—church with stained glass windows on east side                             |
| 23 | Interior—church with stained glass windows on south side                            |
| 24 | Interior—sanctuary with altar, pulpit and pipe organ                                |

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP  
Brush Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 617095mE / 4457127mN (NAD27)  
PLSS: 6th PM, T3N, R56W, Sec. 3 SW SE NE NE  
Elevation: 4232 feet

