

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000332

Date Entered or Determined Eligible May 01, 1989

Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church Douglas CO
Property Name County State

Multiple Name _____

This property is X listed in _____ determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Melrose Byers
for Signature of the Keeper

5/1/89
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

In Section 3, Classification ownership should be private to correspond with ownership by the church. Verified by phone with Barbara Norgren CO SHPO 5/1/89.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 27 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
other names/site number Parker United Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 19670 E. Mainstreet n/a not for publication
city, town Parker n/a vicinity
state Colorado code CO county Douglas code 035 zip code 80134

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Barbara Sudler 3-22-89
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Helores Byers Entered in the National Register 5/1/89

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:Other: Gothic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls wood-weatherboardroof shingleother _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ruth Memorial Chapel located at 19670 E. Mainstreet in Parker, Colorado is a variant of the Gothic Revival style used in the construction of many rural churches in the West. The front face displays two lancet style windows with a tudor arch as well as an attached bell tower of pyramidal construction with flared eaves. The eaves of the main gable of the building are of open rake construction. The main entrance to the chapel is located on the north face of the bell tower. The bell tower includes two lancet style windows, one on the west face and one on the south face.

Lancet style windows located on the west and east sides of the chapel, like the ones in the front and on the bell tower, are currently being restored to the original opaque, heavy rippled glass (not stained glass). The south face of the sanctuary has a single rosette type window. Concrete entrance steps have recently been replaced with wood, back to original appearance.

The interior of this structure remains very much the same as it was when constructed in 1913. The upper part of the sanctuary has a fire door on the east side, constructed in recent years to meet fire code requirements. The altar railing has been removed and carpeting was placed over the original hardwood flooring. Original style light fixtures were recently installed to replace neon lighting installed in the 1960s. In 1988 a concrete basement floor was installed to replace the original wood flooring which was deteriorating from moisture and was a safety hazard. Plumbing for a restroom and sink, and modern kitchen facilities are the only additions to the lower level. The concrete foundation walls had suffered water damage and were repaired and covered with plaster board.

This two-plus story structure has had very little structural remodeling on the exterior or interior. Its nearly continuous use as a church has minimized the amount of deterioration or vandalism which could have occurred to such a structure.

Efforts to return the structure to its original look have included new lighting, new wooden doors and period hardware, new wooden steps, and the painting of the structure's interior and exterior.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History
Architecture

Period of Significance

1913 - 1938

Significant Dates

1913

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Holmes

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Architecturally, this structure is an outstanding example of the type of building that was constructed by early pioneers for their worship services. Since no significant structural changes have been made to the exterior, the building is an outstanding example of the construction style of this era. This structure also stands as the center of non-sectarian religious activities in the area. It is significant to the history of the area as the first church built in Parker and the only unaltered church building remaining within the Parker town limits.

In the 1880s the town of Parker, known as Pine Grove until ca. 1907, was a stop along the routes of a series of "Circuit riders." Most significant of these "riders" was Father Dyer who contributed to the religious growth of pioneers throughout the territory. Dyer and another rider, Reverend McClure held early services in the Parker School House across from the 20-Mile House stage stop. Riders were boarded by Mattie (Mrs. James S.) Parker, wife of Parker's namesake and Mrs. Mary Foster.

Because pastorates were shared with other churches in the area, Mrs. Parker and several other ladies took the initiative and established a Sunday School for the local children. The Conference Journal of 1897 listed the Parker congregation at 19 probational members, and one full member. The Sunday School was listed as having 5 teachers and 53 pupils.

Members of the community recognized the need for a church building in 1911. Dr. Heath, the County Superintendent of Schools contributed \$1,000 to fund the project. William Holmes became the construction supervisor. All the labor was donated by local farmers and ranchers. Prominent local pioneers, William Rowley and Charles Lewis, used horse drawn scrapers to dig the basement. Other members of the community donated their labor and furnishings for the structure.

