

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

Official eligibility determination
(OAHP use only)

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: **5WL.7871** Parcel number(s):
2. Temporary resource no.: **N/A** **096108225018**
3. County: **Weld**
4. City: **Greeley**
5. Historic building name: **First Unitarian Church, Pillar of Fire Church**
6. Current building name: **Pillar of Fire Church Building**
7. Building address: **1430 8th Avenue**
8. Owner name and address:



National Register eligibility assessment: **Not Individually Eligible**
State Register eligibility assessment: **Eligible**
Greeley Historic Register eligibility assessment: **Eligible**

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **5N** Range **65W**
SE ¼ of NW ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of section 8
10. UTM reference (Datum: NAD83)
Zone **13: 526259 mE 4473259 mN**
11. USGS quad name: **Greeley, Colorado**
Year: **1950; Photorevised 1980** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Lot(s): **14** Block: **152**
Addition: **Boomer's** Year of Addition: **1889**
13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This legally defined parcel encompasses, but does not exceed, the land historically associated with this property.**

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape): **Irregular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **~50' N-S by ~70' E-W overall dimensions**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Brick**
18. Roof configuration: **Gabled Roof / Cross Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material: **Asphalt Roof / Composition Roof**
20. Special features: **Chimneys, Porch, Stained Glass, Glass Block**
21. General architectural description:
This former church building consists of: a main 1½-story front gabled section, which measures approximately 30' N-S by 70' E-W; an intersecting gabled extension near the center of the south (side) elevation; a shed-roofed extension which forms the east end of the south elevation; an enclosed hipped-roof foyer near the east end of the north (side) elevation. The building is supported by a concrete foundation, with the foundation walls exposed to approximately 3½' above grade. There is a basement level, and the foundation wall is penetrated by multiple 8/8 sash windows, 6-light hopper windows, and 3-light hopper windows. The basement level windows all have painted white wood frames and surrounds, and are located within concrete window wells. The building's walls are made of red brick laid in running bond. Brown color stucco appears in the upper gable ends on the west and south elevations. The roof is moderately-pitched, and is covered with black asphalt composition shingles. The eaves are painted white with decorative modillions. A red brick fireplace chimney is located on the south elevation, while another short chimney stack is located on the north-facing roof slope. Twin entry porches are respectively located at either end of the symmetrical façade. These two porches are both approached by seven concrete steps with flanking knee walls, and are located within recessed rounded brick archways. Painted or stained brown wood-paneled doors enter the building from each of the two porches. A handicapped-accessible lift is located adjacent to the south porch. Eight concrete steps on

the north side of the building lead up to a stained brown wood-paneled door with six small upper sash lights and a brown brick lintel. This door enters into the enclosed hipped-roof foyer near the east end of the north elevation. A painted white wood-paneled door enters into a low enclosed gabled section near the west end of the south elevation. Seven concrete steps with flanking knee walls lead to a painted white wood-paneled door, with six upper sash lights, located at the east end of the south elevation. A painted white wood-paneled door, with three vertically-oriented upper sash lights, enters the building at the north end of the east elevation. A metal-paneled door, with a fanlight, and a brown brick lintel, and covered by a white storm door, enters the south end of the east elevation from a non-historic uncovered wood deck. A tripartite Palladian window, with brown brick surrounds and glass block lights, is centered in the façade wall, between the twin porches. Oculus windows appear in the east-facing and west-facing upper gable ends. Windows elsewhere are primarily single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames and brown brick rowlock sills. The windows toward the front of the building also feature rounded brown brick arches, while those to the rear have flat brown brick lintels.

22. Architectural style/building type: **Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals**

23. Landscaping or special setting features:

This property is located at the northeast corner of 8th Avenue and 14th Street. The north – south trending alley between 7th and 8th Avenues forms the property's east (rear) boundary. Attractively landscaped grounds flank the west, south, and north sides of the building, while an asphalt paved parking lot is adjacent to the north. Concrete sidewalks parallel 8th Avenue in front of the building to the west, and beside the building along 15th Street to the south. A non-historic six-bay garage is located at the rear east end of the property.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects: **A modern six-car garage is located at the rear of the property. This building features a poured concrete foundation and floor, white metal exterior walls, and a moderately-pitched side gabled roof. The roof is covered with brown asphalt composition shingles. Six metal rollaway garage doors are located on the south elevation.**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 25. Date of Construction: Estimate: | Actual: 1922 |
| Source of information: | "Sketch of a Western Church." <i>The Christian Register</i>, May 18, 1922, p. 479; Greeley city directories; Sanborn Insurance maps. |
| 26. Architect: | Unknown |
| Source of information: | N/A |
| 27. Builder/Contractor: | Unknown |
| Source of information: | N/A |

