United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIPED 2290 MAY 2 5 2004

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 First United Presbyterian Church
other names/site number <u>5LR.4413</u>
2. Location
street & number 400 East 4 th Street [N/A] not for publication
city or town Loveland [N/A] vicinity
state <u>Colorado</u> code <u>CO</u> county <u>Larimer</u> code <u>069</u> zip code <u>80537</u>
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.) Mach For State Historic Preservation Officer State 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
A. National Park Service Certification hereby certify that the property is: [Mentered 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.

5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	(Do not count previous	y listed resources.)	ithin Property	
[X] private [] public-local	[X] building(s) [] district	Contributing 1	Noncontributin	gbuildings	
[] public-State [] public-Federal	[] site [] structure [] object	0	0	sites	
	[] ==,==	0	0	structures	
		0	0	objects	
		1	0	Total	
Name of related multiple property listing. (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)		Number of o previously I Register.	_		
N/A		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Function			Current Functions Enter categories from instructions)		
		RELIGION/ religious facility			
7. Description					
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instru	ctions)		
LATE VICTORIAN/ Roman		foundation <u>STONE</u> walls <u>BRICK</u>			
		roof <u>ASPHALT</u> other <u>STAINED</u>	GLASS		

Larimer County/ Colorado
County/State

First United Presbyterian Church Name of Property

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

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DESCRIPTION & ALTERATIONS

The 1906 First United Presbyterian Church is located in close proximity to downtown Loveland. The building is located on a southeast corner, facing East 4th Street on the north and North Jefferson Avenue on the west. An east/west alley is on the south, and a one-story commercial building is to the east. Paved sidewalks and driveways abut the building.

Designed by noted Fort Collins architect Montezuma W. Fuller, the building features an Akron Plan interior. Over the years, few changes have been made to the interior in order to update the facilities. The exterior primarily reflects the Romanesque Revival style and includes some Gothic Revival elements. The building is in good condition and exhibits integrity of location, feeling, association, materials, workmanship, and design.

The primarily two-story building, with an irregular plan measuring approximately 78 feet by 94 feet, includes a raised basement. One-story, hipped roof portions are found at each end of the building's south side. The multi-planed roof includes a main hipped roof with gables to the east and west and is covered with asphalt shingles. Three brick chimneys pierce the roof, and there is small flat roof dormer on the north. Basement walls and water table are of rock faced native sandstone. The remaining walls are of tan, mottled pressed brick. The sandstone is also found in the low walls of the entry stairs on both the east and west.

The wood-framed windows are primarily one-over-one double-hungs set in openings with heavy sandstone lintels and sills; many have stained glass. Large Gothic arched stained glass windows, with trefoil tracery, are on the east and west sides of the building. Small Gothic arched stained glass windows, also with tracery, are placed in a staggered fashion on the upper portion of the large three-story entry tower to the west. Sandstone delineates the upper portion of the arches. Double doors at the entries on the east, west and north include transoms. Each entry is located at the base of a square tower with the west and north entries sharing the same steps. A door on the south wall (rear) provides access to the pastor's study and has a board placed in the transom opening.

The building derives its primary architectural distinction from its curved facade wall (north) and square entry towers. On the northwest corner of the building there is a large three-story entry tower, which abuts a smaller two-story entry tower. On the east, a half-hipped roof porte cochere, supported with Tuscan columns set on a sandstone wall, extends from a tower-like section at the northeast corner of the building. The crenellated towers are topped with stone coping. An historic photograph confirms that the large tower was originally five stories in height. The top two stories were removed in 1937 because their weight was thought to be causing damage to other parts of the building. After the arched opening bell section was removed, the crenellated parapet top was reset as a parapet on the shortened tower.

Interior

Built on the Akron Plan, the main floor of the church includes a narthex, nave, sanctuary, parlor, and offices. The small narthex, which is in the main tower, has original oak wood stairways to both the second floor and basement. The second floor contains a large wrap around balcony with a wood balustrade overlooking the main level. On the north, behind the balcony seating, there is a large meeting room with graduated levels and several small Sunday school rooms. The basement houses a large fellowship/dining hall, kitchen, a variety of large and small Sunday school rooms, rest rooms, and the boiler room.

