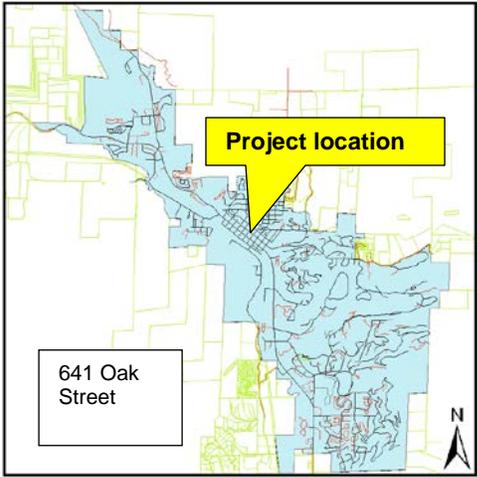


**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT STAFF REPORT**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ITEM 4:	
Project Name:	Christian Science Society Building- 641 Oak Street
Prepared By:	Alexis Eiland, Historic Preservation Planner (Ext 202)
Through:	Tyler Gibbs, AIA Director of Planning & Community Development (Ext. 244)
HPC	September 12, 2012
Planning Commission (PC):	N/A
City Council (CC):	N/A
Zoning:	Commercial Neighborhood (CN)
Applicant:	Christian Science Society PO Box 771826 Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
Request:	City of Steamboat Springs Historic Register Application



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I. CITY OF STEAMBOAT SPRINGS HISTORIC REGISTER – STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY

Staff finds that the Christian Science Society Building at 641 Oak Street is eligible to the City’s Historic Register as an Historic Landmark. The Christian Science Society Building is listed on the Routt County Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places. Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission approve listing of the Christian Science Society Building as an Historic Landmark.

Christian Science Society Building – 641 Oak Street



II. BACKGROUND

The City of Steamboat Springs Historic Register was created in 2009. The Historic Preservation Policy Review Committee reviewed historic preservation policies in 2007 and 2008 and recommended the creation of the City’s historic register. The Committee also recommended that all properties within the City of Steamboat Springs already listed on the Routt County Register of Historic Places be automatically listed on the newly created City Register.

III. PRINCIPAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Since the Christian Society Building is already listed on the Routt County Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Properties and the National Register of Historic Places, the Christian Science Society Building is eligible to the City of Steamboat Springs Historic Register.

IV. NOMINATION DESCRIPTION

See attached Steamboat Springs, Routt County and National historic register nominations for information regarding the nominated property.

V. HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC)

The Historic Preservation Commission will review the nomination for the Christian Science Society Building to the City of Steamboat Springs Historic Register on September 12, 2012.

VI. PROJECT ANALYSIS

The following section provides staff analysis of the application as it relates to nomination criteria as outlined in Ordinance 2230. It is intended to highlight those areas that may be of interest or concern to HPC, staff, or the public. For a comprehensive list of designation criteria, standards and requirements applicable to this proposal please refer to Ordinance 2230 or contact the staff planner.

A) KEY ISSUES

Ordinance 2230, Sec. 26-84(f)

- 1) *Staff Analysis:* **Eligible;** the attached historic register nomination suggests that the Christian Science Society Building qualifies for listing on the City of Steamboat Springs Historic Register as an Historic Landmark.

VII. STAFF FINDING & RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended Resolution

The City of Steamboat Springs's Historic Preservation Commission hereby resolves that the Christian Science Society Building at 641 Oak Street, which is more particularly described as Lots 5 & 6, Block 17, in the Original Addition of Steamboat Springs, Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 84 West, Steamboat Springs, CO, is eligible for listing on the Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places as an Historic Landmark under Criterion 1 in the area of History and Criterion 2 in the area of Architecture as set forth in the Routt

County Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places designations and approves inclusion of the Christian Science Society Building in the Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places.

Recommended Motion

The Historic Preservation Commission moves to approve the resolution from the staff report designating the Christian Science Society Building to the Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – City of Steamboat Springs Historic Resource Application
- Attachment 2- Routt County Register of Historic Places nomination
- Attachment 3- National Register of Historic Places nomination



HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION INFORMATION

Thank you for your interest in Steamboat Springs' Historic Register Program. Attached is the application form and instructions on how to complete the form. A computer-generated version of the form is acceptable. The application is the permanent public record of why the property is significant and warrants the recognition and protection provided by Historic Landmark designation. Attached is the application form, instructions for completing the application, and the text of a sample application.

The Historic Preservation Commission was established by City ordinance (XXXChapter , Revised Municipal Code) in 2009. Among its responsibilities are to identify and designate properties of historical, architectural, and geographical importance to the City of Steamboat Springs. Once a property has been designated, the Historic Preservation Commission has the additional responsibility of reviewing and approving exterior alterations (repair, rehabilitation, addition, or demolition) to make sure the structure retains its historic character.

Designation is a five-step process that takes approximately 60 days from the time a complete application is submitted to the Historic Preservation Office. A pre-application conference can be scheduled with staff to discuss the form, criteria, and whether the property in question meets the criteria.