28. Original owner: **First Unitarian Church**
Source of information: **"Sketch of a Western Church." *The Christian Register*, May 18, 1922, p. 479**

29. Construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):
This building at the northeast corner of 8th Avenue and 15th Street was erected as the First Unitarian Church in 1922. A dedication ceremony celebrating the new church's construction was held on Sunday April 2, 1922. There are no additions to the original building. A notable alteration is that the tripartite Palladian window on the façade has been infilled with glass block. A building permit, or other sources, indicating when the glass block was installed, were not located. City of Greeley building permit files indicate the six-stall garage at the rear of the property was constructed in the mid-1990s.

30. Original Location: **Yes** Date of move(s): **N/A**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Religion / Church**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Religion / Church**
33. Current use(s): **Domestic / Multiple Dwelling**

35. Historical background:

Greeley's 8th Avenue corridor developed originally as a residential neighborhood between the 1880s and circa 1910. Located south of the downtown business district, 8th Avenue between 10th and 16th Streets, saw the construction of numerous residences and a small number of churches during those three decades. The 8th Avenue corridor then underwent a dramatic transformation during the 1910s and 1920s, as dozens of houses were razed to pave the way for the construction of new automobile-related businesses. By 1927, the corridor had become known as "Motor Row," lined with all manner of auto dealerships, repair shops, parts stores, and gas stations. Beginning in the late-1940s, the corridor began to diversify. Automobile-related businesses remained dominant, but were increasingly joined by a variety of other commercial enterprises, including regional and national chain retailers.

Erected as the First Unitarian Church in 1922, this was one of the last two church buildings constructed along the 8th Avenue corridor. Interestingly, it was built at a time when the former residential neighborhood's conversion to "Motor Row" was already well under way. Other churches along 8th Avenue included, the First Presbyterian, First Christian, Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel, and Swedish Baptist Churches, all of which were built prior to 1918. These were joined by the First Unitarian Church at this location in 1922, and the First Church of Christ Scientist, also erected in the early 1920s, at the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 14th Street.

Built prior to 1901, the original First Presbyterian Church was located at the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 10th Street. Later, between 1918 and 1927, the Presbyterians moved into a new church building at the northwest corner of 9th Avenue and 14th Street. The First Christian Church was located at the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 13th Street; the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Church was located at the southeast corner of 8th Avenue and 13th Street; the Swedish Baptist Church was located at the southeast corner of 8th Avenue and 16th Street.

Other early churches in and around downtown Greeley included: the First Congregational Church; the First Evangelical Church; the Baptist Church; the Holiness Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene; St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church; the German – Russian Church (later St. Paul's Congregational Church); the Swedish Mission Church; the Trinity Episcopal Church; and the United Presbyterian Church.

The First Unitarian Church in Greeley traces its roots to the mid-1880s when it was founded by progressive members of the Union Colony. The First Unitarian Society of Greeley was formally incorporated in 1886 by H. C. Watson, Burton D. Sanburn, Mrs. L. W. Bassett, and Mrs. George Law. As related by an article titled "Sketch of a Western Church" published in *The Christian Register* on May 18, 1922, the society's purpose was to hold "liberal discussions pertaining to philosophic, ethical, and religious problems." The Society's membership reportedly consisted of three demographic groups: "1) those who in their Eastern homes had been affiliated with Unitarian churches; 2) some who in their youth had been brought up in other churches, but in after years had serious doubts as to their dogmas; 3) those who were opposed to church connections, but were interested in the study of deep problems." In time, the First Unitarian Society became known as the First Unitarian Church, "...formed chiefly by those desiring a church free from traditional dogmas."

This building at the corner of 8th Avenue and 15th Street was the third location where members of the First Unitarian Society or Church held services. The congregation originally met at the northeast corner of 9th Street and 9th Avenue, across from Lincoln Park. In 1910, the First Unitarians moved one block west, into a building at the southeast corner of 9th Street and 9th Avenue. The congregation then met at that location until April of 1922 when they moved into this newly-constructed church building.

