

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:
2. Temporary resource number:
3. County: **Weld**
4. City: **Windsor**
5. Historic building name: **Bethel Lutheran Church**
6. Current building name: **Bethel Lutheran Church**
7. Building address: **328 Walnut Street**
8. Owner name: **Bethel American Lutheran Church**
- Owner organization:
- Owner address: **328 Walnut St.  
Windsor, CO 80550**

Parcel number: **080721242001**

- |   |   |                                       |                                     |  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 44. National Register eligibility field assessment: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs data | <input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed |
| State Register eligibility field assessment:        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs data | <input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed |
| Local landmark eligibility field assessment:        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individually eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Not eligible | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs data | <input type="checkbox"/> Previously listed |

**II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

9. P.M.: **6th** Township: **6N** Range: **67W**  
SW 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 NW 1/4 of section 21
10. UTM Reference Zone: **13**  
Easting: **508316** Northing: **4480909**
11. USGS quad name: **Windsor** Scale: **7.5**  
Year: **1969**
12. Lot(s): **Lot 1, 6th FG**  
Addition: **Windsor Original Town** Year of addition: **1882**
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: **10,327 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **One**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Stone/Sandstone**  
**Brick**  
Other wall materials:
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof/Cross Gabled Roof**  
Other roof configuration:
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof/Composition Roof**  
Other roof materials:
20. Special features: **Window/Stained Glass**  
**Tower**
21. General architectural description:  
Facing the South, this Modern Movements church lies on a concrete foundation. The attached addition that was built in 1980 gives the building an irregular shape. It is nearly a U-shaped building, but the angle of the addition makes it irregular. The primary materials used for the exterior are Colorado red sandstone with white limestone trim. The building has a Gothic design with a tower and bell. The top of the tower is lined with white limestone and there is a single metal cross. The addition located on the eastern side of the building has the same red sandstone on the front exterior of the building. However, the remainder of the building uses red brick, deviating away from the rest of the design. The roof is cross gabled in design and covered in asphalt shingles. The construction of the additional building allows for the exterior red sandstone to be seen from the inside connecting hall where the addition starts. There are two main entrances to the building. The west entrance has two dark stained wooden doors with engraved designs that leads into the nave. The eastern entrance has two glass doors that connect to multiple administration offices and a hall connecting to the nave. There are basic iron railings adjacent to the doors on both entrances. The central interior of the original

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church building is lined with stained glass windows displaying themes of Christ. Payne Stained Glass Associates out of New Jersey manufactured the stained glass windows. The interior of the nave has sandstone below and mahogany panels above. Large wooden beams are supporting the roof of the nave. The chancel interior displays a giant cross made from white limestone with a red sandstone backdrop laid horizontally. Directly below the limestone cross is greenish/greyish sandstone that has been laid diagonally to represent the hills of Golgotha. The church altar is made from white limestone. The south entry in the central building leads into the narthex. There is a small basement that houses the original furnace and doubles as a storage room. The building addition of 1980 is called the parish hall. This building has a garden level basement with twelve classrooms. The main level sits above ground level and has multiple meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a library. Where this building transitions to ground level are three administrative offices, as well as the hall connecting to the nave. This is a glassed-in area, which brings in much light. The current members of the church regularly decorate the glass in different artistic ways.

22. Architectural style: **Modern Movements**

Other architectural style:

Building type:

23. Landscape or special setting features:

This building is located on a large rectangular lot on the NE corner of 4th St and Walnut St. There is a grass lawn surrounding the west, south, and east sides of the building. The sign for the church is made from red sandstone that matches the building and is located in the grass between the two main entrances. On the larger grass lawn on the eastern side of the building lays a notable monument compiled of large stones and three illuminated crosses. There is also a medium-sized outdoor courtyard in the center of the property that is enclosed by three sides of the building, a stone gate, and multiple trees. Within the courtyard lies a relic, the old bell from the St. Johns church. The property is sited on a lot with an elevation of 4798 feet above mean sea level.

24. Associated building, features or objects:

There are no other buildings associated with this property.

## IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction: **1955**  Actual  Estimate

Source of Information: **Weld County Office of the Assessor (online)**

"Bethel's 50th Year" (Booklet)

26. Architect: **Raymond Irwind**

Source of Information: **"Bethel's 50th Year" (Booklet)**

27. Builder: **Chuck Tribble**

Source of Information: **"Bethel's 50th Year" (Booklet)**

28. Original Owner: **Bethel Lutheran Church**

Source of Information: **"Bethel's 50th Year" (Booklet)**

29. Construction history:

In April of 1951, a new building committee was formed within the Bethel Lutheran Church after talk and support for a new building circulated within the church. However, due to the recession, construction did not begin until November of 1955. Construction was completed two years later, November of 1957, and the Bethel Lutheran Church transitioned into the new building. The original stonemason of the building project was Art Soderberg. The majority of the construction labor came from the church's parishioners as they volunteered many hours over the two year project. According to the building blue prints, wooden shakes were originally used on the roof. The members of the church decided to add a new addition to the eastern side of the building in 1980, constructing a 9880 square feet parish hall. The new addition has a finished garden level basement. This addition led to the creation of an outdoor landscaped courtyard in the center of the property. The architect of this new parish hall was Haller and Larson from Denver.

