

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 1

Date _____ Initials _____

- _____ Determined Eligible- NR
_____ Determined Not Eligible- NR
_____ Determined Eligible- SR
_____ Determined Not Eligible- SR
_____ Need Data
_____ Contributes to eligible NR District
_____ Noncontributing to eligible NR District



I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: 5LR.3513
2. Temporary resource number: City-28
3. County: Larimer
4. City: Fort Collins
5. Historic building name: First United Methodist Church
6. Current building name: First United Methodist Church
7. Building address: 1005 Stover Street
8. Owner name: First United Methodist Church
Owner organization:
Owner address: 1005 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Parcel number: 97134-08-932

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed
State Register eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed
Local landmark eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed

Fort Collins Post-World War II Survey

HISTORITECTURE

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 2

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **7N** Range: **69W**
W 1/2 NW 1/4 NW 1/4 SE 1/4 of section **13** Grid aligned on **northwest** corner of section.
10. UTM Reference Zone: **13**
 Easting: **494305** Northing: **4491379**
11. USGS quad name: **Fort Collins** Scale: **7.5**
 Year: **1984**
12. Lot(s): **N/A**
 Addition: **University Acres, 5th filing** Year of addition: **1961**
13. Boundary description and justification: **The boundary, as described above, contains but does not exceed the land historically associated with the property.**
- ☐ Metes and bounds exist

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building Plan (footprint, shape): **Irregular Plan**
 Other building plan descriptions:
15. Dimensions in feet: **Unknown**
16. Number of stories: **Two**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
 Other wall materials:
18. Roof configuration: **Other Roof**
 Other roof configuration: **Mix of flat, folded plate**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof**
 Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **Window/Stained Glass**
21. General architectural description:
 Located on an expansive corner lot at the intersection of E. Elizabeth and Stover streets, the entry door faces east but the full scope of this mid-1960s Modern Movements church is most visible from the north. The irregularly shaped building is brick. The primary recessed entry is located underneath a front gabled projection. Viewing the north elevation of the church, the following elements are visible from east to west: the octagonal chapel, the bell tower, the glass walkway on the main body of the building, the end of the administrative wing, and the soaring front gabled sanctuary with the folded plate roof details.
- The small octagonal chapel is faced in stucco and has a folded plate roof. It is covered in asphalt shingles with an ornate metal cap on top of this building. The distinctive roof forms triangular wall surfaces between the slightly overhanging eave lines and the foundation of the building. This stucco area features narrow wooden slats painted a tan color. Between the roof and the triangular segments of the façade there are stained glass windows in the shape of inverted "V"s. There is a secondary door to and from the chapel on the north side. It is a solid wooden painted door. A

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 3

triangular piece of wood in the same color appears where a transom normally would be located. This door is reached via two concrete steps and red brick knee walls define the stoop near this door.

West of the chapel there is a landscaped courtyard. The glass walkway, a low brick wall, and the administration wing create the boundaries of this area. There is an eighty foot tower of reinforced concrete faced in brick between the chapel and the low wall on the edge of the courtyard. There is a copper cross at the top of the tower. The low wall features the name of the church in white, stylized letters. The flat-roofed administrative building is rectangular and has a narrow wooden (or metal) cornice painted gold.

The sanctuary is located at the northwest corner of the north elevation. The façade of this portion of the church forms a large triangle, a motif representing the Holy Trinity which is repeated innumerable times on both the interior (ends of pews, windows, altar, pulpit, lectern, lighting fixtures, and ceiling beams) and exterior of this building. Tile (or perhaps asbestos) panels in a tan color delineate the triangular façade, flaring to a more narrow outline near the foundation. Tall narrow slats, similar to those on the chapel, run the full length of the sanctuary's exterior. This part of the church also features the same inverted "V" stained glass windows as the chapel. In addition, there is a large stained glass panel centered on the triangular façade, running from the gable peak to the foundation. The stained glass pattern is geometric, again featuring a series of triangular designs.

The west elevation of the church features the folded plate roof of the sanctuary, an open arcaded walkway, and the corner of the educational wing. This distinctive roof features forty triangular panels, each about five inches thick. The lower "folds" of the sanctuary roof rest on a red-brown brick wall. There are concrete gutters on the top of this wall to facilitate water shedding from the roof and away from the building. When fieldwork was being completed the sanctuary was receiving new shingles, and the copper flashing at the lower roof folds was visible. This side of the sanctuary features a surface treatment similar to that on the chapel. South of the sanctuary a number of simple square brick columns support a flat roof with a wooden (or metal) cornice painted light gold, forming an L-shaped arcade. Several metal screens, coated in a light yellow plastic covering, fill the area between the brick columns on the south of the arcade. These screens separate the walkway from a small grassy courtyard between the building and the arcade. There are two double doors which face west. The doors appear to be wooden and painted light gold; each one has four square fixed pane windows running vertically down the center of the door.