On May 25, 1913, the Ruth Memorial Methodist Church was dedicated. Although Dr. Heath died before the church was completed, it was named in honor of his daughter Ruth, who had died some years before.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Past, Present, Future of Parker Methodist Church, published 1975, reprinted 1988.
Methodist Conference Journals, dated 1891 to 1914.
Personal memories of the Davidson, Rowley, Johnson and Everitt families.
Records of the Parker United Methodist Church gathered by Dwight Harshman.
Records of the Parker School District, 1957-58.
Letters of Mrs. Tallman, 1953.
Letters of Cora Foster Hoffman.
Interview with Earl Everitt, July 1988.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property under one acre

UTM References

A

1	3
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5	2	0	6	8	0
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4	3	7	4	0	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown on the tax assessor map, 2 of 4, as parcel #085 measuring 46' x 154'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the church building.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Weaver, member Parker Methodist Church/Sandy Welchel, President
organization Parker Area Historical Society date 9/24/88
street & number P. O. Box 604 telephone (303) 841-2607
city or town Parker state CO zip code 80134

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Ruth Memorial Methodist Church

Members of the community donated appointments for the sanctuary. Frank Timson donated the bell. Andrew Johnson, a local dairy farmer, donated the first light plant in 1914. Whenever the church needed repair or furnishings the members of the community banded together and provided the necessary items.

Since few public buildings existed within the town, the church became the center of additional activities other than religious ones. The open basement served as a meeting place for citizen interest groups at various times during the history of the structure. It was used for voter caucus meetings at various times. Boy Scouts, Extension Homemakers, the Art Guild, Parker Women's Study Club, 4-H groups and other community groups used the facility for a meeting place in the course of its seventy five years.

In 1957-58 when the school attendance was too large for the Parker school building, the church basement served as a classroom. The building also served for a time as the Parker Branch Library.

The church building has played a significant part in almost every phase of community life. The youth group of the church became a community youth group providing the only social contact for teenagers outside the school environment. Basketball games, volleyball tournaments and excursions to Denver for other recreation were organized by the youth meeting in this building, the only place for such youth activities.

In 1969, the congregation bought the Parker School Building, just east of the present church, in order to have additional room for the expanding congregation. The original church building continues to be used for small weddings, funerals and worship services for congregations without a building. The basement continues to serve a variety of community organizations for meetings.

The social significance of the Ruth Memorial Methodist Church continued well beyond the fifty year mark established by the National Register and therefore the period of significance has been arbitrarily ended at 1938.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photos Page 1