1. Preliminary investigation focuses on three questions:
 - Is the application complete?
 - Does the proposed property meet the criteria for designation?
 - Has the owner consented to the designation?
2. If the preliminary review is positive, the Historic Preservation Office sets a public hearing date and time that allows for the required owner notification period. Once the date has been set, all owners of record are notified by mail of the date, time, and place of the hearing and the affect designation will have on the subject property.
3. The public hearing on designation is intended to allow members of the public to comment for or against the designation or to ask questions of the Commission about the affect of designation. It is also an opportunity for the applicant to present information about the historical, architectural, and/or geographical significance of the property to the Commission and the public
4. Upon closure of the public hearing, the Commission must notify the owner(s) and City Council in writing as to the decision of the Commission.
5. An Historic Landmark is officially designated once the resolution is recorded.

If you have any questions about the application form or designation process, contact the City's Historic Preservation Office at 879-2060. Please submit the completed application for designation to:

City of Steamboat Springs
Historic Preservation Office
Centennial Hall – 124 10th Street
PO Box 775088
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(970) 879-2060

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION**

Property Identification

1. Address of Resource: 641 Oak Street, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

2. Legal Description of Property: Lots 5 & 6, Block 17, in the Original Addition of Steamboat Springs, Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 84 West, Steamboat Springs, CO.

3. Historic Name: Christian Science Society
Current Name: Christian Science Society Building

4. Historic Use: Religion: religious facility
Present Use: Religion: religious facility

Historical Data Summary

5. Year of Construction: 1934
Source of Information: Routt County Assessor/National and County Historic Register Applications

6. Architect or Builder: Ernest Campbell
Source of Information: National and County Historic Register Applications

7. Original Owner: Christian Science Society
Source of Information: Routt County Assessor/National and County Historic Register Applications

Photographs

8. Attach at least two (2) current 5x7 or larger photographs (black and white or color) showing the views of the property from the public right-of-way(s) and any important features or details. Polaroid photographs are not adequate. If available, attach copies of historic photographs of the structure.

9. Sketch Map.

Statement of Significance

10. Explain how the resource meets the criteria established in Sec.26-84(g) for Local Landmark Designation. Please cite specific criteria in the summary. A Local Landmark must meet the criteria for Historic Resource designation and at least two of the following additional criteria:

SEE ATTACHED ROUTT COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

Local Landmark Designation Criteria

1. Must be of overwhelming historic or architectural importance and significance to the entire community.
2. Possesses such unusual or uncommon significance that the potential demolition or major alteration would diminish the character and sense of place in the community.
3. Contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.
4. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction, yet represents an established and familiar feature to the community.
5. Has significance to the community's history to the extent that it illustrates and commemorates the City's collective past and helps define the community's identity.

Historic Resource Designation Criteria

1. **History.** To have historic importance, the resource shall be at least 50 years old and:
The building, site, structure or object has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State or Nation; is the site of an historic event with an effect upon society; is identified with a person or group of persons who had some influence on society; or, exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social or historic heritage of the community.
2. **Architecture.** To have architectural importance, the resource shall be at least 50 years old and:
The building, site, structure or object portrays the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style; embodies those distinguishing characteristics of an architectural-type specimen; is the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City or contains elements of architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship which represent a significant innovation.
3. **Geography.** To have geographical importance, the resource shall be at least 50 years old and:
The building, site, structure or object, because of being part of or related to a square, park or other distinctive area, should be developed or preserved according to a plan based on an historic,

cultural or architectural motif; or, due to its unique location or singular physical characteristics, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or City.

Include the history of the resource and its associations with important individuals, groups, events, or historical trends.

- a. Provide details about the circumstances of construction including the date of construction, architect, builder, and owner for the original structure and any significant additions.
- b. Describe specific historical associations including why this structure has direct association with the individual, group, event, or historical trend.
- c. Describe other structures that have similar associations and the relationship of this structure to them.

Architectural Description

11. Concisely describe the resource and its surrounds.

SEE ATTACHED ROUTT COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

- a. Describe location and setting including physical context and relationship to neighborhood and other historic structures.
- b. Architectural description including mention of major features, uncommon design features, ancillary structures, and important landscape or site features. Also describe interior spaces with extraordinary design features (if any).
- c. Describe alterations to the exterior of the building.

Bibliography

11. Provide a list of research sources used in compiling this application.

SEE ATTACHED ROUTT COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION AND NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION

Application Information

13. Owner: Christian Science Society

Mailing Address: Po Box 771826, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Telephone: Lynn Reiff 970.846.0184

14. Owner Consent to Designation:

I / We, the undersigned, acting as owner(s) of, the property described in this application for Local Landmark designation do, hereby, give my consent to the designation of this structure as a Local Landmark .

Signature:_____

Printed name:_____

Date:_____

15. Applicant/Preparer Name: Alexis Eiland

Affiliation/ Interest in Property: Prepared for the owner

Address: PO Box 775088, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Telephone: 970.871.8202

Christian Science Society Building
Sketch Map



641 Oak Street

Christian Science Society Building, 641 Oak Street

Photographs:



Main (Northeast) Façade looking southwest



Main and southeast elevations looking west



Rear (Southwest) and northwest elevations looking east



Rear (Southwest) and northwest elevations looking east



Northwest Elevation looking southeast



Main and northwest elevations looking south

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 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 Christian Science Society Building

other names/site number 5RT1053

2. Location

street & number 641 Oak Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Steamboat Springs [N/A] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Routt code 107 zip code 80477

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt 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
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.)