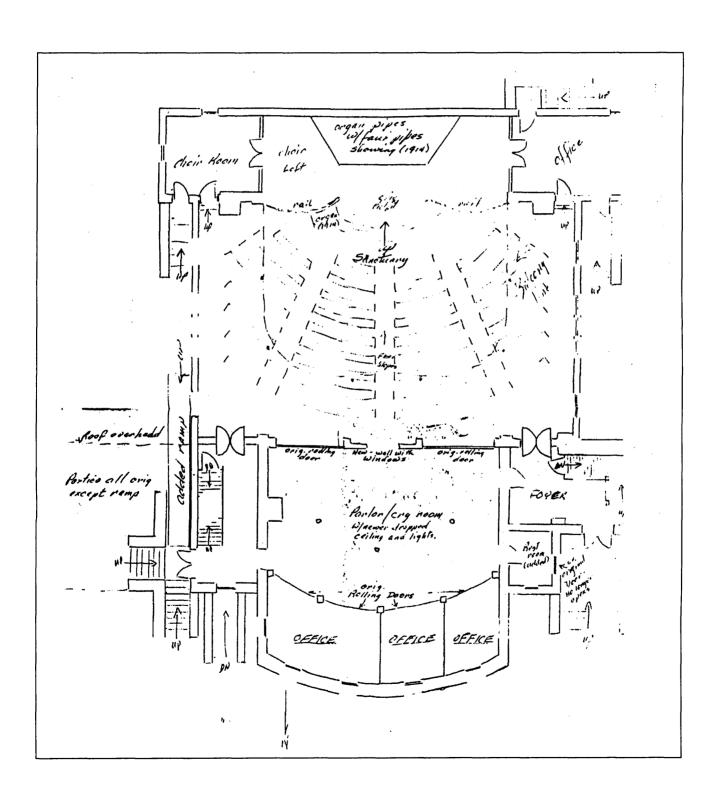
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

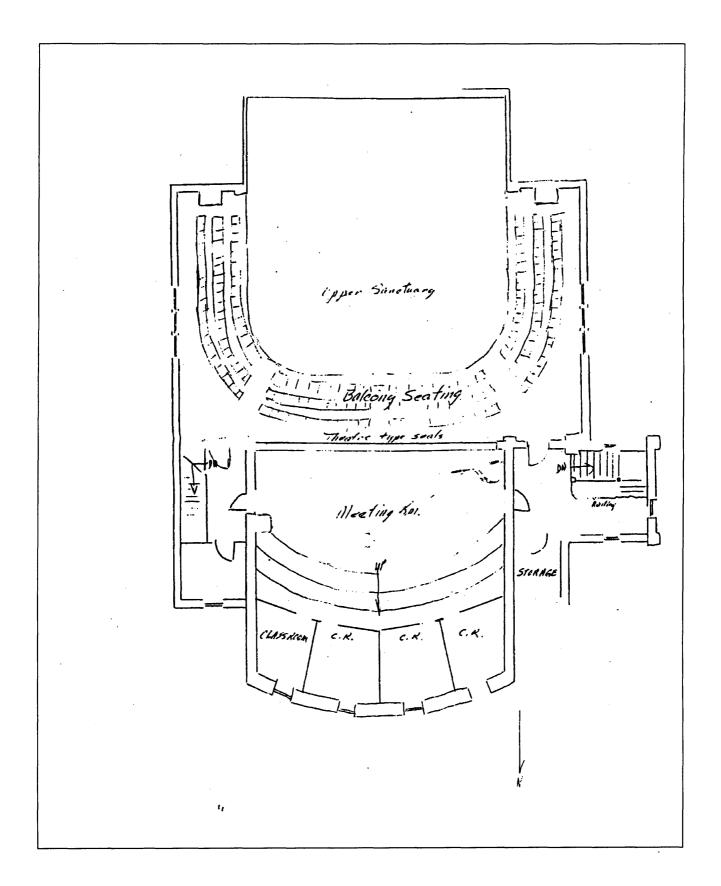
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United States Department of the Interior

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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On the main level, the nave and sanctuary were originally separated from the parlor by three broad vertical rolling doors, which remain intact. A partial wall with large windows to allow the parlor to be used as a "cry room" now fills the central door's space. The parlor, one step higher than the main floor level, is backed on the north, in the rounded portion of the building, by the original sliding doors that separate the space into three small rooms. These rooms are one step higher than the parlor. This arrangement allows the parlor and the three small rooms to be used for overflow seating. When the doors are closed, a social hall or parlor and three offices or Sunday school rooms are formed.