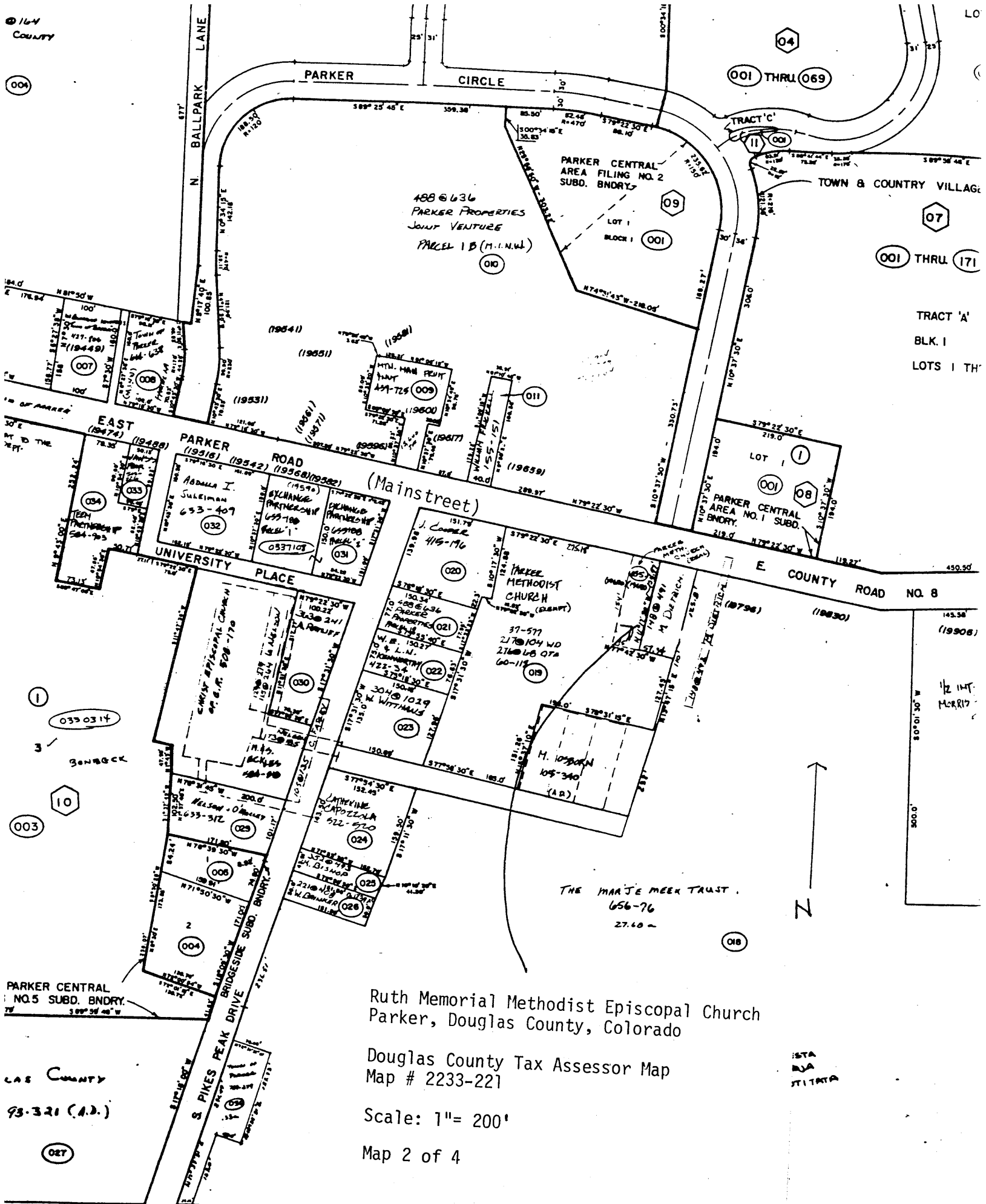
Ruth Memorial Chapel

- 1) Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
- 2) Parker, Colorado
- 3) Sandy Welchel
- 4) August 1988
- 5) OAHP, Colorado Historical Society

The above information is the same for photos number 2 through 6.

Photo number:

1. Historic photo of north front taken ca. 1914, view S
2. North front and east side, view SW
3. North front, view S
4. South rear, view N
5. Bell Tower, south face, view N
6. Detail north front window



Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
 Parker, Douglas County, Colorado

Douglas County Tax Assessor Map
 Map # 2233-221

Scale: 1" = 200'

Map 2 of 4

Adjoining
 2233-224

164
 COUNTY

004

001 THRU 069

07

001 THRU 171

TRACT 'A'
 BLK. I
 LOTS 1 TH

PARKER ROAD (Mainstreet)
 EAST (19474)
 UNIVERSITY PLACE
 Parker Central Area No. 2 Subd. Bndry
 Parker Central Area No. 1 Subd. Bndry