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 19th and Early 20th Century
American Movements
Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
walls Log
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

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

Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt 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

1934

Significant Dates

1934

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Campbell, Ernest

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

Christian Science Society Building
Name of Property

Routt County, Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|---|
| 1. | 13 | 344722 | 4483103 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Laureen Lafferty Schaffer/Historic Preservation Officer
organization City of Steamboat Springs date February 15, 2007
street & number PO Box 775088 telephone (970) 871-8278
city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

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 Christian Science Society
street & number PO Box 771826 telephone _____
city or town Steamboat Springs state CO zip code 80477

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 range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 7 Page 1**DESCRIPTION**

The 1934 Christian Science Society Building is a one-story, rectangular plan 24 ft. by 35.5 ft., front gable-roofed structure with an entry vestibule. The log walls rise from a rubble stone foundation. Multi-light wood frame windows on both side walls provide interior illumination. The gable-roofed vestibule contains an arched wood battened door within a broadly framed opening. Diagonal logs fill the gables of the vestibule and the main roof. The eaves contain a saw-toothed bargeboard of unpeeled logs. The roof is sheathed with metal panels. The interior walls are of stained logs, the floor is wood, and the ceiling consists of non-original wood panels. The building stands in a turf covered corner lot containing several mature pine trees. The building fronts northeast to Oak Street at its intersection with 7th Street. Butcherknife Creek flows through the eastern adjacent lot.

The building is supported by a river rock foundation which raises approximately 2.5 feet above grade at the northern end of the building and 3 feet at the rear. A dirt-floored crawlspace is accessed through a floor trap door at the southern corner of the church. The crawlspace has one window in each side of the foundation. The crawlspace provided a place for the coal furnace and is only partially excavated. Above the river rock foundation is a decorative belt course of vertical logs, with bark, which measures 8 inches and is painted green.

The original wood windows are in place, consisting of two large sets of triple windows on each side and one smaller window located toward the front entrance on each side. The larger sets of windows consist of two operable windows and a fixed central window, divided by wood mullions, with small panes of glass. The smaller windows consist of three vertical panes of glass and are stationary. The exterior logs are stained in a natural brown finish, the bargeboard and window trim is painted green, and the original windows are painted off-white. The brick chimney on the south wall originally vented the coal furnace. This original furnace was replaced in the late 1940s or early 1950s with an oil furnace, and in the mid 1980s the oil furnace was replaced with a natural gas furnace.

The original bare log walls are visible on the interior. Chinking and daubing has been replaced as necessary. The pews and the light fixtures are original to the building. The pews and other furnishings were made of native wood (Steamboat Pilot, December 13, 1935). A rectangular area of the wood floor directly in front of the podium has been patched. Originally, a metal grate allowed heat from the coal furnace to flow upward from the crawlspace. With the replacement of the furnace, air ducts were added and the floor opening was filled.

The original ceiling had no insulation and was formed by the underside of the roof. The dropped wood panel ceiling was installed in the late 1940s or early 1950s. It was at this time that cables were installed to stabilize the building. At the same time, the original wood shingle roof was replaced with a metal roof to allow snow to slide off rather than accumulate.

The Christian Science Church Building is an excellent local example of the Rustic Style as it appeared in Steamboat Springs. Although good examples of the style are present throughout the Old Town area, the Church building is the only known non-residential example and maintains a high degree of integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 2**SIGNIFICANCE**

The 1934 Christian Science Society Building in Steamboat Springs is eligible to the National Register under Criterion C in the area of *architecture* as a good local example of the Rustic style. It embodies many of the defining characteristics of the design philosophy, including the use of native materials in its log construction and stone foundation, the multi-light windows, simple ornamentation, and log wall interior. The building is in harmony with its mountain setting, an important quality of naturalistic design encompassed in the Rustic style.

Rustic Style

Rustic style architecture is characterized by its natural setting and its use of native materials, often log and stone. Designed to blend in with the natural environment, these structures are usually vacation homes, hunting lodges, dude ranches, or tourist-related facilities in national and state parks.

Traditional building techniques emphasizing hand craftsmanship were often employed in the construction of Rustic structures. The majority of these structures in Colorado were built after 1905, though early examples date to the last years of the 19th century. Rustic structures are primarily of log construction with stone foundations, battered walls, overhanging roofs, and small paned windows. Interior and exterior ornamentation is often of log construction, sometimes consisting of bent and twisted logs and branches used as balusters and brackets.

Rustic style buildings differ from pioneer log structures that generally were built during initial settlement periods and often exhibited crude construction. Rustic buildings generally have stone chimneys while pioneer log cabins utilized metal flues attached to iron stoves. Rustic buildings have more commercially manufactured hardware and materials, such as window frames, doors, and interior paneling. Such buildings may also employ hip roofs, a form virtually never found on pioneer log structures.

The National Park Service played an early role in popularizing the Rustic style. Many buildings throughout its park system employed the design philosophy, ranging from large guest lodges, to visitor centers, to the lowly comfort station (privy). Rustic design even figured into road and trail construction, attempting to minimize the visual impacts through the use of native materials in retaining wall and bridge construction. Stephen T. Mather, the first National Park Service director, and Thomas Vint, the NPS chief architect, both supported the concept of naturalist design and its architectural expression in the Rustic style. The U.S. Forest Service also adopted the Rustic style for many of its ranger stations and campground facilities.

