

OCT 03 1988

NPS Form 10-900  
 (Rev. 8/86)  
 NPS/CHS Word Processor Format  
 (Approved 03/88)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name: United Church of Christ of Highlandlake  
 other names/site number: Highlandlake Community Church 5WL.811

#### 2. Location

street & number: 16896 Weld County Road #5 (n/a) not for publication  
 city, town: Platteville ( x ) vicinity Mead  
 state: Colorado code: CO county: Weld code: 123 zip code: 80651

#### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
(x) private	(x) building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
( ) public-local	( ) district	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
( ) public-State	( ) site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
( ) public-Federal	( ) structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	( ) object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A No. 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 (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.  
( ) See continuation sheet.

*Barbara Sudler*

*9-28-88*

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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.

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:

(x) entered in the National Register.  
( ) See continuation sheet

*Bruce J. Noble, Jr.* *2/10/89*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register. ( ) See continuation sheet

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register.

( ) removed from the National Register.

( ) other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*for* Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Functions or Use****Historic Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

Religion: Religious structure\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Current Functions**

(enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting hall\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURYAMERICAN MOVEMENTS: otherVernacular wood frame**Materials**

(enter categories from instructions)

foundations rusticated stonewalls clapboardroof asphalt shingleother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The United Church of Christ of Highlandlake, constructed in 1896, is sited on the east side of Highlandlake facing the Rocky Mountains to the west. Longs Peak and Mount Meeker are directly west across the lake and the Great Plains extend to the east behind the church. Mature cottonwood trees line both sides of the paved county road which runs north and south in front of the church. The tree line breaks in front of the church and terminates with a single large tree located near the southwest corner of the church property. The grounds of the church have various native grasses for ground cover around the church. A small Chinese elm is growing in back of the building.

The main body of the building is a rectangular plan with a front gable roof. There is a gabled ell on the north side and a large two story bell tower with a steep wood shingle pyramidal roof with flared eaves is set into the angle of the ell and main building at the northwest corner. The building structure is wood frame faced with lap siding painted white. The building stands on a foundation of rusticated stone blocks from a quarry at Lyons, Colorado. The main roof has asphalt shingles. The roof of the bell tower is faced with wood shingles and is topped by a weather vane. The top of the tower is open on all four sides and the bell is visible.

The main entrance, on the west face of the bell tower, has a small porch with a gable roof supported by plain wood posts and there is a plain baluster. The porch gable is faced with fishscale shingles and the large gables on the church are faced with square cut shingles. The main entry has a pair of wood panel doors.

(x) See continuation sheet

OCT 3 1990

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

Highlandlake Community Church

There is another entrance at the northeast corner of the church.

Stained glass windows, which were rarely found in the wood frame churches on the plains of Colorado, are seen throughout the Highlandlake Church. On the front is a wide pointed arch opening. The stained glass is contained within four narrow vertical openings in the lower portion of the window. There are shutters which are kept closed to protect the windows. The upper portion of the arch is wood paneled and the arch is outlined with shingles. There are four double-hung stained glass windows, evenly spaced on the south elevation and two paired double-hung windows with plain glass on the ell which provides light into the church kitchen. There are narrow pointed arched openings in the peaks of the west and north gables and tall, narrow rectangular openings high on the bell tower with a smaller pair on the north side. The rear of the building has one small rectangular window at the north corner.

The sanctuary is a large open room with dark wood wainscoting. The floors and woodwork have a natural wood finish. At the front of the room, the pulpit is set in the center of a raised dais. Behind the pulpit a section of the wall is outlined in the form of a pointed arch by using natural color wood molding. The seats in the sanctuary are the original theater style wooden seats. The room also has a piano, foot-pedal organ and a potbellied stove.

There is a wide opening in the north wall with folding oak paneled doors which close off the kitchen from the sanctuary. The kitchen still has a wood range. The interior has not been altered and retains its original appearance.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:      ( ) nationally      ( ) statewide      (x) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria      ( ) A      ( ) B      (x) C      ( ) D  
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)      (x) A      ( ) B      ( ) C      ( ) D      ( ) E      ( ) F      ( ) G

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1896

1896

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

N/A

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

The United Church of Christ of Highlandlake meets Criterion C and is being nominated under Criterion Exception A for its architectural significance as an intact example of the vernacular wood frame churches that are found on the plains of eastern Colorado. These white clapboard churches were a building type which occurred throughout the eastern plains. According to Thomas Hornsby Ferrill, Colorado's poet laureate, these picturesque buildings appeared to relieve the monotony of the treeless plains from Texas to Montana between 1880 and 1930. 1 As one of this building type, the Highlandlake Church presents a striking appearance against the backdrop of the vast, open plains to the east and the towering Rocky Mountains to the west.

These wooden churches were often expensive to build even though materials were usually donated or purchased at cost. Their construction and furnishing required great commitment from the congregation members who donated their money, time and labor. Due to the lack of funds, many of the churches were only partly completed and were sparsely furnished. The Highlandlake Church characterizes an intact example of this building type with its white clapboard exterior with a bell tower and sparsely furnished interior complete with a kitchen, always a necessity for community gatherings.