E COUNTY ROAD NO. 8

THE MARJE MEER TRUST
 656-76
 27.60 -

N

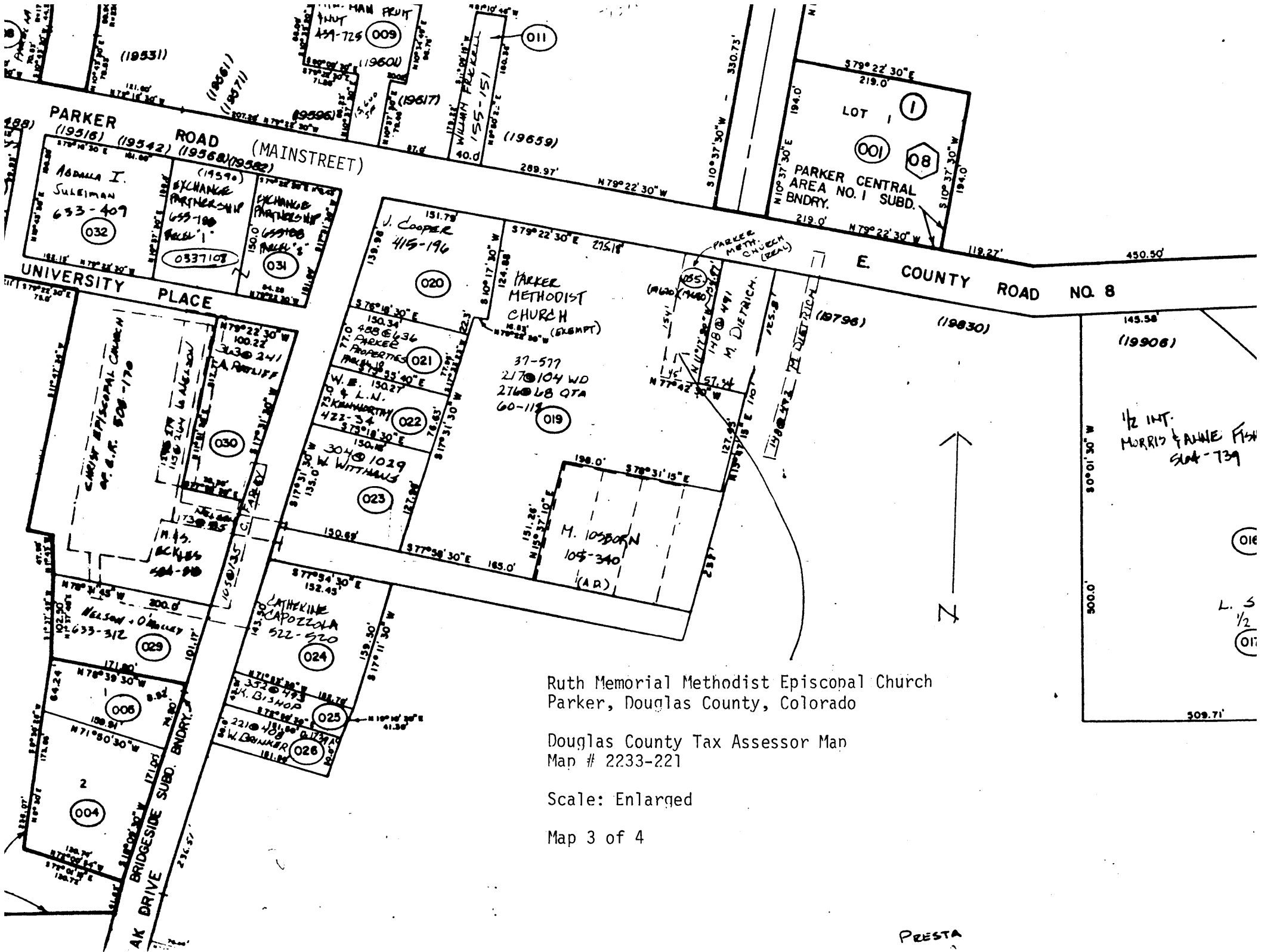
PARKER CENTRAL
 NO. 5 SUBD. BNDRY.

Douglas County

93-321 (A.D.)

027

ISTA
 RA
 STITATA



PARKER ROAD (MAINSTREET)
 (19516) (19542) (19568) (19582)

Abdulla I. Suleiman
 633-407 (032)
 EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIP
 655-100 (033)
 (033710) (034)

UNIVERSITY PLACE

37°22'30" E 100.22
 330.241
 37°22'30" W 101.17
 101.17
 37°22'30" E 100.22
 330.241
 37°22'30" W 101.17
 101.17
 37°22'30" E 100.22
 330.241
 37°22'30" W 101.17
 101.17

AK DRIVE
 BRIDGESIDE SUBD. ENDRY
 2
 004

J. Cooper
 415-196 (020)
 PARKER METHODIST CHURCH
 (EXEMPT)
 37-577
 2170 104 WD
 2760 LB QTA
 60-118 (019)

W. E. 15027
 & L. N.
 R. KENNEDY
 422-34 (022)
 304 1019
 W. WITTHAUS (023)

LATHKINE
 CAPOZZOLA
 522-520 (024)
 2210 431.00
 W. DRINKER (026)

Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
 Parker, Douglas County, Colorado