The main sloping floor, which is carpeted, contains three aisles delineating the large central seating section from two smaller side sections. There are also side aisles along the east and west walls. The pipe organ, added in 1914, was built by the M.P. Moller Company and paid for with the help of a \$1,000 contribution by the Carnegie Corporation.

Toward the south, four steps lead up to the pulpit level. Behind the pulpit, wood paneling on the south wall conceals the organ pipes. Faux pipes adorn the center of this area. The faux pipes conceal a round stain glass window containing an Alpha and Omega motif. This window is also covered on the outside. To the east of the organ pipes is a steeply sloping four-row choir loft. Small rooms, which house the pastor's study and the music room, are found at the southwest and at the southeast corners, respectively.

Walls are primarily painted plaster with stained wood beams accenting the ceiling. Wood floors remain in place beneath carpeted areas. The stained wood pews have elaborately carved ends. Large, pastel colored stained glass windows on the east and west contain Christian symbols within geometric designs. These windows, weakened over the years, have recently been removed, strengthened and reinstalled.

Additional interior features include original oak trim with architrave surrounds around interior doors and composite capitals on the columns surrounding the sanctuary. Original light sconces decorate the walls throughout the building.

First United Presbyterian Church Name of Property	Larimer 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	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE	
significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.		
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Periods of Significance	
[X] 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.	1906 1937 Significant Dates	
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1906 1937	
Criteria Considerations (Mark ``x" in all the boxes that apply.)		
Property is:	Significant Person(s) (Complete if Criterion B is marked above). N/A	
[X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	IVA	
[] B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation	
[] C a birthplace or grave.	N/A	
[] D a cemetery.		
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder	
[] F a commemorative property.	FULLER, MONTEZUMA	
[] 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.)		
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more con-	tinuation sheets.)	

Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:		
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been	[X] State Historic Preservation Office		
requested	[] Other State Agency		
[] previously listed in the National Register	[] Federal Agency		
[] previously determined eligible by the National Register	[] Local Government		
[] designated a National Historic Landmark	[] University		
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	[] Other		
#			
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	Name of repository: Colorado Historical Society		
#	Colorado i listofical Society		

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SIGNIFICANCE

The 1906 First United Presbyterian Church is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good local example of early twentieth century ecclesiastical architecture. The primarily Romanesque Revival style building was designed by prominent Fort Collins architect Montezuma Fuller (1858-1925). With the exception of the tower's lowering in 1937, the exterior remains virtually intact, and the interior retains most of the elements of its Akron Plan. The well-preserved building reflects elements of the Romanesque Revival style in its overall massing, rock faced stone basement walls, heavy sandstone lintels and sills, complex roofline, and prominent crenellated square tower. On the east and west, the large stained glass windows with tracery are set in a Gothic arch. In addition, the rounded wall on the north and the porte cochere on the east provide interesting design elements, reflecting the eclecticism often found in Fuller's buildings.

The Akron Plan, believed to have originated in Akron, Ohio shortly after the Civil War, was utilized by some Protestant denominations into the early 1920s. The plan reflected a religious philosophy, which often stressed the importance of Sunday school attendance over church attendance. Based on a desire for separateness with togetherness, the large open, high ceiling interiors typically incorporated perimeter balconies that allowed all students to be together for opening and closing exercises. Folding partitions provided the flexibility to create separate classrooms for small group study. Over 2,500 churches were built using the basic plan, which was adapted by numerous architects throughout the country. Their designs were executed in popular ecclesiastical architectural styles of the time.

As the philosophy of the Protestant Sunday school continued to evolve, many of the interiors were modified, particularly with the installation of more permanent partitions in the balcony area. In the case of the First United Presbyterian Church, only minimal changes have been made. The varying floor heights and placement of the curved pews in the large open nave continue to clearly reflect important characteristics of the Akron Plan. From the exterior, the building's massing presents an appearance that clearly differs from the more rectangular Basilican Plan churches that typically included center aisles to accommodate the processionals of more formal religious services.

