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# Architectural Inventory Form

Official Eligibility Determination  
(for OAHP use only)

- Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Determined Eligible - National Register
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible - National Register
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Determined Eligible - State Register
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Determined Not Eligible - State Register
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Need Data
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Contributes to eligible National Register District
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Noncontributing to eligible NR District

## I. Identification

1. Resource number: 5HN68.1
2. Temporary resource number: 175
3. County: Hinsdale
4. City: Lake City
5. Historic building name: Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Manse
6. Current building name:
7. Building address: 431 Gunnison Avenue, Lake City, CO 81235
8. Owner name and address: Community Presbyterian Church of Lake City, P.O. Box 184, Lake City CO 81235

## II. Geographic Information

County Property No.: R2500T

9. P.M. ~~6th~~ <sup>NM</sup> Township 44N Range 4W NW4 of NW4 of SE4 of SW4 of Section 34
10. UTM reference  
Zone 13 ~~296880~~ <sup>69</sup> mE 4211560 <sup>78</sup> mN
11. USGS quad name: Lake City Quad year: 1985 Map scale: X 7.5' 15'
12. Block(s): 42 Lot(s): 1-4 Legal:  
Addition: Year of Addition:
13. Boundary description and justification: Perimeter of parcel

Elev. 8670'

## III. Architectural Description

14. Building plan: Irregular
15. Dimensions: 1600 square feet
16. Number of stories: 1-~~1~~<sup>1/2</sup>
17. External wall material(s): Wood horizontal siding
18. Roof configuration: Front gabled
19. Roof material: Metal
20. Special features: Tower
21. General architectural description:

1-~~1~~<sup>1/2</sup>-story, front-gabled frame building. Metal roof; walls clad in clapboards with cornerboard trim. On north elevation is vestibule surmounted by steeple. Vestibule has north-facing paired, paneled doors with transoms and elaborate decorative woodwork. Triangular openings above entrance, uppermost contains stained glass window; diamond sign plate reads "First Presbyterian Church." Vestibule has east-facing and west-facing entrance consisting of paneled door with elaborate frame and triangular pediment with two triangular lites. Windows in east and west elevations are stained glass with triangular pediments.

Steeple base is covered in vertical wood siding. Center of steeple base has pointed arch louvers, framed by columns with wood keystone and cornice molding. Steeple support has four tapered slopes with small pointed arch openings in each slope.

"Darley Hall," 1977 - 1978 - Long, one-story, side-gabled building, attached to the south elevation of the church by a shed-roofed addition. Has metal roof with exposed, pointed rafter ends; walls clad in hardboard. Small gabled vestibule in north facing wall. Foundation of church and addition are masonry, covered in horizontal board.

Interior of the church contains the pews hand made by Reverend Darley; Lower part of walls is covered in beadboard wainscoting. Original organ

22. Architectural style/Building type: Carpenter Gothic

23. Landscaping or special setting:

Large corner lot, shared with Presbyterian Manse at 429 Gunnison Avenue. Brick paver patio surrounds vestibule. Picket fence encloses yard. Church sign at corner of lot consists of vertical uprights and horizontal lintel with hanging sign that reads "Presbyterian Church built 1876. Founded by Reverend Darley. Oldest Presbyterian Church on Western Slope."

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Presbyterian Manse, square feet 1,125

1-1/2 story, front-gabled frame dwelling. Metal roof with corbeled brick chimney in roof ridge; ornament in gable end. Paired 1-over-1 double hungs with beveled corners in gable end; covered in metal frame storm windows. Walls clad in clapboards; trimmed in friezeboard and in cornerboards with capitals. East elevation (façade) has off-center entrance with transom and paneled door with paired, round-arched panels; paired 1-over-1 double hungs. Facade windows have elaborate pediment. Windows in north elevation are 2-over-2 double hung with elaborate triangular pediments. One-story half-hipped addition on rear; has gabled entry porch that shelters entrance with paneled and glazed door. 1-1/2 story gabled addition/wing built at southwest corner. Has east facing gabled dormer, paired 1-over-1 windows with triangular pediments. In southeast ell is shed-roofed porch with square posts; sheltered paneled door with triangular pediment. South elevation has paired 1-over-1 double hungs with triangular pediments. Concrete foundation covered in horizontal board.

