



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Joins City's Historic Register

107-Year-Old Church Remains Cornerstone for Steamboat Springs Community

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-July 24, 2020-Last week, the City of Steamboat Springs Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) designated St. Paul's Episcopal Church (846 Oak Street) to the Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places joining seven landmarks and now twenty iconic and historical resources that represent the history of the Yampa Valley.

"Congratulations to the community of St. Paul's for making a commitment to preserve the building long into the future!" said Planning & Community Development Director Rebecca Bessey. "We can learn much from our past and, as such, use that knowledge and spirit to shape our future."

In the early 1900s, the population of Steamboat Springs tallied around 800 people. A few years later, the arrival of the railroad facilitated the movement of stock and ore to Denver and further east. This connectivity also increased tourism in the Yampa Valley. This period was a prosperous decade for the city, with heightened growth and development as seen with St. Paul's.

Located at the corner of 9th and Oak Streets in downtown Steamboat Springs, the Old Stone Church

was built by Art Gumprecht in 1913 using native sandstone from the Emerald Mountain quarry. Gumprecht was a prolific craftsman and stonemason whose work has influenced the character of Steamboat Springs.

In 1959, congregants added a two-story addition to the original church, this time with Emerald Mountain sandstone reclaimed from a dismantled Mt. Harris building. 107 years after its initial construction, the Old Stone Church continues to be a vital space for the community.

"St Paul's is a character defining feature to the historic Oak Street corridor," commented Erica Swissler Hewitt. "This stretch of Oak Street holds a lifeline to our past with adjoining historical structures like the Coverdale building, Tread of Pioneers Museum, United Methodist Church and the A&F Ralph Drake House."

Historic Preservation assists in the preservation of the community's natural and built historic resources helping to maintain distinct community character and promotes the importance of historic preservation as an economic development strategy. View the historic landmarks and resources currently on the [Steamboat Springs Register of Historic Places](#).

To learn more about historic designation in Steamboat Springs, contact Planning and Community Development Director Rebecca Bessey, the city's Historic Preservation consultant Erica Swissler Hewitt or visit the [city's website](#).

-WeServeTheCity-

Contact

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Left to right: Catherine Brown – HPC, Marianne Capra – HPC, Jim DeFrancia – Old Stone Church Committee Member (OSCCM), Nancy Kramer - OSCCM, Reverend Catie Green - OSCCM, Katie Adams - HPC, Luis Pabon - OSCCM, Sally Kavanagh - HPC, Jim Michler - HPC, & David Lund - OSCCM. Photo: Erica Hewitt