During the depression years of the 1930s, federal relief programs put many of the unemployed to work in national, state and municipal parks building trails, retaining walls, bridges, picnic shelters, comfort stations, and other structures. The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were particularly active in these projects. Often working under the direction of National Park and Forest Service planners, the Rustic style became a hallmark of their projects. The Rustic style carried over to projects outside of parks, and often miles away from the mountain environment so associated with its use.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 3

Many private Rustic buildings were the product of their owners, both in design and construction. Others reflect the skilled hands of a local craftsman. John Spence, a native of Scotland and a skilled carpenter and mason, designed and built the Hiwan Homestead in Evergreen (National Register). A number of private architects created Rustic style designs for public and private projects. J.J.B. Benedict designed shelters and buildings for the Denver Mountain Parks system (National Register), in addition to Baehr Lodge for a private party. The project portfolios of Burnham Hoyt and the firm of William E. and Arthur A. Fisher include Rustic style Colorado buildings.

The Rustic style remains popular and it continues to influence design in public parks and private construction in the Rocky Mountain West.

The Rustic style appears throughout the Western Slope community of Steamboat Springs, with a very good residential sampling occurring in the downtown area. The best examples of Rustic architecture featured in the 1930s and 1940s, well after the initial settlement and community-building period, when the smaller size and simple design made the buildings achievable. The style also reflected an idealization of the pioneer period in the West and a desire of homeowners to recapture a portion of that history. Most of the extant buildings are of simple origin, with unknown builders and construction history.

The Christian Science Society Building is the quintessential Rustic Style mountain church as it appeared in western Colorado. True to the Rustic style, the builders utilized local materials and simple decorative elements to create an indigenous building in harmony with its small-town mountain setting. Traditional construction, hand craftsmanship, and a simple functional design, the hallmarks of the style, feature with the Christian Science Society Building. Although good examples of the style are present throughout the Old Town area of Steamboat Springs, the Church building is the only known non-residential example and maintains a high degree of integrity. The Christian Science Church Building has changed very little since its construction and looks much the same today as it did in the 1930s. Constructed by Ernest Campbell, the building is one of the best surviving examples of his work.

Ernest Campbell was born in Canada to parents who had emigrated from England. In Routt County, Ernest Campbell owned and operated a sawmill through the early half of the twentieth century. His name appears often in advertisements and the social happenings of the community. Interestingly, in 1905, Campbell was accused of cutting state timber without a permit and threatened with a fine of \$25 per tree. Buildings known to have been constructed by Campbell feature at 600 Lincoln Avenue and 800 Oak Street. The Lincoln Avenue building was called the Campbell Building for many years after its construction in 1904. The Tread of Pioneers Museum is currently housed in the other Campbell-constructed building at 800 Oak Street. Both buildings are of wood frame construction, have experienced modifications, and are not of the Rustic style.

Background History

Steamboat Springs residents organized the Christian Science Society on July 22, 1908. The Sunday school started the following year. The church records include a Reading Room sales' book dated 1910 and 1911. In 1919 or 1920, George Shaw Cook delivered the first lecture. Until 1934, Christian Science services were held in various places in the community.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 8 Page 4

The original eight charter members included Mrs. Nellie Allen, Mrs. Guerina Banning, Mary Weldon Borland, Mrs. Margaret Crawford, Mrs. Sylvia Creveling, Charles H. Leckenby, Laura Leckenby, and Mrs. Molly Lockhart. James and Margaret Crawford founded and named the town of Steamboat Springs in 1875. Margaret came from Sedalia, Missouri, and on a return visit, first heard about Christian Science. She brought its precepts back to Steamboat Springs and introduced Christian Science to her friends and neighbors.

In 1920, the Christian Science Society purchased the corner lot at Oak and 7th streets from F. A. Metcalf for \$650. The property had previously been the site of the Onyx Hotel. The society members decided in the spring of 1934 to erect a church building on the property. They hired local builder Ernest Campbell as the contractor to construct the church for \$1,345. Work began in August and the congregation held its first service in the new church building just three months later on November 4, 1934. Dedication services occurred when the church was free of all debt—Sunday, December 15, 1935. Regular services have since been held continuously.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number 9-10 Page 5**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Reiff, Lynn W., "Christian Science Society," Routt County Historic Preservation Board Application Form for Local Historic Designation, January 28, 2001.

Sources cited in above document:

Church history letter date May 19, 1947, from Frances M. Cousar.

Church history letter dated April 19, 1968, from Robert A. Wither.

Newspaper clippings of various dates from the *Steamboat Springs Pilot*.

Richards, Dee. Steamboat Round the Bend, Steamboat Springs: The Steamboat Pilot, 1976.

Routt County Assessor's Office. Steamboat Springs, CO.

The Steamboat Pilot, Colorado's Historic Newspaper Collection, 1859-1923 and December 13, 1935.

United States Census, 1920.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The land being nominated consists of Lots 5 and 6, Block 17, in the original Steamboat Springs, Section 17, Township 6 North, Range 84 West, Routt County, Colorado.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all the land historically associated with the church building.