#### IV. Architectural History

25. Date of construction Estimate: \_\_\_\_\_ Actual: 1876, Source of info: San Juan PROSPECTOR (Del Norte, Colorado), Sat., November 4, 1876, page 2.  
1879

26. Architect: None Source of info:

27. Builder/contractor: George M. Darley Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., February 1, 1879, page 3, Sat., May 10, 1879, page 3.

28. Original owner: Presbyterian Church Source of info: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., February 1, 1879, page 3, Sat., May 10, 1879, page 3.

29. Construction history (major additions, alterations, demolitions):

Church: constructed in 1876. Alterations - Steeple constructed in 1882. Double doors added in north-facing elevation of vestibule/steeple base in 1910; replaced in 1990. Stained glass windows installed ca 1980 replacing multi-pane clear glass windows. Darley Hall addition constructed in 1977 - 1978.

Manse: constructed in 1879. Alterations - 1-1/2 story addition built on south elevation; rear hipped-roof addition expanded south, 1986. Contractor, Henry Woods.

30. Original location:  Moved  Date of move(s) \_\_\_\_\_

#### V. Historical Associations

31. Original use(s): Church

32. Intermediate use(s):

33. Current use(s): Church

34. Site type(s):

35. Historical background:

Presbyterian Church:

Two missionary brothers, Rev. Alexander M. Darley and George M. Darley, were responsible for the construction of First Presbyterian Church, Lake City's first church organization and the first church built on the Western Slope of Colorado. Starting in 1875 at the direction of the Presbytery of Colorado, Rev. Darley traversed the San Luis Valley and San Juan mines establishing church organizations in the

counties of Saguache, Hinsdale, La Plata, Rio Grande, Conejos, and Costilla. In an introductory letter printed in Del Norte's San Juan PROSPECTOR, April 10, 1875, Darley stated "I am very anxious to be placed in immediate communication with our 'brethren scattered abroad' in these counties... those immediately around Del Norte and Loma, Saguache, Lake City and Silverton, I especially desire to hear from."

Lake City was an early focus of Rev. Darley's missionary efforts. He presided at services which were held in the upstairs hall of Brockett's Block in June, 1876, during which Anna Silverton Taft, the first baby born in Silverton, was baptized, and a local Presbyterian organization formed with 15 inaugural members. According to Alex Darley's brother, George M. Darley, in his published reminiscences, PIONEERING IN THE SAN JUAN, "the church voted unanimously to proceed immediately to the erection of a church -- a much needed institution in our city, where there is yet no school house or courthouse where religious services can be held." Town lots for the new church building offered by Samuel Wade in his new real estate addition, Wade's Addition south of Henson Creek, were declined in favor of two lots acquired from S.C. Foote at the southwest corner of Gunnison Avenue and Fifth Street. Presbyterians paid \$225 for the pair of lots and proceeded with construction. Lake City SILVER WORLD reported the foundation for the church was laid in mid-August, 1876, "and the lumber is on the ground."

Darley and the local Presbyterian congregation selected a site at the west end of the lots for the 24x40' building. The gable-facing structure was clapboard sided with triangular pediments over four four-over-four windows on both the east and west sides and pedimented double door with transom facing Fifth Street. The building's location toward the west end of the lots left a 50x80' undeveloped area at the front of the lots which was identified for "a large building in the future, should it be required." Following its dedication November 12, 1876, First Presbyterian Church was described at length in identical articles which appeared in both the Lake City SILVER WORLD and Del Norte San Juan PROSPECTOR. "The present edifice has a seating capacity of one hundred and seventy, which can be increased. The walls are filled with adobe for five feet from the floor and this wainscotted with matching lumber, making the house very warm. The ceiling is made of half-circle corners, giving a more cheerful appearance than square corners would have. The building is lighted with eight windows of eight glass each. The pews are of heavy pine with molded backs and paneled ends, the ends and rail grained walnut, the rest, as well as the pulpit and all other portions of the inside woodwork to be shellacked and varnished."

Alex Darley's brother, George M. Darley, worked as a carpenter on the church's construction. He was ordained as a Presbyterian Minister in February, 1877, and served as presiding minister at the Lake City church from 1876 through 1880, in the process overseeing subsequent improvements on the church corner. Theodore Little, Sr., of Morristown, New Jersey, donated a bell which was shipped to Lake City by wagon, the freight bill exceeding the cost of the bell. The bell's arrival prompted construction of a separate clapboard-sided frame belfry which was built west of the church adjacent to the alley. George Darley and his family initially lived in a small log cabin behind the church until 1879 when the extant two-story Gothic-style parsonage, 429 Gunnison, was constructed.