One of the few early churches remaining in downtown Loveland, the First United Presbyterian has housed the same congregation over the longest period of time. Among other early churches in the downtown area are the Gothic Revival style Emmanuel Baptist Church, originally built by Trinity Lutheran in 1920 and the 1919 Classical Revival style Christian Science building. In addition, the nominated property compares favorably with the 1915 First German Evangelical Church, located at 8th Street and Lincoln Avenue, which has some elements of an Akron Plan interior. The no longer extant 1903 First Christian Church at 220 E. 6th Street included an Akron Plan interior. A Home State Bank branch office is now located on the site.

Historical Background

On Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1875, Reverend W. H. McCreery formed the Presbyterian Church, which met in a log schoolhouse near the settlement of Old St. Louis. This was one of the first churches organized in the area. In 1877, David Barnes, who owned the land on which Loveland was built, generously offered two lots to any congregation constructing a building in the new town within a year. The Presbyterians selected two lots on the southwest corner of 4th Street and Lincoln Avenue.

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Due to a delay in obtaining brick, the Brethren Church completed its building first, thereby receiving the honor of being the first church building in the new town. On August 1, 1878, the United Presbyterian Church completed its building. Mr. Armstrong, an expert Fort Collins cabinetmaker and friend of Reverend McCreery, built a pulpit and presented it to the new church. The pulpit was not sold with the rest of the furnishings in 1906. It was taken to the present building at 4th Street and Jefferson Avenue where it remains in use today.

By 1889, the membership had outgrown the building, and in 1894 the congregation decided to build a new church on the same site. But by 1904, this second church was too small for the ever-growing congregation, and the church leaders decided to build yet again. Architects advised that the site at 4th Street and Lincoln Avenue was inadequate for a building the size the congregation required, resulting in a decision to construct the present building at 4th Street and Jefferson Avenue.

The congregation, still occupying the building at 4th Street and Jefferson Avenue, has been meeting continually in the Loveland area since Reverend McCreery first established it in 1875. There are still members of the McCreery family within the congregation. In addition to Presbyterian services, the church was used for other community activities. For example, Loveland High School used the building for Baccalaureate services until the 1917 completion of the new high school, today known as Bill Reed Middle School.

Construction History

The First United Presbyterian Church congregation decided in a meeting on March 8, 1905, to construct its new building on the corner of 4th Street and Jefferson Avenue on lots already owned by the congregation. The building committee, session, and trustees were instructed to proceed with planning and construction. The trustees consulted with two architects concerning plans for the new building and selected Montezuma W. Fuller, a noted Fort Collins architect, who often utilized local building materials. Coming to Fort Collins in 1880, Fuller is credited with the design of numerous civic, commercial, religious, and residential buildings in the area. At the time of his selection, Fuller is known to have been involved with the design of ten other churches in Larimer County and school buildings in Loveland, Berthoud, Fort Collins, and Longmont. Unfortunately, many of Fuller's buildings are no longer standing.

Excavation of the basement was completed in May 1905 at a cost of \$217.80. The church hired W. J. McCord to construct the building, and he signed a contract on May 22, 1905 for \$18,014. With extra work completed by McCord and other private contractors the actual construction cost came to approximately \$22,000. Earlier in May, Fuller submitted a bill for \$400 for his initial consultation. The trustees, feeling this was excessive, approved a payment of only \$300. Fuller's commission, as agreed on by the trustees and the architect, was 3% of the construction costs. In July 1906, he presented the church with his commission bill of \$23,000. McCord submitted his total bill for \$18,014 plus \$1,288.50 for extra work performed. The trustees disregarded Fuller's bill and paid him a 3% commission based on McCord's figures.

Workmen laid the cornerstone, containing a copper box with such items as a Bible, current newspapers, and a history of the congregation, on August 2, 1905. On January 25, 1906, services began in the basement of the unfinished building, with the dedication of the finished church building taking place on May 3, 1906.