Douglas County Tax Assessor Map
 Map # 2233-221

Scale: Enlarged

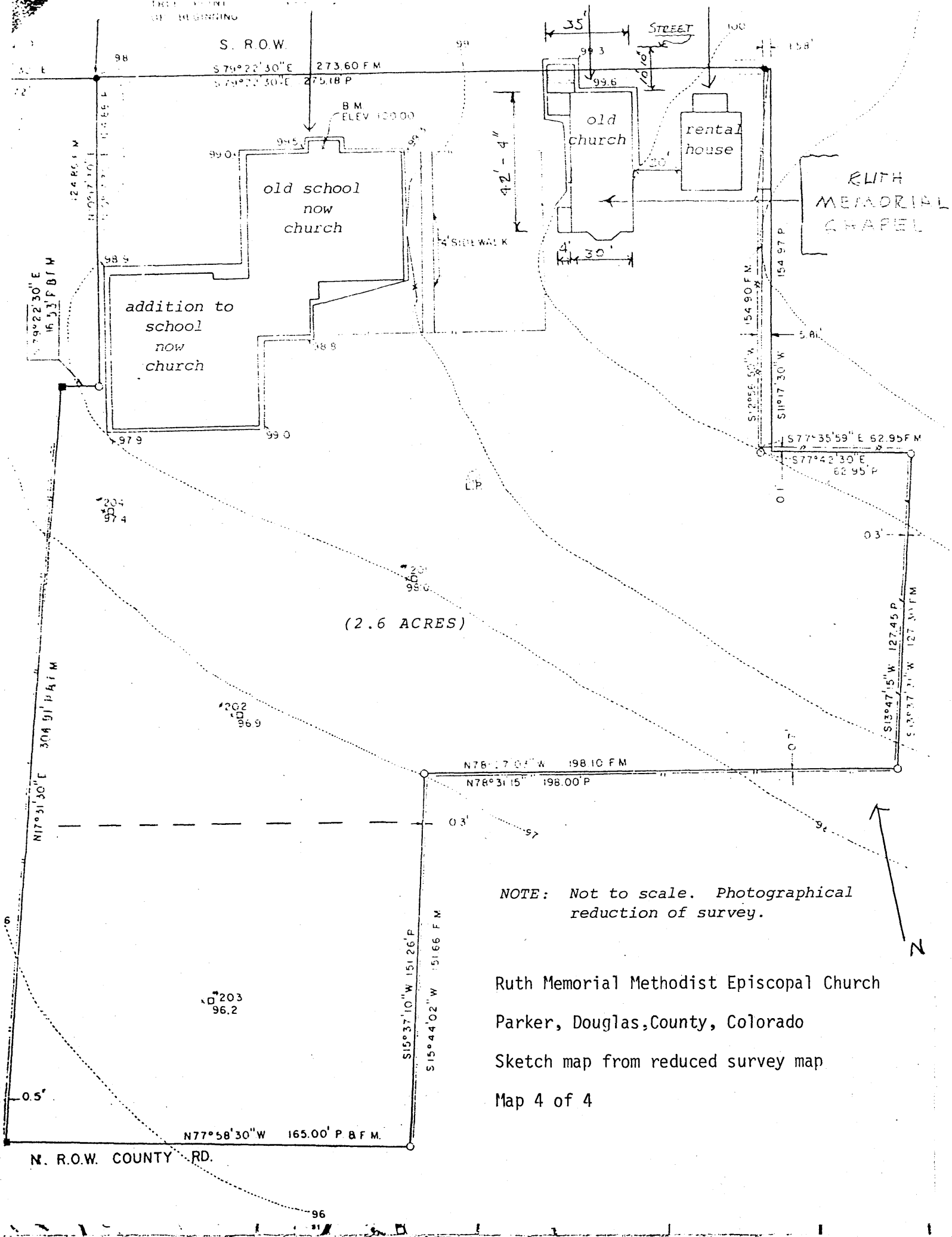
Map 3 of 4

LOT 1
 001 08
 PARKER CENTRAL
 AREA NO. 1 SUBD.
 BNDRY.

E. COUNTY ROAD NO. 8



PRESTA



NOTE: Not to scale. Photographical reduction of survey.

Ruth Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church
 Parker, Douglas County, Colorado
 Sketch map from reduced survey map
 Map 4 of 4