The First Unitarian Church existed at this location only until the end of the 1920s. The congregation then apparently disbanded. The denomination later reorganized as the Unitarian Universalist Church in the early 1960s. This building, meanwhile, became the Pillar of Fire Church between 1930 and the late 1970s. The building then sat vacant during much of the 1980s, before becoming the New Life Christian Church in the early 1990s. The building was then converted into office space in the late 1990s. More recently, circa 2010, the building was converted into apartments.

36. Sources of information:

City of Greeley building permit files.

The Greeley City and Rural Route Directory. (Generally published annually by *the Greeley Tribune-Republican* Publishing Company.)

“Mountain Desert District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.” <http://mdduua.org/about-us/mdd-history>

Sanborn Insurance Company maps for Greeley, Colorado dated June 1886, December 1887, January 1891, October 1895, January 1901, January 1906, October 1909, January 1918, April 1927, September 1946.

“Sketch of a Western Church.” *The Christian Register*.” May 18, 1922, p-. 479.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=wdAfQAAMAAJ&pg=PA479&lpg=PA479&dq=Unitarian+Church+Greeley+8th+Avenue&source=bl&ots=K8OX0UvAcB&sig=ukcfGZ9AOxpDyUd2-yAUVFIBMVw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwIT6vyCrtdLAhUS2GMKHV0kA0U4ChDoAQq0MAQ#v=onepage&q=Unitarian%20Church%20Greeley%208th%20Avenue&f=false>

Weld County Assessor Property Information Map. <http://www.co.weld.co.us/maps/propertyinformation>

Weld County Assessor Property reports. <https://propertyreport.co.weld.co.us>

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation: **No** Date of designation: **N/A**

Designating authority: **N/A**

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 possess 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 (see Manual)

✓ Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria

38A. Standards for Listing in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties: Criteria for consideration of properties for nomination and inclusion in the Colorado State Register includes the following:

✓ A. The association of the property with events that have made a significant contribution to history;

B. The connection of the property with persons significant in history;

✓ C. The apparent distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or artisan;

D. The geographic importance of the property;

E. The possibility of important discoveries related to prehistory or history.

Does not meet any of the above State Register criteria

38B. Standards for Listing in the Greeley Historic Register: A property shall be eligible for designation for historic preservation and eligible for economic incentives if it meets at least one (1) criterion in two (2) or more of the following categories:

- ✓ 1 (a) Historical Significance: Has character, interest and integrity and reflects the heritage and cultural development of the City, State or Nation;
- 1 (b) Historical Significance: Is associated with an important historical event;
- ✓ 1 (c) Historical Significance: Is associated with an important individual or group who contributed in a significant way to the political, social and/or cultural life of the community.
- ✓ 2 (a) Architectural Significance: Characterizes an architectural style associated with a particular era and/or ethnic group;
- 2 (b) Architectural Significance: Is identified with a particular architect, master builder or craftsman;
- 2 (c) Architectural Significance: Is architecturally unique or innovative;
- 2 (d) Architectural Significance: Has a strong or unique relationship to other areas potentially eligible for preservation because of architectural significance;
- 2 (e) Architectural Significance: Has visual symbolic meaning or appeal for the community.
- 3 (a) Geographic Significance: Has proximity to a square, park or unique area deserving of preservation;
- 3 (b) Geographic Significance: Is a visual feature identifying an area or neighborhood or consists of utilitarian and commercial structures historically and geographically associated with an area.

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture, Social History**

40. Period of significance: **1922 (architectural); 1922 – 1930 (historical)**

41. Level of significance: **Local**

42. Statement of significance:

The First Unitarian Church building is historically significant, under the theme of Social History, for its local association with the Unitarianism social movement. The First Unitarian Society of Greeley was founded in 1886, primarily by members of the Union Colony, Later becoming the First Unitarian Church, its members carried forward into the twentieth century, the social constructs of Unitarianism, and of the original Union Colony. The church building accrues additional significance as the only remaining church building along the 8th Avenue corridor. The building is also architecturally significant as a notable Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals style building, and for its high quality brick construction. Notable architectural details include a tripartite Palladian window on the façade, oculus windows in the upper gable ends, twin entry porches, and rounded brown brick door and window arches. The building's significance is likely not to the extent that it would qualify for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, it may be considered individually eligible for inclusion in the State Register of Historic Properties, and in the Greeley Historic Register.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building displays an overall high level of physical integrity, relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and History Colorado - setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. There are no additions to the original 1922 construction. The most notable alteration appears to be that the tripartite Palladian window on the façade was infilled with glass block at an unknown date. A sense of time and place remains intact, relative to how the building appeared when it was the First Unitarian Church in the 1920s.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility assessment: **Not Individually Eligible**