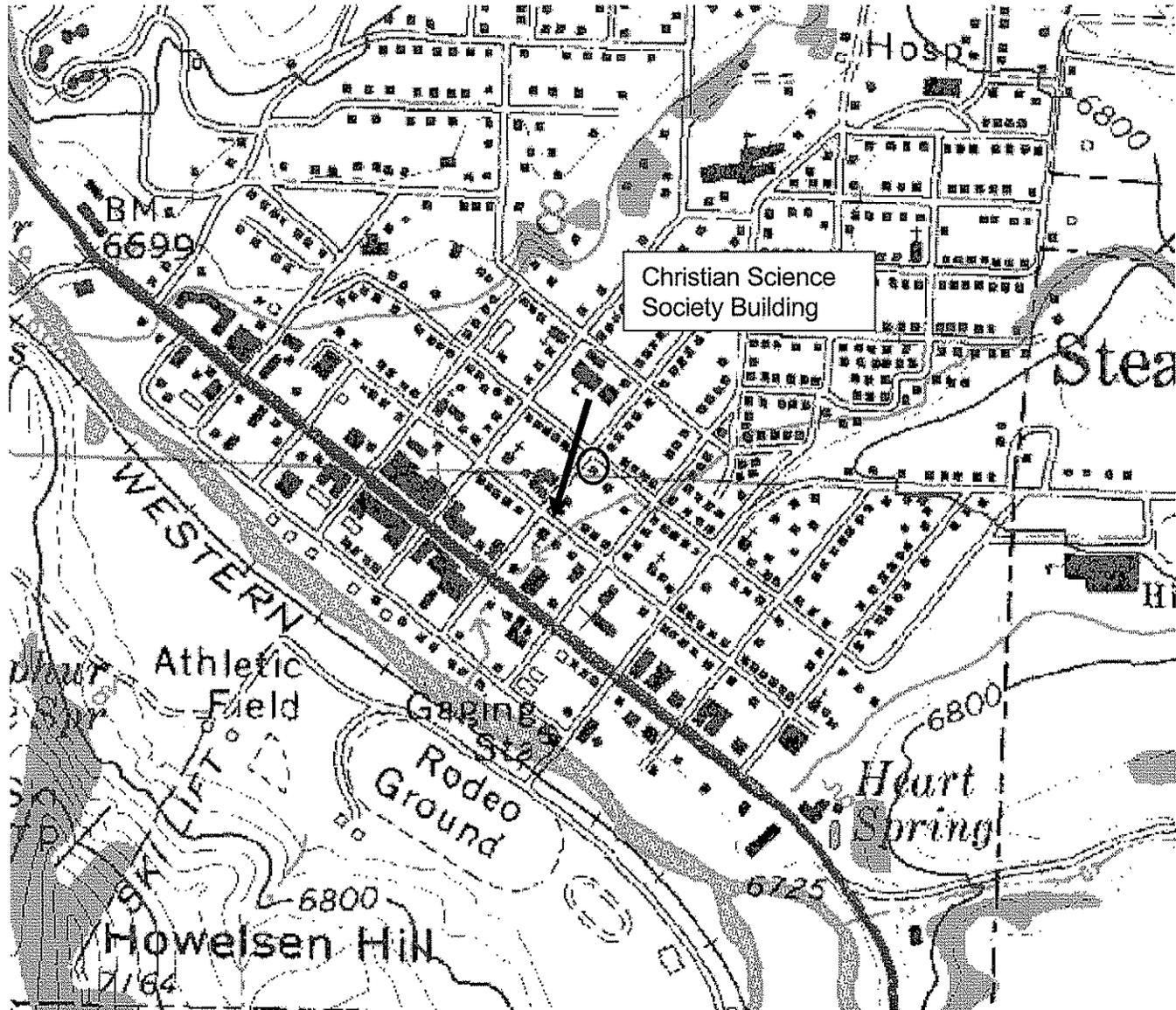
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

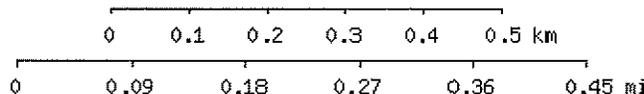
Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, Colorado

Section number 9-10 Page 6

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP UTM: Zone 13 /344722E /4483103 N (NAD27)
Steamboat Springs Quadrangle, Colorado PLSS: 6th PM, T6N, R84W, Sec. 17 ¼ ¼ ¼
7.5 Minute Series, 1969 Elevation: feet Site Number: 5RT1053



topozone
Copyright 1999-2000 Maps & a la carte, Inc.



Steamboat Springs, USGS Steamboat Springs (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



M=11.051
G=-1.19

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Christian Science Society Building
Routt County, ColoradoSection number ____ Page 7**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-11 except as noted:

Photographer: Laureen Schaffer
 Date of Photographs: January 25, 2007
 Negatives: Steamboat Springs Historic Preservation Office

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	Interior rear wall, camera facing southwest
2	Interior crawl space door, south corner, camera facing south
3	Interior northwest wall, camera facing west
4	Light in vestibule from exterior door
5	Interior central window on northwest wall, camera facing north
6	Rear (southwest) elevation, camera facing northeast
7	7 th Street side (northwest) elevation, camera facing southeast
8	Side (southeast) elevation, camera facing west
9	Oak Street (northeast) elevation, camera facing southwest
10	Front gable end detail, camera facing southwest
11	Door detail, camera facing southwest

The following information pertains to color photograph numbers 1-7:

Photographer: Laureen Schaffer
 Date of Photographs: February 15, 2007
 Negatives: Steamboat Springs Historic Preservation Office