The south of the building is the educational wing. This two-story part of the church has a flat roof with a wide metal cornice painted light brown. The elevation is divided into a number of alternating bands of brick and window with (likely) vinyl panels. These windows-panel units appear on both the first and second story of the building. The windows have a large fixed pane on the top with operative casements below. Centered on the south side of the building there is an ornate entry portico for the education wing. It features a two-story, square glass vestibule with at least three glass doors. The portion of the entry closest to the adjacent parking lot is front gabled with four large brick columns as supports. The gable face features heavy, open truss work; these trusses are painted white. A signage panel, possibly illuminated, appears on the wide metal cornice beneath the open gable face. There is a long, flat-roofed open arcade at the southeast corner of the building. It covers a walkway which leads to a pair of wooden double doors similar to those on the west side of the building near the arcade and courtyard. The open side of this arcade is visible from the east elevation of the building.

Character defining features of this mid-1960s Modern Movement church include the impressive folded plate roofs on both the chapel and the sanctuary, the integration of decorative stained glass, the creative use of symbolic triangular design motifs, an open arcade with privacy screen, and International style education wing.

22. Architectural style: **Modern Movements**

Other architectural style:

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

This building is located on a very large rectangular corner lot at the intersection of E. Elizabeth and Stover streets. There is a grass lawn, several large evergreen trees, decorative grasses, and other landscaping. The sign for the church is located in the yard near the northeast corner of the property; it is a brown plinth on a triangular stepped platform. There are two parking lots, one on the west side of the building near the open arcade and a much larger lot on the south side of the building. There is a small fence enclosed playground near the southwest corner of the educational wing. There is another, larger fenced playground west of the large parking lot on the south side of the building. The property is sited

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 4

on a lot with an elevation of 4974 feet above mean sea level.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

Detached Two-Car Garage

This rectangular, front gabled building is faced in wide horizontal siding (or vinyl). It features a vinyl door painted tan. The trim is painted rusty-brown.

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: 1964 ☒ Actual ☐ Estimate
Source of Information: "Church, city history go hand in hand." *Coloradoan*. n.d.
26. Architect: William Robb
Source of Information: "Tenth Anniversary Oct 1974." (booklet)
27. Builder: Cook and Mills
Source of Information: "Tenth Anniversary Oct 1974." (booklet)
28. Original Owner: First United Methodist Church
Source of Information: "Church, city history go hand in hand." *Coloradoan*. n.d.

29. Construction history:

According to Larimer County assessor records, this building was constructed in 1964. An analysis of the style, building materials, and other historical records corroborate this date of construction. The initial construction work involved drilling and filling twenty-seven concrete caissons to support the weight of the tower and sanctuary. The design relied upon innovative engineering for the elaborate folded plate roof. The masonry-bearing walls for the administrative and educational wings had roofs of "'stressed skin' panels, a system which, like the folded plate roof, results in structural economy through the use of modern engineering methods and new high-strength resin glues." Materials used for the exterior of the building included brick, vinyl-faced cement asbestos board, aluminum, and copper. These items were "all chosen for their durability and maintenance-free applications." The paneling in the worship areas was African mahogany sliced flat to enhance the appearance of the grain. The organ was installed on June 14, 1987, when workers from Marcussenn and Company of Aabenraa, Denmark, arrived to build it on site. The sanctuary received new shingles in 2010. The entry portico to the education wing does not appear original; date of alteration unknown.

30. Location: Original Location Date of move(s):

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): Religion/Church
32. Intermediate uses(s): Religion/Church
33. Current uses(s): Religion/Church
34. Site type(s): Modern Movements church
35. Historical background:
The impressive building at 1005 Stover Street is home to the First United Methodist Church. Parishioners are proud to point out the first in their