The parsonage is the first home for a minister constructed on Colorado's Western Slope. A c. 1880 photograph of the Presbyterian corner depicts both the church and parsonage, the entirety encircled by an elaborate white picket fence. Outbuildings visible behind the parsonage and church are a privy, well house, and carriage shed, together with belfry to the west, none of which are extant today.

The most significant 19th Century alteration to First Presbyterian Church was construction of the extant church steeple which was added to the front of the building in December, 1882. The addition, which was built by local contractor A.J. Fjelle, consists of three distinct elements: on the ground level, a 6'3"x11' entry vestibule with entry doors on the east and west, and front ornamental window, surmounted by the belfry with louvers in paired Gothic arches on all four sides. The tapered, octagonal steeple with eyebrow windows forms a soaring roof to the belfry, extending to a wood finial which was estimated at construction to be 50 or 60' above the ground level. The vestibule entrance configuration was altered c. 1910 by replacement of the lower portion of the ground floor ornamental window with double doors. Original vestibule doors, each with triangular transoms, remain in place but are unused; the impetus for change to a front-on entrance through the steeple vestibule was an unfortunate incident at a funeral in which pallbearers were unable to navigate the 90-degree front entrance and wedged a coffin in the front doorway.

Writing in August, 1896, Lake City TIMES observed "Services were held in the five churches of Lake City last Sunday, morning and evening, the Presbyterian, Baptist, Christian, Episcopal and Catholic, good audiences being present at all meetings. For a town of only a thousand people, this speaks well for Lake City, and shows that a majority of our citizens are church-goers and a Sabbath-observing people."

Mirroring Lake City's economic downturn, local church attendance declined substantially beginning in the early decades of the 20th Century and continuing until about 1960. While other churches were practically abandoned, First Presbyterian -- later renamed Community Presbyterian -- was a local mainstay of the religious community.

Without a resident minister for decades, local residents rallied to support the church. Multi-denominational services were held with visiting ministers and, when even a traveling minister was unavailable, local residents held services utilizing taped sermons. A minister in the late 1940s suggested using the unoccupied front portion of the Presbyterian lots as a new location for the Baptist Church, 401 Bluff, although the plan to relocate the Bluff Street church was never implemented. Gradual church expansion is evident with the construction of a side-gabled single story Sunday School hall known as the Addie May Williams Building, in July, 1958. The detached hall was located at the rear of the church in the approximate location of the old stable and privy structures.

Dr. Harold M. Parker, Jr. (1923-1998), held the dual career of professor of history at Western State College, Gunnison, and Presbyterian theologian. Beginning in March, 1968, Parker signed on as Lake City's first full-time, year-round Presbyterian minister since 1954. Parker and his family continued to live in Gunnison but drove to Lake City to conduct services at Community Presbyterian throughout the winter. In the summers the Parkers conducted services in the church and sponsored a range of Presbyterian activities for youths and adults while "camping out" in the adjoining parsonage. Dr. Parker envisioned Community Presbyterian as a year-round force in the community and gradually improved the church structures with the intent of ultimately attracting a year-round, resident minister.

Alterations at the church during Dr. Parker's tenure included removal of the original four-over-four clear pane windows on the east and west walls. These windows, which had historically replicated stained glass with a translucent multi-colored paper pasted on the interior, were replaced in 1981-83 with leaded stained glass windows memorializing several local families, including the Heaths, Halls, Crileys, and Careys. The stained glass windows are single-pane and fitted into the original window openings with an exterior protective pane. Other than the leaded glass windows, the other significant late 20th Century addition to the church was construction in 1977-78 of Darley Hall, a shed-roof addition at the southwest corner of the historic church building connecting the church to the 1958 Williams Memorial Building. Darley Hall provided additional classroom space, a kitchen (Emma Liska Memorial Kitchen, dedicated September, 1977), men's and women's bathrooms, and office for the minister.