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	Rear and side elevations, camera facing east
2	7 th Street elevation, camera facing southeast
3	7 th Street elevation, camera facing southeast
4	Building entrance, camera facing southwest
5	Oak Street elevation, camera facing southwest
6	Side elevation, camera facing west
7	Oak Street elevation, south

**Routt County Historic Preservation Board
Application Form for Local Historic Designation**

Name of Site or Property: Christian Science Society

Historical Name: Christian Science Society

Physical Address: 641 Oak Street, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Name of Owner: Christian Science Society

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 771826, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Contact Name Lynn W. Reiff Contact Phone: 879-8586 work

Contact Address:(if different from above) _____

There are eight (8) parts to this application process:

- Legal Description
- Statement of Significance
- Architectural Description
- Map(s)
- Photographs
- Statement of Owner Support
- Notification
- Addendum(s) (if appropriate)

Each part must be completed in full, and submitted with eight (8) copies, for the application to be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Board. Completed applications should be submitted to the Routt County Historic Preservation Board, c/o P. O. Box 775717, Steamboat Springs, CO 80477, one month before the meeting of the Board for consideration. **The Board meets quarterly: February, May, August, and November. Applications are due one month prior to the Board's meeting.**

PART 1: Legal Description

Submit and attach a legal description of the property. A copy of the Routt County Assessor's Office records contains this information. A copy of this record is sufficient.

Larger properties, such as ranches, may require a more detailed description. It is important that only the portion of the property being nominated is included in the legal description.

Your application should state clearly whether the property is to be nominated as a site, building, district, or structure. Please consult the Preservation Assistant if you need help with this determination.

PART 2: Statement of Significance

Submit and attach a statement of significance for the property; please do not exceed three typewritten pages in length. Optional materials, such as newspaper articles, etc., may be included as an addendum to the nomination and are encouraged.

The Statement of Significance must possess significance when evaluated in relationship to other properties locally, statewide, or nationally within a specific historic theme, period, and geographical area. Relate the specific facts about the property to the themes or patterns of historical development that make up the history or prehistory of the geographical area where the property or site is located. Appropriate footnotes are required. Include a bibliography describing references, including interviews.

The Statement of Significance must address one or more of the criteria as stated in Routt County Resolution No. 93-006, Section 3. Criteria for Designation of Historic Sites, follows. Please mark an X in the boxes for all criteria categories under which you would like the property to be considered. The resolution states "in order to qualify for designation as an historic site pursuant to this resolution, the site must be determined to have historic significance due to one or more of the following factors:

- A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of Routt County, State of Colorado, or the United States.
- B. Its location as a site of a significant historic event.
- C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Routt County.
- D. Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, or historic heritage of Routt County.
- E. Its portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
- F. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
- G. Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Routt County.
- H. Its embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship that represent a significant architectural innovation.
- I. Its relationship to other distinctive areas that are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on an historic, cultural or architectural motif.
- J. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or Routt County.

PART 3: Architectural Description

Submit an architectural description of the structure. If more than one building is included in the property, describe all structures and indicate if they are contributing (50 years or older) or non-contributing (less than 50 years old or with significant alternations which may have affected the historic integrity of the structure).

PART 4: Map(s)

Include maps (8-1/2" x 11") as appropriate. A location map (see city map enclosed) with arrow denoting the location of the property and a site map (if ranch or property being nominated as a district) with legend indicating the buildings included in the district nomination are also required.

Part 2: Statement of Significance

The Christian Science Society in Steamboat Springs is significant in the following areas:

- A. Its character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of Routt County, State of Colorado, or the United States.
- C. Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of Routt County.
- F. Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
- J. Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or Routt County.

Mrs. James Crawford was the first white woman to live in Steamboat Springs and her husband founded and named the town in 1873. Mrs. Crawford came from Sedalia, MO and on a return visit, heard about Christian Science and brought it to Steamboat Springs.

The Christian Science Society was organized July 22, 1908. The Sunday School was started May 30, 1909. The records show a Reading Room sales' book dated 1910 and 1911. In 1919 or 1920 the first lecture was given by George Shaw Cook. Until 1934 Christian Science services were held in various places in the community.

In March or April 1920, the Christian Science Society purchased the corner lot at Oak and 7th streets from F. A. Metcalf. The property had previously been the site of the Onyx Hotel. The cost of Lot 6, Block 17 in 1920 was \$650. In the spring of 1934, it was decided to build a church on the property. Ernest Campbell was hired as the contractor to build the church in 1934 for the price of \$1345. Construction began August 13, 1934. Records from the Assessor's Office show that the Lot 6 transferred from F.A. Metcalf to the Christian Science Society on June 21, 1935. Lot 5 (next door lot) transferred from F. A. Metcalf to the Christian Science on September 30, 1935. This may be because the lot had not been paid off until that time. The first service

in the church building was held November 4, 1934. Dedication services occur when the church is free of all debt, and this was on Sunday, December 15, 1935. Services have been continuously held since then.

The original eight charter members in 1908 were: Mrs. James Crawford, Mrs. Guerina Banning, Mrs. Sylvia Creveling, Mary Weldon Borland, Mrs. Molly Lockhart, Mrs. Nellie Allen, Mrs. Laura Leckenby, and Charles H. Leckenby. The Wither family (Pearl, daughter Dorothy, son Robert and his daughter Sarah) has also been instrumental in the continuance of the church in Steamboat Springs.