State Register eligibility assessment: **Eligible**

Local Landmark eligibility assessment: **Eligible**

45. Is there National Register district potential? **No**

Discuss: **Buildings along 8th Avenue, between 10th Street and 16th Street, do not collectively possess the significance or the integrity to comprise a National Register eligible district.**

If there is N.R. district potential, is this building contributing or noncontributing? **N/A**

46. If the building is in an existing N.R. district, is it contributing or noncontributing? **N/A**

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers: **CD #2; Images 28-32**

CD filed at: **City of Greeley Historic Preservation Office**

1100 10th Street, No. 201

Greeley, CO 80631

48. Report title: **Greeley 8th Avenue Comprehensive Historic Resource Survey**

49. Date(s): **October 1, 2015**

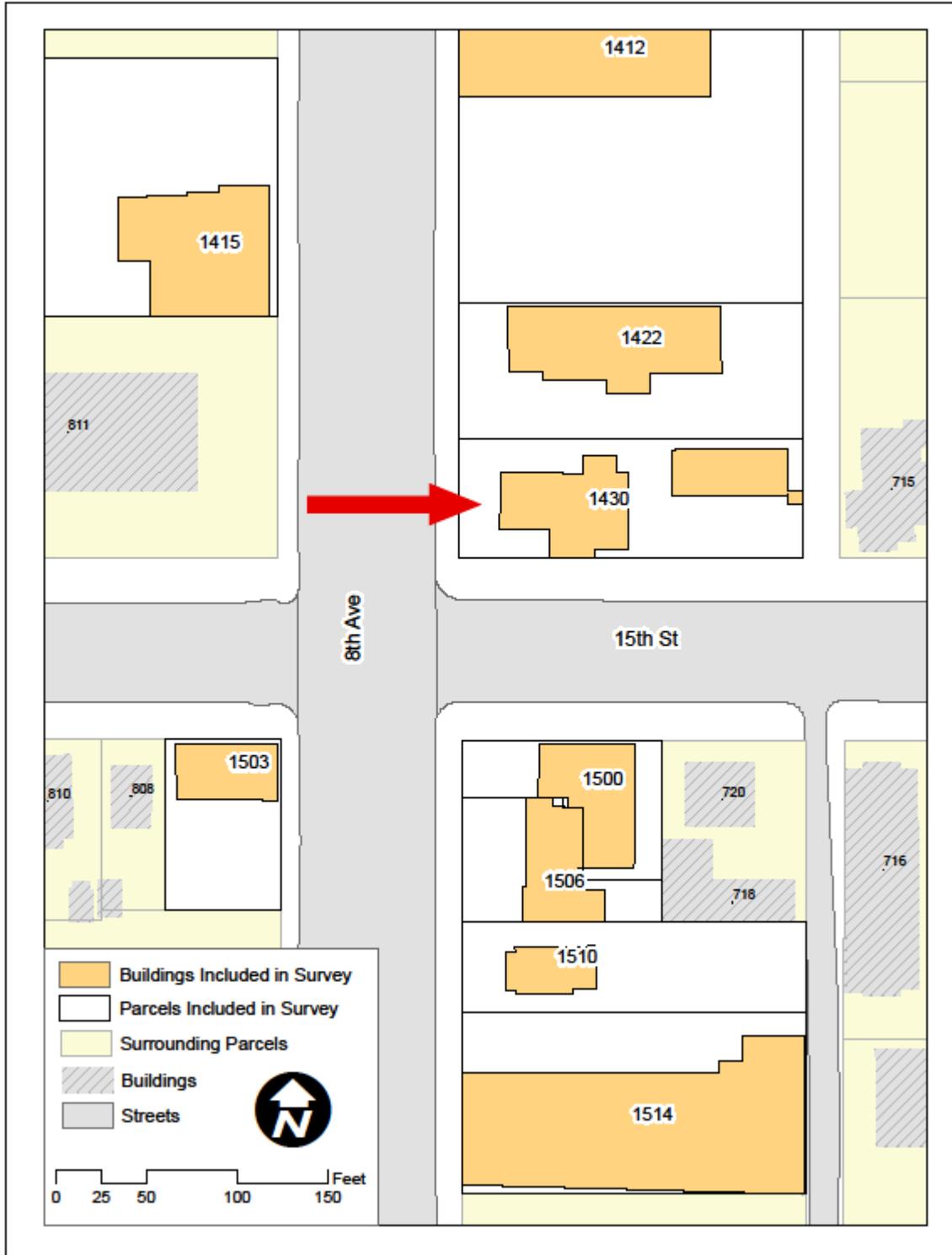
50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