Dr. Parker and congregation also completed a renovation and addition to the church parsonage, and redecorated the interior of the historic church. An effort was made to retain elements of the historic interior, include wallpaper with cove ceiling, painted wainscoting, early 1880s pump organ, two-light electric chandeliers dating to 1892, and original wooden furniture, including pews which were stripped of paint and stained. Cognizant of its important role as first church on Colorado's Western Slope, Lake City Presbyterians annually celebrate its founding, including major observances on the church's 75th, 100th, and 125th anniversary. Exterior landscaping alterations in the late 20th Century included lighted bulletin board dedicated in 1973 (the bulletin board faces Gunnison Avenue and is incorporated in a native rock garden wall with small statue, dedicated 1979), a pair of cast iron street lights with acorn-shaped globes in 1989, a new wood picket fence and, in 2002, construction of a decorative cement and brick walkway at the front of the church.

#### Presbyterian Manse:

Pioneering Presbyterian missionary George Marshall Darley (1847-1917), his wife, Emma, and their children resided in Lake City from 1876 until 1880 while Rev. Darley served as minister at First Presbyterian Church, 431 Gunnison. For their early Lake City residence, the Darleys made do with a small log hovel which was located adjacent to the church. The cabin was hard to heat, according to Rev. Darley's published reminiscences, and difficult to secure. In his 1899 book, *PIONEERING IN THE SAN JUAN*, Darley recounted an incident in which his cabin was pilfered and a coat and satchel with papers stolen. Darley ultimately recovered the articles after tracking the perpetrator through Lake City's notorious "Hall's Acre" brothel and dance hall district.

It was perhaps as a result of incidents such as this that Rev. Darley announced in late January, 1879, that he intended to build a church parsonage. "Rev. Darley proposes to have a roof of his own to shelter him," the Lake City *SILVER WORLD* wrote, "or rather the Presbyterian Society in Lake City shall have a parsonage for its minister, hence he is erecting one on the lots owned by the society." Darley and a small band of church volunteers, including Edward N. Campbell, who later served as Hinsdale County Sheriff, worked on the building project through winter and spring, 1879, prior to completion in early May. The *SILVER WORLD* reported on an evening housewarming celebration at which "social games were played,

skilled vocalists sang the songs of long ago, and the happy party, after partaking of refreshments, dispersed about night's noon, full of hot coffee with whipped cream, cake, apple tarts, etc., and delighted with the opportunity afforded them to congratulate mine host and hostess on their new and commodious residence."

The newspaper continued by crediting Rev. Darley for his building efforts. "Rev. Darley entered into the work enthusiastically, laboring early and late to complete it. His mechanical skill has aided his taste in the selection of good material, so combined to make a well arranged interior, and a tasty exterior appearance... the church property may well be a source of pride to all our citizens, as well as Mr. Darley."

The Presbyterian Parsonage is recognized as the first home for a minister completed on the Western Slope of Colorado and, in addition to its listing within the Lake City Historic District, was designated as a nationally significant historic site by the Presbyterian Historical Society in March, 1989. Rev. Darley and his family lived in the parsonage until 1880 and were followed by a succession of residents ministers throughout the late 19th and early 20th Century. With a decrease in church membership post-1900, the parsonage was occupied on an occasional basis, particularly from 1954 to 1968 when it served as residence for a succession of summer student ministers.

Electricity, plumbing and heat were installed in 1947 during the tenure of Rev. John Adams. Rev. Harold M. Parker served as Presbyterian Minister in Lake City from 1968 to retirement in 1998 and led a campaign to improve the church property. He and his family occupied the parsonage on a seasonal basis, recalling his early years in the house as virtually "camping out." Renovations of the parsonage took place during Parker's tenure, most notable being a two-story addition to the south which was built in 1986-87. Completed at a cost of \$82,789, the addition and interior renovation of the original parsonage was intended as an inducement for a year-round, resident Presbyterian Minister in Lake City. Rev. Jeff Light moved into the parsonage on a year-round basis in March, 1989, and it continues in use in 2003 as the home of Rev. Norman Fowler and family.

36. Sources of information:

Church: San Juan PROSPECTOR, Del Norte, Colorado, Sat., April 10, 1875, page 3, Sat., November 4, 1876, page 2; Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., June 24, 1876, page 2, Sat., August 19, 1876, page 3, Sat., November 11, 1876, page 3, Sat., September 8, 1877, page 3, Fri., August 14, 1998, page 3, Thurs., November 7, 2002, page 1; Lake City MINING REGISTER, Fri., December 1, 1882, page 3, Lake City TIMES, Thurs., January 7, 1892, page 1, Thurs., August 20, 1896, page 3; Lake City TRIBUNE, November 20, 1947, page 1; Gunnison NEWS-CHAMPION, Thurs., August 7, 1958, page 6, Thurs., August 30, 1973, page 3.