The church building is of the Rustic Style. This style is characterized by the river rock foundation, log construction, decorative trim, and overall rustic nature.

The church building is a prominent and highly recognized feature of Oak Street.

Bibliography:

Church history letter date May 19, 1947 from Frances M. Cousar

Church history letter dated April 19, 1968 from Robert A. Wither

Newspaper clippings of various dates from the Pilot

Part 3: Architectural Description

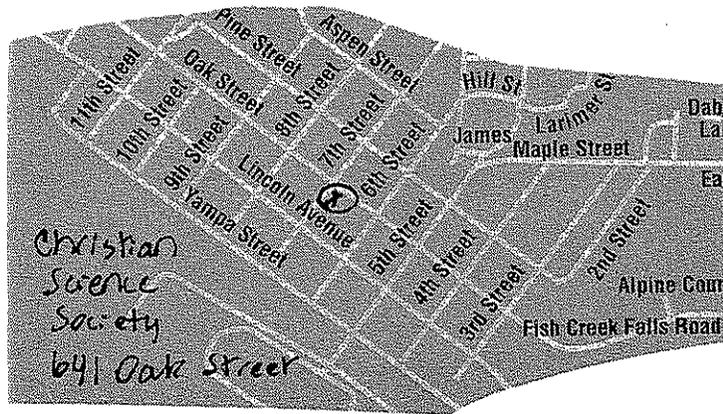
The Christian Science Society is a building of rustic style, with a rectangular shaped one story log structure. Diagonal logs are located in the gabled ends with an overhanging metal roof with decorative bargeboard trim above the front entrance. The entrance is through the original arched wood paneled door, containing a small paned window. The building is supported by a river rock foundation with a dirt-floored crawlspace, accessed through a trap door in the wood floor at the front of the church. The crawlspace has one window in each side of the foundation. The purpose of the crawlspace was to provide a place for the coal furnace, thus it is only partially excavated.

The original windows are in place, consisting of two large sets of windows on each side, and one smaller window located toward the front entrance on each side. The larger sets of windows consist of little panes of glass, and are operative. The smaller windows consist of three vertical panes of glass and are stationary. The brick chimney on the south wall was originally used as the exhaust for the coal furnace. This original furnace was replaced in the late 1940's or early 1950's with an oil furnace, and in the mid 1980's the oil furnace was replaced with a natural gas furnace. Robert Wither would deliver the fuel oil to the church from the 1940's to the 1980's. He would often provide this gratuitously, and remembers the cost of oil being 8 cents a gallon. The exterior logs are stained in a natural brown finish, the bargeboard trim is painted green, and the original windows are painted off-white.

A rustic character prevails in the interior in the original bare log walls with chinking, which has been replaced as necessary. The pews and the light fixtures are original to the building. One will notice in the original wood floor a rectangular area of the wood floor which has been patched directly in front of the podium. Originally there was a grate there for the heat from the coal furnace to flow upward from the crawlspace. When the furnace was changed, air ducts were added, and the wood floor was filled. The original ceiling had no insulation and formed a peak. The lowered wood paneled ceiling was installed in the late 1940's or early 1950's. It was at this time that cables were installed to support the structure, and the original wood shake roof

was replaced with a metal roof to allow the snow to slide, rather than accumulate.

Part 4: Map



PART 5: Photographs

Submit at least one historic and one current photo of each structure being nominated. Multiple views of the structure(s) are encouraged.

PART 6: Statement of Owner Support

Christian Science Society and _____
is ~~xxx~~ am 100 percent owner of the Christian Science Society property and am requesting that this property be designated as historic in Routt County at this time.

Cynthia H. Gantick
Name Cynthia H. Gantick, Chairman Name _____
Board of Directors 1/28/01
Date _____ Date _____

PART 7: Notification

Any owner filing an application for designation of property under this resolution shall, as a part of the application, agree to notify the Board of the owner's intention to alter, demolish, move or remove the site subject to the application at least fifteen (15) days prior to undertaking any such work. Any such owner shall be responsible for notifying any subsequent purchaser of the property of this notification requirement. The Board may revoke the designation of the site hereunder unless the subsequent purchaser agrees in writing to the provisions of this Section 7. (Routt County Resolution No. 93-006, Section 7: Notification.)

I have read this Notification clause and understand its content.