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 5

name has real meaning, since they were the first established church in the town. The first Methodist service in Fort Collins took place in 1864, and Rev. G.W. Smith officiated at the first organized worship services in 1869; they were held downtown in the Grout Building at the corner of Linden and Jefferson streets. Many of the church's original trustees were also 'founding fathers' of the town. The First United Methodist Church has been located in three permanent buildings over its long history. The first church was located at Laporte Avenue and N. Mason Street in what is now extreme northern Fort Collins. By 1891 the congregation had moved about a mile south to a larger church downtown at 306 N. College Avenue. Enlargements to this building were completed in 1906, 1912, 1917, and 1950. But, eventually, it became clear First United Methodist needed a new church. In 1960 they purchased six acres of land at the corner of Elizabeth and Stover streets for their new building. The third and current home for the First United Methodist Church was designed by prominent Fort Collins architect William Robb and local general contractors Cook and Mills were responsible for the construction. Completed in 1964 at a cost of nearly \$1 million, this building was located approximately another a mile and a half further southeast from their downtown location. The migration pattern matched that of other older churches in Fort Collins; the moves of these houses of worship matched the population shift which occurred in postwar Fort Collins, with more and more new housing being built south and east of the once compact community.

36. Sources of information:

Larimer County tax assessor property records (online).

"Church, city history go hand in hand." *Coloradoan*. n.d.

"The Marcussenn Organ at First United Methodist Church 1987." (booklet)

Church Directory: First United Methodist Church – Elizabeth & Stover Streets – 1869-1969: 100th Anniversary.

"Tenth Anniversary October 1974."

"Program from Consecration." 11 October 1964.

"Functional design reflects change." *Coloradoan*. 24 May 1980. p. B1.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Designation authority:

Date of designation:

38. Applicable National Register criteria:

- ☐ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns 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 that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
- ☐ Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see manual).
- ☐ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

Applicable Colorado State Register criteria:

- ☐ A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to history.
- ☐ B. Connected with persons significant in history.
- ☒ C. Has distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction or artisan.
- ☐ D. Is of geographic importance.
- ☐ E. Contains the possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.
- ☐ Does not meet any of the above Colorado State Register criteria.

Applicable City of Fort Collins landmark criteria:

- ☐ 1. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history; or

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 6

- ☐ 2. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in history; or
- ☒ 3. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- ☐ 4. The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

39. Areas of significance: **Architecture**

40. Period(s) of Significance: **1964**

41. Level of Significance: ☐ National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐ Not Applicable

42. Statement of Significance:

The Methodists were the first denomination to establish a church in Fort Collins and the history of this institution is closely related to the town's development, including its decision to relocate their various churches further and further away from the downtown at the same time when population was shifting south and east.

This building is important under Criterion C: Architecture as an excellent example of Modern Movements religious architecture. Locally prominent architect William Robb, responsible for the 1957 Municipal Building plus a number of other churches and schools, created a facility with character-defining features such as impressive folded plate roofs on both the chapel and the sanctuary, the integration of decorative stained glass, the creative use of symbolic triangular design motifs, an open arcade with privacy screen, and International style education wing. In a 1980 article in the Coloradoan, fellow architect and First United Methodist parishioner William Brenner called the design principle behind this building "contemporary" and claimed this commission marked a change in church design. He believed this building was more about inviting the outside in and correlated this feeling to a more open attitude in 1960s religion and a general breaking away from tradition. He cited the stained glass windows with religious colors rather than religious scenes as one way this church differed from earlier religious architecture. In the same newspaper article, First United Methodist's Rev. Paulson described the church as "a massive, beautiful building... a masterpiece really." The level of significance qualifies this property for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Criterion C: Architecture), the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, and as a Fort Collins Landmark. The period of significance is 1964.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

Constructed in 1964, this church exhibits a high level of physical integrity relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and the Colorado Historical Society: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. The new entry portico, on the rear of the building, has a small effect on the design of the church. The new shingles on the sanctuary appear to have been replaced in kind. Therefore, this building retains sufficient physical integrity to convey its architectural significance for listing.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Fort Collins Post-World War II Survey

HISTORITECTURE

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 7

44. National Register eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed
State Register eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed
Local landmark eligibility field assessment: ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Not eligible ☐ Needs data ☐ Previously listed

45. Is there National Register district potential: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Needs Data

Discuss: **This inventory was conducted as an intensive-level selective survey and, therefore, lacks the continuity of resource data necessary to recommend the creation of an historic district. More survey is needed to determine if the University Acres subdivision qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or as a Fort Collins historic district. If listed under Criterion C: Architecture, this resource would be considered contributing.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building contributing: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