Manse: Lake City SILVER WORLD, Sat., February 1, 1879, page 3, Sat., May 10, 1879, page 3, Fri., July 3, 1987, page 17.

## VI. Significance

37. Local landmark: Yes  No  Date of design.: \_\_\_\_\_ Design. authority: \_\_\_\_\_

Within Lake City Historic District (local historic district)

38. Applicable National Register Criteria:

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history;

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

39. Area(s) of significance: Social history, religion, architecture

40. Period of significance: 1876 - 1904

41. Level of significance: National  State  Local

42. Statement of significance:

Church:

The Presbyterian Church is associated with settlement and development of Lake City during the late 1800s mining era. Constructed in 1876, it is the first church erected on Colorado's Western Slope. One of three churches built in Lake City in the late 1870s, it reflects the civic atmosphere present in the town in its earliest days.

The building is a *excellent* good representative of the local interpretation of the Carpenter Gothic style constructed in Lake City during this period, as reflected in its steeply pitched roof, central gable, elaborate entrance and ornamented steeple. The double doors constructed ca 1990 are compatible with the original building. The church hall is set back and visually subordinate to the original church. As one of the few intact church buildings in Colorado remaining from the 1870s and an excellent example of the Carpenter Gothic style.

Manse: *Presbyterian Manse*

This house is associated with settlement and development of Lake City during the late 1800s mining era. It is a ~~some~~ somewhat altered representative of the Carpenter Gothic style as reflected in its steeply pitched roof, central gable, gable end ornamentation, and elaborate window molding. It is somewhat altered by an addition at the southeast corner; however, the addition is setback and features a similar roof form, clapboard siding, and window design.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity to significance:

The architectural integrity of this church building is intact, as evidenced by minimal alterations to its character-defining features.

*The addition to the church + manse only slightly diminish integrity. Metal roof for manse does not unaltered*

VII. National Register Eligibility Assessment

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:  Eligible  Not Eligible  Need Data

45. Is there National Register district potential?  Yes  No

Discuss \_\_\_\_\_

If there is National Register district potential, is this building  Contributing

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district is it?  Contributing

(Lake City National Historic District)

Noncontributing

Noncontributing

VIII. Recording Information

47. Photograph numbers: Roll 17, frames 18, 19, 21, 22; Roll 18, frames 5 - 8; Roll 20, frames 18A, 19A; Roll 31, frame 1A