Cynthia H. Gantick
Signed _____
1/28/01
Date _____

PART 8: Addendums

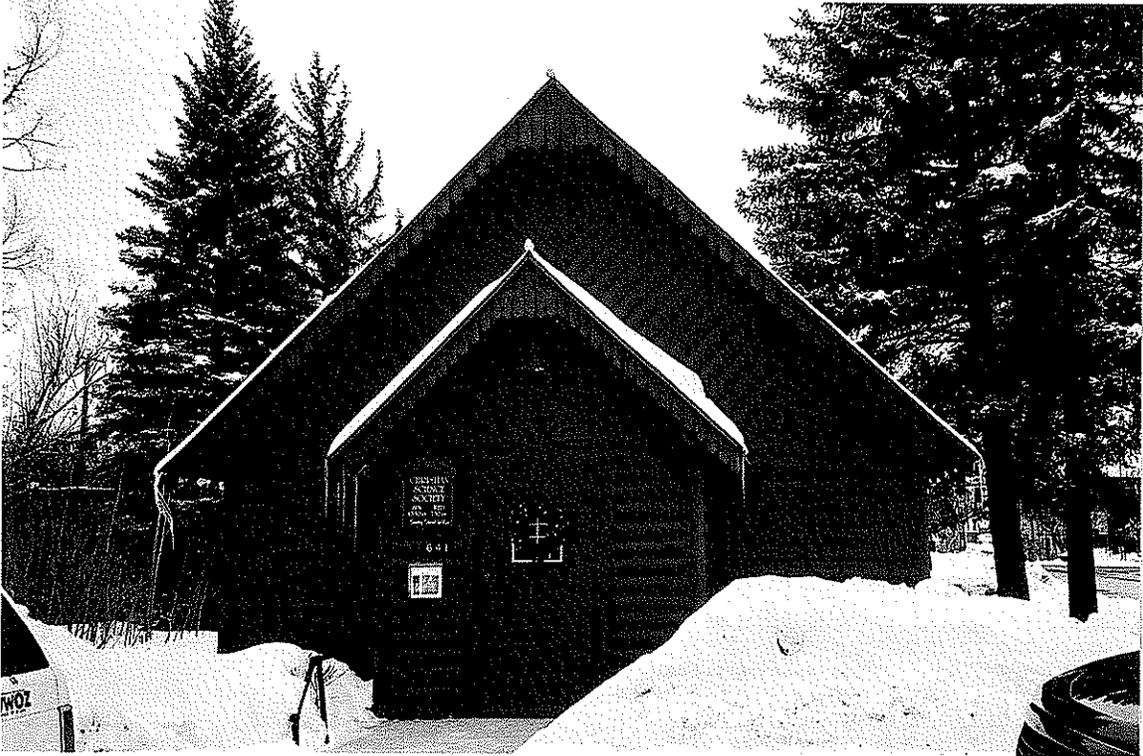
Add any pertinent information, articles, backup materials which may be of interest to the review board, and which may be kept in the file for reference purposes.

Tina McPherson, Preservation Assistant
Routt County Historic Preservation Board
P. O. Box 775717
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(970) 870-7533

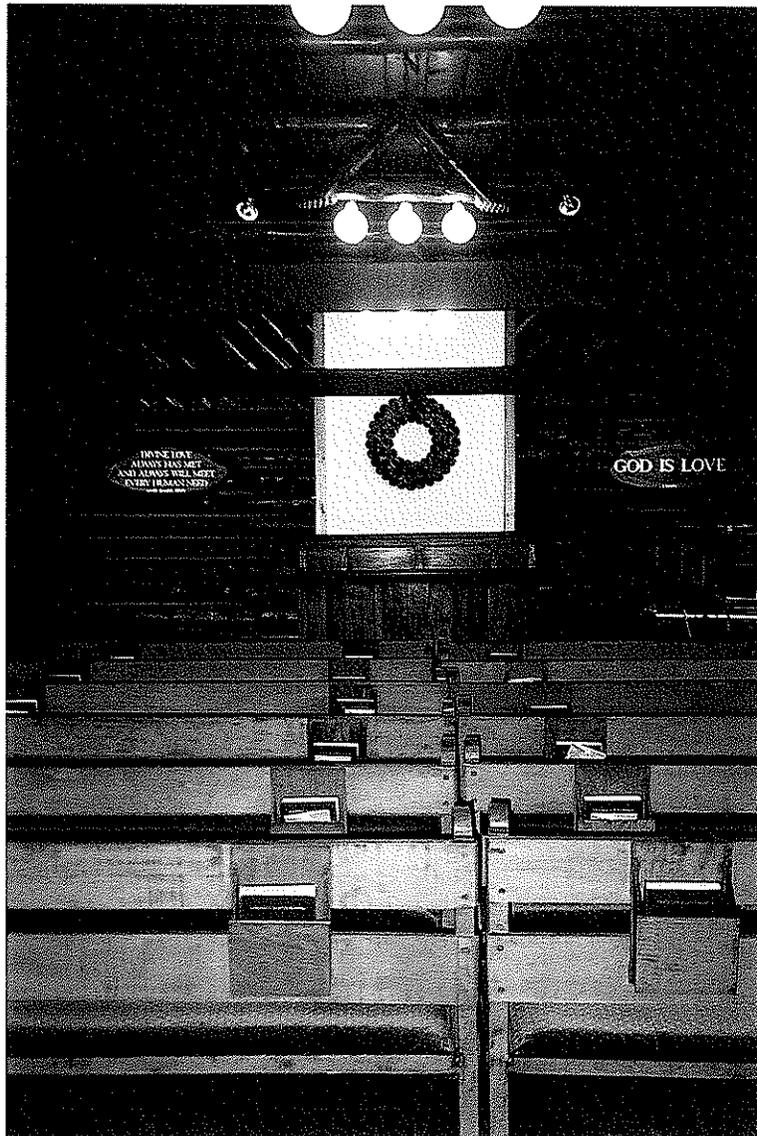
SALES TAX REBATE: If you are considering restoring or rehabilitating your historically designated property, please request information regarding the City of Steamboat Springs' Sales Tax Rebate for such projects.

Part 1: Legal Description – see attached deed

Part 5: Photographs



Jan. 2001



Jan. 2001