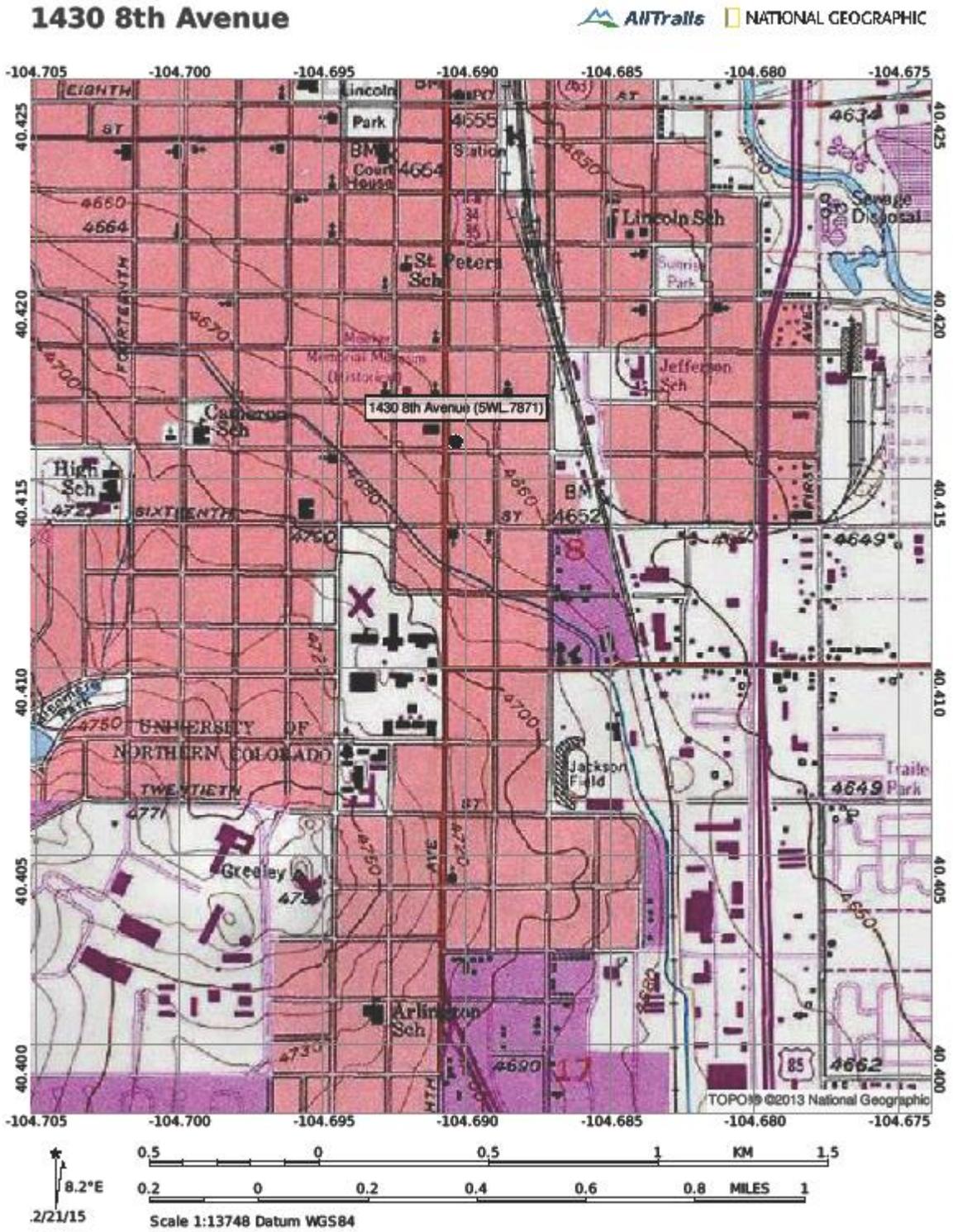
52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525**

53. Phone number(s): **(970) 493-5270**

Sketch Map



Location Map





CD 2, Image 30, View to west of rear (east)



CD 2, Image 31, View to NE of façade (west) and front portion of the south side



CD 2, Image 32, View to east of façade (west)



CD 3, Image 1, View to NW of Garage



CD 3, Image 2, View to SW