Negatives filed at: Lake City Town Hall

48. Report title: 2003 Architectural Survey of Lake City, Colorado

49. Date(s): September 2002 - June 2003

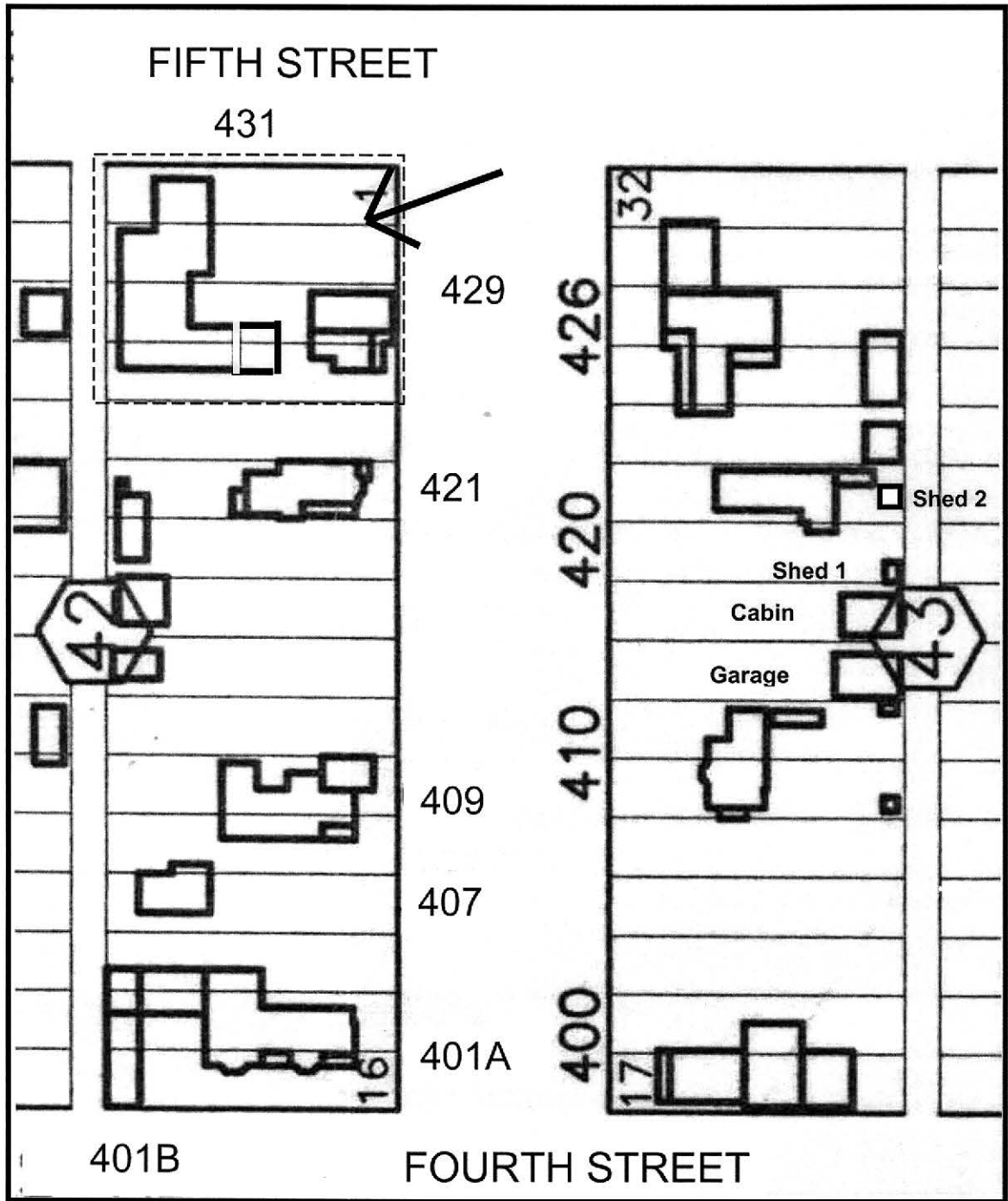
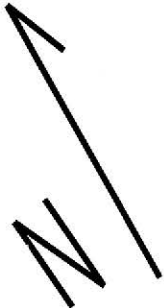
50. Recorders Cathleen M. Norman and Grant E. Houston

51. Organization: Town of Lake City

52. Address: 230 Bluff Street, Lake City CO 81235

53. Phone no. (970) 944-2333

Colorado Historical Society - Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
1300 Broadway, Denver CO 80203 (303) 866-3395