46. If the building is in existing National Register district, is it contributing: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Digital photograph file name(s): **stoverst1005 - 1.tif through stoverst1005 - 8.tif**
Digital photographs filed at: **Historic Preservation Program, City of Fort Collins**
281 N. College Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80522
48. Report title: **Fort Collins Post-War Survey**
49. Date(s): **12/14/2010**
50. Recorder(s): **Mary Therese Anstey**
51. Organization: **Historitecture, LLC**
52. Address: **PO Box 181095**
Denver, CO 80212-8822
53. Phone number(s): **(303) 390-1638**

Architectural Inventory Form

SKETCH MAP



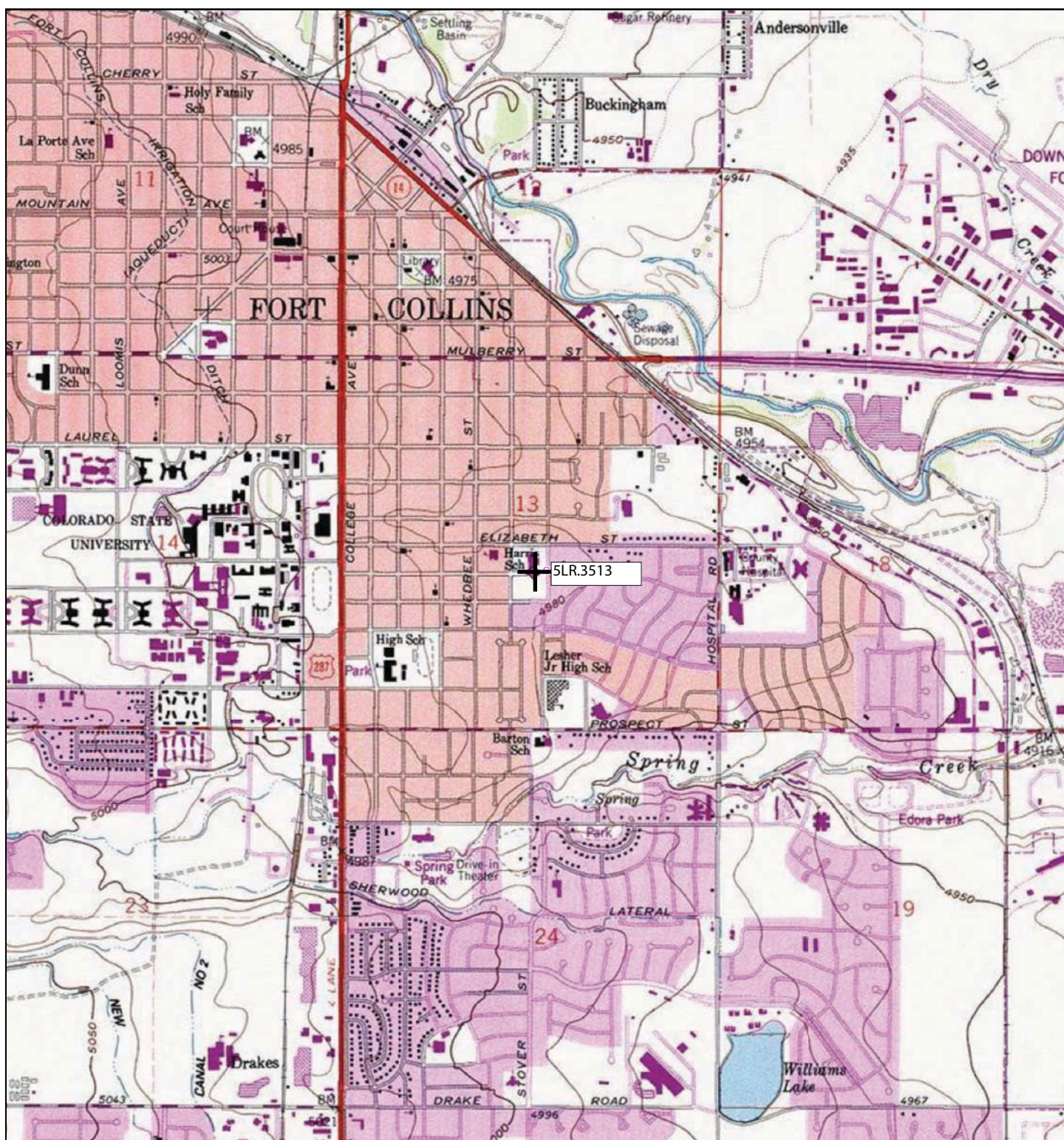
Fort Collins Post-World War II Survey

HISTORITECTURE

Architectural Inventory Form

Page 9

LOCATION MAP



Source: U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' Fort Collins - 1984

Fort Collins Post-World War II Survey

HISTORITECTURE