Plans for these churches were usually drawn up by a member or the minister of the congregation perhaps using a pattern book plan. The churches usually followed the designs of the late 17th and early 18th century New England churches. The churches of the plains symbolized a spiritual link with America's founders and suggested stability and continuity.

(x) See continuation sheet

ACT 3 19

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 2

Highlandlake Community Church

The presence of stained glass windows in the Highlandlake Church makes the building somewhat more unusual because the strains on church finances during construction usually precluded the extravagance of stained glass windows. The stained glass used in Highlandlake Church was apparently paid for by contributors found by Mary G. Bumstead, the first pastor, who traveled to the East in 1895 to raise money to build the church. One of the windows on the south elevation is inscribed with, "Gift of the Y.M.C.A. of Naugatuck, Connecticut."

The United Church of Christ of Highlandlake is the only remaining public building in what was once a thriving community with a school, postoffice, two meat markets, two blacksmith shops, a dance hall, flour mill, barber shop, hotel, general store and a parsonage. The town was founded in 1874 by Lorin C. Mead, who first came to Colorado in 1871 with Horace Greeley. Mead returned to the East, but came back in 1874 with the Chicago Colony who founded Greeley, Colorado. He homesteaded northeast of Longmont at the buffalo watering hole, a spring fed lake that later became Highlandlake. Mead named the town after Sir Walter Scott's Lady of the Lake.

In 1881, the United Church of Christ of Highlandlake was organized by twenty-one community members. Church meetings were held in the schoolhouse until 1896 because the congregation could not afford to build a church. Instead, they voted to use their money to hire a minister and buy a parsonage. They depended on itinerant ministers until a resident minister could be found.

In the fall of 1894, Miss Mary G. Bumstead of Roxbury, Massachusetts was hired as the pastor. The arrival of Miss Bumstead was pivotal for the construction of the Highlandlake Church building. She saw the need for a building and quickly raised funds on a trip to the East. The money she raised, along with the help of the church building society and private contributions, resulted in a completed building just two years after she began. Her position as pastor was unusual for that time even though women were heavily involved in religion, they rarely governed or headed congregations. <sup>2</sup>

Land for the church building was donated by Professor Charles Mead, the lumber was donated by Lorin Mead and the labor was provided by members of the community. The cornerstone was laid May, 1896. The first services were held in the building

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 3

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Highlandlake Community Church

on December 27, 1896 and the dedication and communion took place on April 25, 1897. At these dedication services, it was announced that the church was free from debt, an almost unheard of circumstance.

In 1906, the railroad came through one mile south and one mile east of Highlandlake. The town of Mead grew up around the railroad line and gradually people in Highlandlake moved to Mead. Sunday services were held until 1916 when the members joined the United Brethren Church in Mead. Because so many congregation members had moved from Highlandlake, raising money to maintain the building and pay the pastor became more and more difficult.<sup>3</sup> In 1921, the church trustees decided to use the building as a community house and meeting hall. A schedule of annual meetings was set and these have been held since 1921 for the people living in Highlandlake and for former residents. On occasion, the church is rented for weddings and other functions. The Highlandlake Church is the only original building remaining in the community and is of great importance to the residents and former residents.

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1. Robert Hickman Adams, White Churches of the Plains, (Boulder: The Colorado Associated University Press, 1970.)

2. Carl N. Degler, At Odds: Women and the Family in America from the Revolution to the Present, (Oxford University Press: New York, 1980), pp. 298-300.

Page Smith, Daughters of the Promised Land: Women in American History, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, n.d.) pp. 177-180.

3. Rowland S. True, "A Brief History of the Highlandlake Congregational Church", September, 1917.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See footnotes

(x) 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:
- (x) State Historic Preservation Office
  - ( ) Other State agency
  - ( ) Federal agency
  - ( ) Local government
  - ( ) University
  - ( ) Other

**Specify Repository:**

Colorado Historical Society

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of property: Less than one acre

**UTM References**

A 1|3 4|9|8|8|3|0| 4|4|5|5|1|5|0|  
Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing

( ) See continuation sheet

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

(x) See continuation sheet

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**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries include the property that has historically been associated with the church.

( ) See continuation sheet

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Ronald E. Brossman, Treasurer

Organization: Highlandlake Church

Street & Number: 16930 Weld County Road #5

City or Town: Platteville

Date: March 10, 1988

Telephone: (303) 535-4207

State: CO Zip Code: 80651

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 2

Highlandlake Community Church

Boundary Description:

Part of the NW quarter of NW quarter of Section 9, T 3N, R 68W of 6th P.M., more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point on the east line of Weld County Road #5 running in a northerly and southerly direction through said NW quarter of NW quarter thirty rods south of the north section line; thence running east one hundred thirty-five feet (135), thence south one hundred ninety-eight feet (198), thence west one hundred thirty-five feet (135), more or less to the east line of the road; thence north one hundred ninety-eight feet (198), on said east line of the road, to the place of beginning.