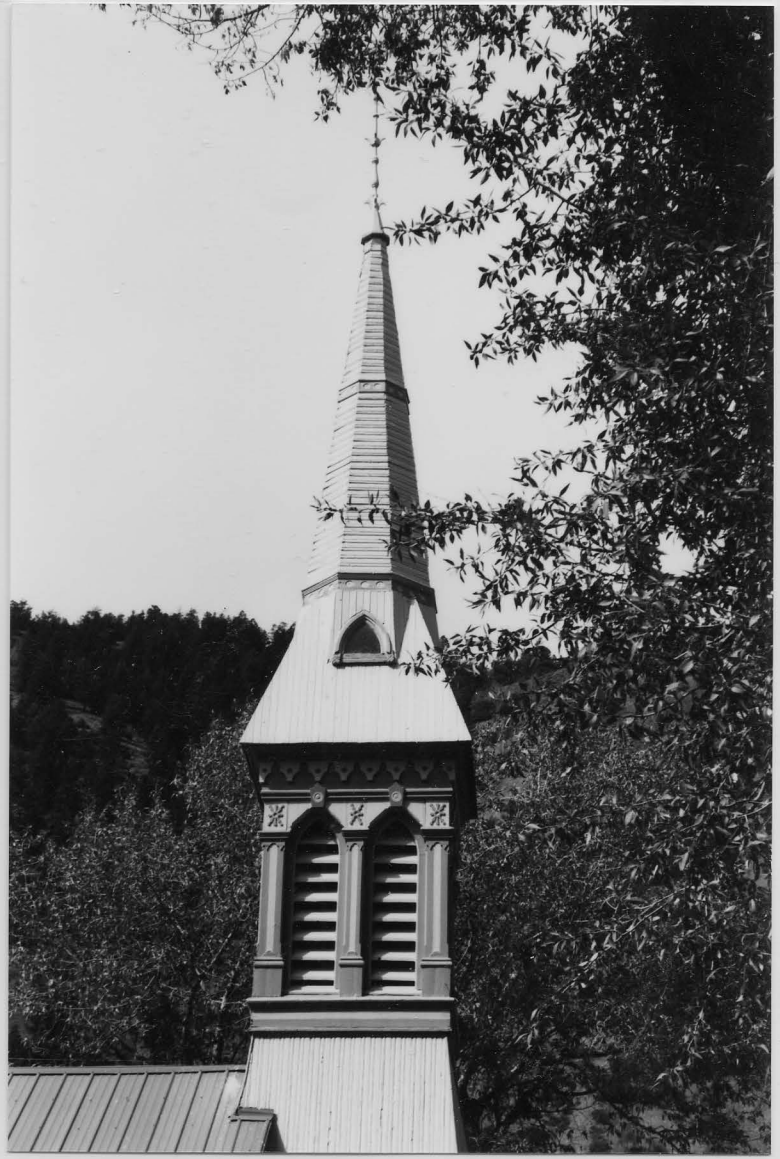


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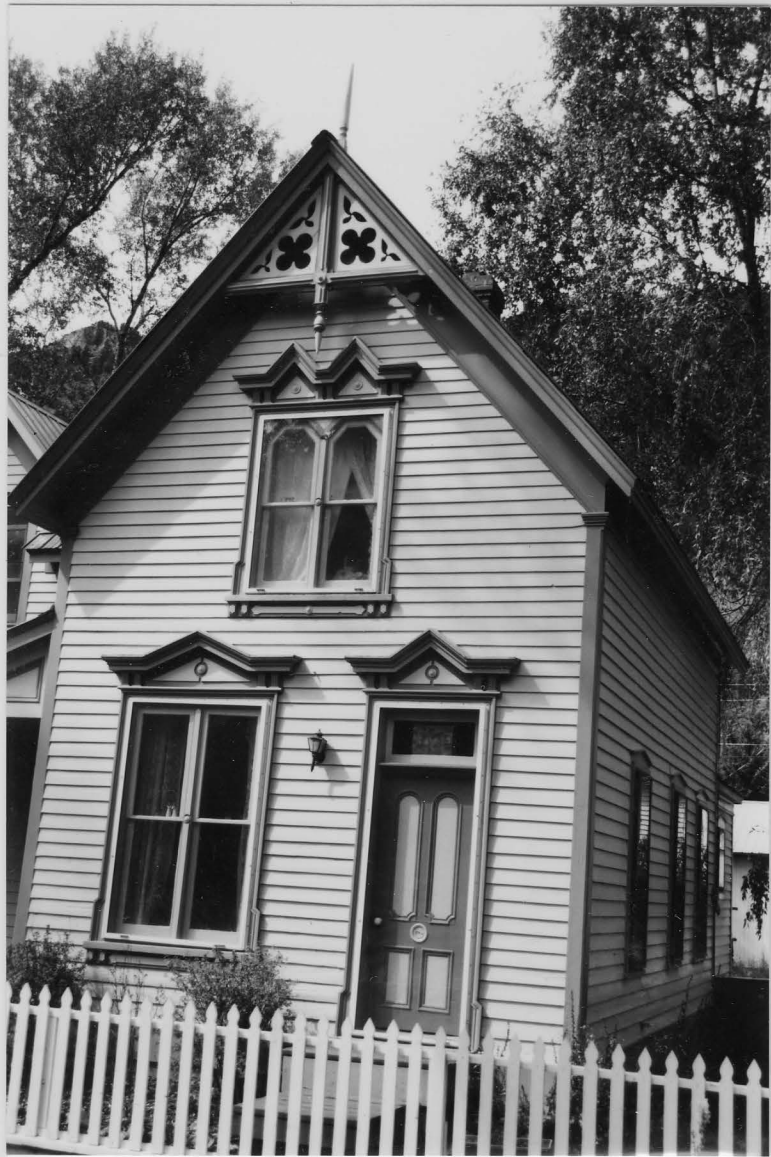
429, 431 Gunnison Avenue











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