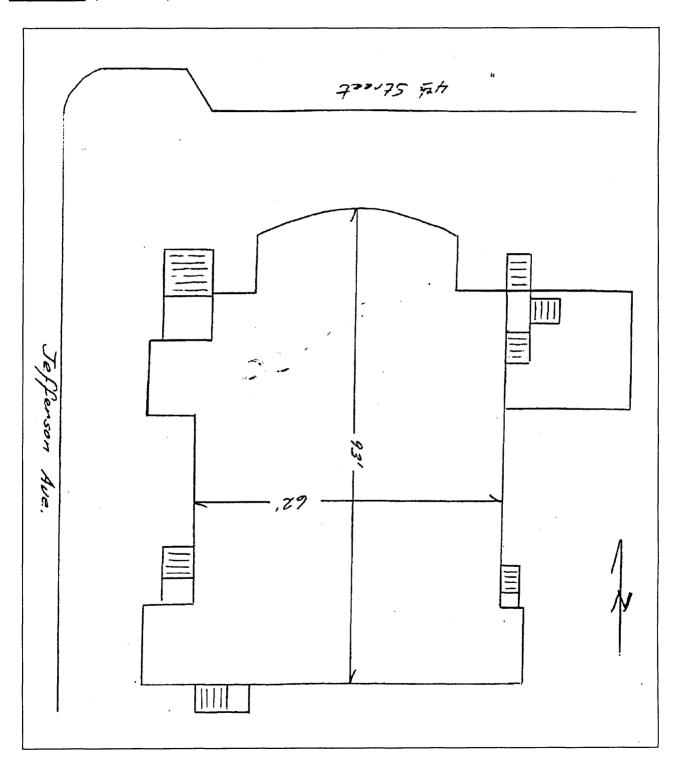
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SITE PLAN (not to scale)



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First United Presbyterian Church

Larimer County/ Colorado County/State

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. 13 493970

4471414

Zone

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2.

Zone

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3.

Zone

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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_Karen Koso		(Edited- C. Geddes, staff)
organization First United Presbyterian Church r	nember	date February 26, 2004
street & number 620 North Colorado Avenue		telephone (970) 593-9007
city or town Loveland	state Colorado	zip code_80537

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 First United Presbyterian Church

street & number 400 East 4th Street

telephone (970) 667-0605

city or town Loveland

state Colorado

zip code_80537

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

Lot A, Block 34, Everetts Addition located in Loveland, Larimer County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-28 except as noted:

Name of Property: First United Presbyterian Church

Location: Larimer County
Photographer: Gary J. Kukas
Date of Photographs: March 2004

Negatives: 400 E. 4th Street

Photo No.

Photographic Information

- 1 North facade- porte cochere on left, bell tower on right.
- 2 North façade- front entrance and bell tower.
- 3 North facade- close-up of steps and doors.
- 4 Northwest corner- bell tower and stained glass windows.
- 5 West side- bell tower, stained glass windows and pastor's study.
- 6 Southwest corner- bell tower, stained glass windows, pastor's study, and rear wall.
- 7 South side- pastor's study and rear wall.
- 8 Southeast corner- music room and stained glass window.
- 9 East side- music room and stained glass windows.
- 10 Northeast corner- porte cochere and stained glass windows.
- 11 Interior- view of sanctuary from main floor with 1914 Moller Organ and console, altar, 1875 pulpit, choir loft and piano.
- 12 Interior- view of sanctuary from 2nd floor balcony.
- 13 Interior- close up of column details in sanctuary.
- 14 Interior- view of wall light in sanctuary.
- 15 Interior- view of sanctuary with beamed ceiling, balcony, and stained glass windows on west side.
- 16 Interior- view of stained glass windows on west wall in sanctuary.
- 17 Interior- close up view of stained glass window on west wall in sanctuary.
- 18 Interior- view of east side of sanctuary with balcony and stained glass windows.
- 19 Interior- close up view of stained glass window on east wall in sanctuary.
- 20 East side- stained glass window.
- 21 Interior- view of parlor showing closed sliding oak doors to office, small kitchen, and library.
- 22 Interior- view of parlor showing open sliding oak doors to office, small kitchen, and library.
- 23 Interior- view of pastor's study, including stained glass windows.
- 24 Interior- view of front staircase to 2nd floor showing oak woodwork and bell pull.
- 25 Interior- view of back staircase to 2nd floor showing oak woodwork.
- 26 Interior- view of Adeline Room showing north side of tiered wooden floor with steps and beamed ceiling.
- 27 Interior- view of Adeline Room showing tiered wooden floor and classrooms.
- 28 Interior- view of Adeline Room showing beamed ceiling, classrooms, and stained glass windows.

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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Loveland Quadrangle, Colorado 7.5 Minute Series

UTM: Zone 13 / 493970E / 4471414N PLSS: 6th PM, T5N, R69W, Sec. 13

SE¼, NW¼, SE¼, SW¼ Elevation: 4975 feet