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

## V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): Religion/Church

32. Intermediate uses(s): Religion/Church  
Health Care/Medical Business/Medical Office

33. Current uses(s): Religion/Church

34. Site type(s): Church

35. Historical background:

The Bethel Lutheran Church at 328 Walnut Street was built in 1955, but this religious group's history dates much further back. Changing conditions in the late 1800s caused many Germans from Russia to emigrate to United States, Canada, and South America. Many of these Germans from Russia settled in the Windsor area, taking work in the sugar beet fields, resulting in the creation of the St. John's Lutheran Church, Zion Evangelical Church, and the Congregational Church in the early 1900s. However, by the 1940s the younger generations began to push for the use of the English language in church, while the older members preferred the German language. As a result of this splintering across the three churches, the younger generations came together to organize a new church in 1945, the Bethel Lutheran Church.

From 1945 to 1948, the newly organized Bethel Lutheran Church leased the east room of the Windsor community library. In 1948, the congregation purchased the brick library building from the school board, making many improvements, as well as acquiring the furnishings from the disbanded St. Johns Church. Many of these furnishings, such as the reed organ and church bell, are still on display at the Bethel Lutheran Church. This is because much of the St. John's Church was absorbed into Bethel. This library building was used for worship until 1957 when the new church was erected. The community library originally stood where the church's new addition stands today. It was demolished in 1979 to make room for the church's add-on.

In 1987, Lutheran Social Services of Northern Colorado established a therapy office with two working psychologist in the Bethel Lutheran Church. These services were open to the town of Windsor so residents would no longer have to commute to other cities for mental health services.

The Bethel Lutheran Church was the first church in Windsor to introduce Easter Sunrise Service.

36. Sources of information:

"Bethel's 50th Year" (Booklet)

"Bethel Lutheran to Dedicate Hall," *Greeley Tribune*, Oct. 17, 1980.

"Bethel Turns 50 Sunday," *Windsor Beacon*, July 13, 1995.

Irwind, Raymond. Blue print for Bethel Lutheran Church, 1955.

"Bethel to Dedicate New Church Building in Ceremonies Sunday," *Windsor Beacon*, July 18, 1957.

*Windsor Beacon*, April 18, 1996.

"25th anniversary 1945-1970" (Booklet)

Weld County Office of Tax Assessor. Property information card. [internet]

## VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:  Yes  No

Designation authority:

Date of designation:

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## 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 Town of Windsor landmark criteria:

- 1. Architectural: a) Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period.
- 1. Architectural: b) Example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, statewide, regionally or locally.
- 1. Architectural: c) Demonstrates superior craftsmanship or high artistic value.
- 1. Architectural: d) Represents an innovation in construction, materials or design.
- 1. Architectural: e) Style is particularly associated with the Windsor/Northern Colorado area.
- 1. Architectural: f) Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of history.
- 1. Architectural: g) Pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one (1) of the above criteria.
- 1. Architectural: h) Significant historic remodel.
- 2. Social: a) Site of historic event that had an effect upon society.
- 2. Social: b) Exemplifies cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community
- 2. Social: c) An association with a notable person or the work of a notable person.
- 3. Geographic/Environmental: a) Enhances the sense of identity of the community.
- 3. Geographic/Environmental: b) An established and familiar natural setting or visual feature of the community.
- Physical Integrity 1. Shows character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, region, state or nation.
- Physical Integrity 2. Retains original design features, materials and/or character.
- Physical Integrity 3. Original location or same historic context after having been moved.
- Physical Integrity 4. Has been accurately reconstructed or restored based on documentation.
- Does not meet any of the above Town of Windsor landmark criteria.

39. Areas of significance: **Religion**  
**Architecture**  
**Ethnic Heritage**

40. Period(s) of Significance: **1955, 1955-1966**

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41. Level of Significance:  National  State  Local  Not Applicable

42. Statement of Significance:

This building represents a good example of a mid-1950's Modern Movements church. Defining features are the sandstone siding, tower, and stained glass windows. The property is significant because of its representation of religious history, as it was an amalgamation of three former Protestant churches. The building is also important because its ethnic heritage has a long association with Germans from Russia. Ordinarily properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, this property meets the requirements set forth under Criteria Consideration A because it is a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural distinction and historical importance

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

Completed in 1957, with a major addition completed in 1980, this church exhibits a moderate 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. Blueprints from the original building indicate wood shake shingles were used in the initial roof construction, but have since been converted to an asphalt roof (date unknown). The architects from the 1980 addition used Colorado red sandstone on the front of the building to match the exterior of the original church building. The remaining three walls to the addition were constructed using red bricks, which impacts the setting, design, and feeling integrity aspects. However, this resource retains sufficient physical integrity to convey its historical and architectural significance.

## VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

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 a selective intensive-level survey and therefore lacks the continuity of resource data necessary to recommend the creation of a historic district. However, while not individually eligible, this property has the potential to contribute to a historic district and should be considered as part of any future research on district potential in this area.

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):

Digital photographs filed at: **Town of Windsor  
301 Walnut Street  
Windsor, CO 80550**

48. Report title: **Bethel Lutheran Church: A Brief History**

49. Date(s): **11/27/2016**

50. Recorder(s): **Dylan Perry**

51. Organization: **Department of History, Colorado State University**

52. Address: **Clark Building, B 356  
Campus Delivery 1776  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1776**

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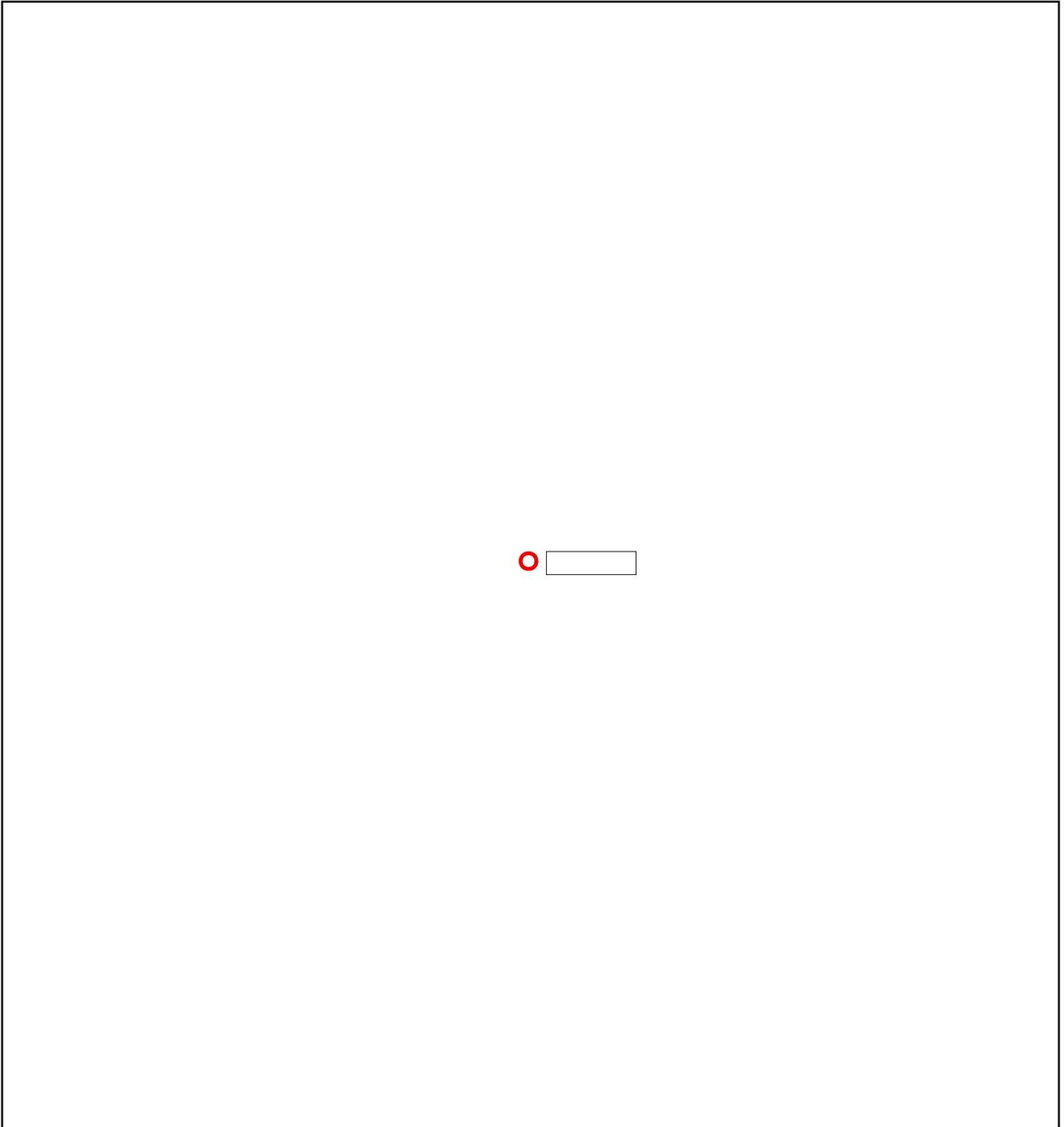
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## SKETCH MAP

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## LOCATION MAP



Source: U.S. Geological Survey 7.5' Windsor - 1969