

Erie Methodist Church  
640 Holbrook  
Erie, CO 80516

June 7, 2016

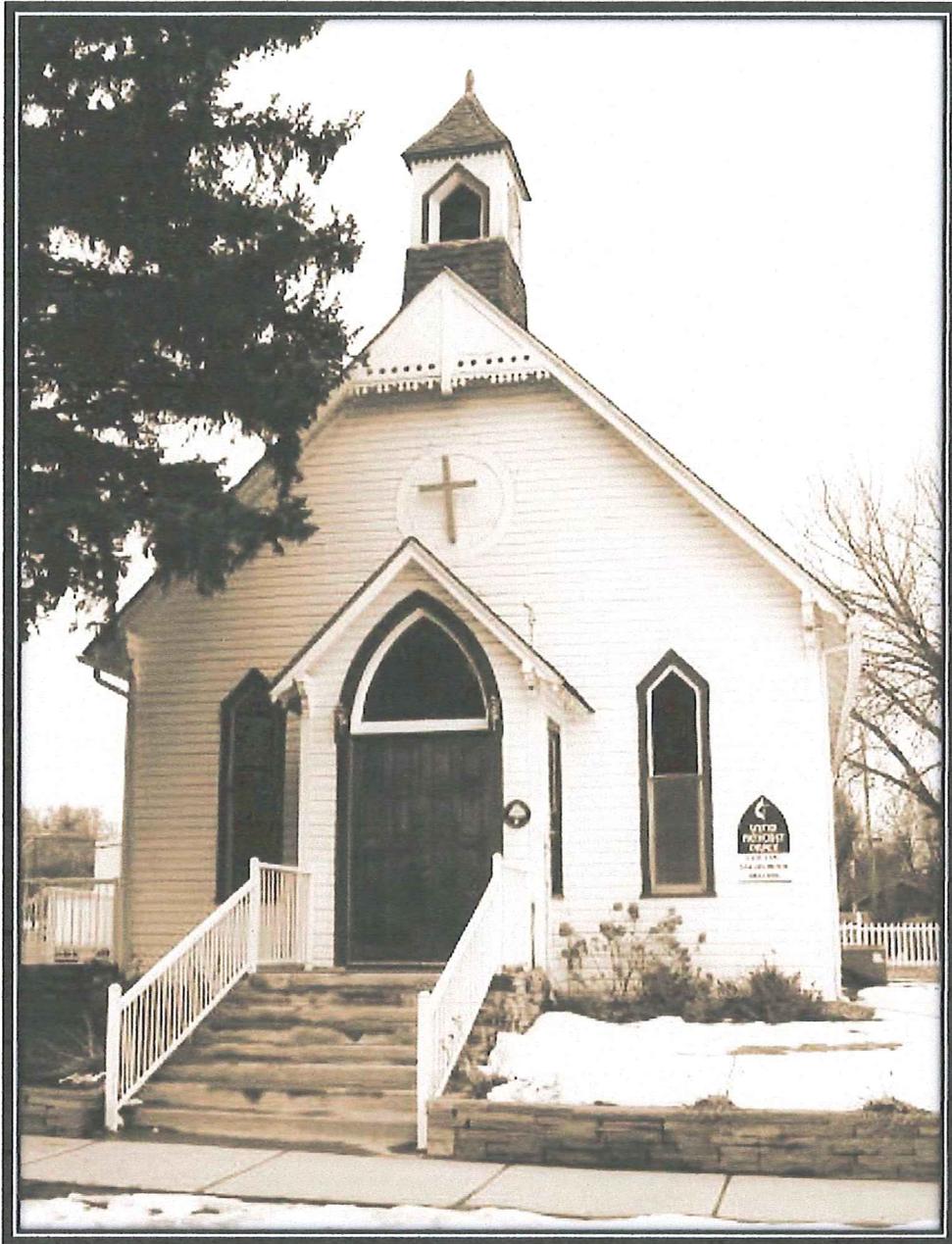
Martin Ostholthoff  
Community Development Director  
Town of Erie, CO 80516

Dear Mr. Ostholthoff,

Attached is the History Landmark Nomination Form for the Erie Methodist Church,  
located at 604 Holbrook, Erie Colorado.

Thank you,

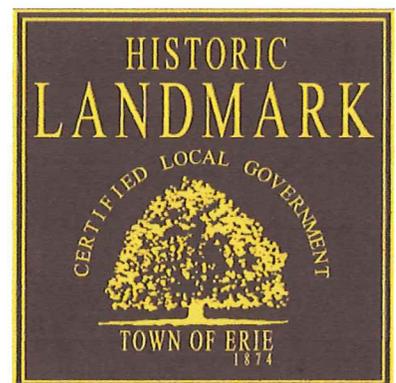
Ted McCarty



Erie, Colorado

# 604 Holbrook

Historic Landmark Properties Nomination



# HISTORIC LANDMARK



## HISTORIC LANDMARK PROPERTIES NOMINATION FORM

**PLEASE NOTE: If this property was included in the 2009-2010 survey of potential historic sites for the Town of Erie by Front Range Research Associates, then most of the information can be used from that Survey Report to fill out this form. Attach a copy of the Report to this form. The Survey Report is available from the Town Clerk's Office, Erie Library or the Community Development Department.**

**Owner(s) of (Site) Property:** [Ted McCarty](#)

(Only the owner(s) of properties can nominate the property. If there are multiple owners, list the principal owner first for contact purposes. List all owners of interest in the property and use the exact name(s) as it appears on the recorded Title.)

**Address of contact person:** [1348 Lawson Ave, Erie 80516](#)

**Phone:** [720-890-7895](#)      **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** [tedsharonmccarty@comcast.net](mailto:tedsharonmccarty@comcast.net)

**Historic Name of Property (if applicable)** [Erie Methodist Episcopal Church](#)

**Address of Property:** [604 Holbrook Street](#)

**Structure(s) on the Property being nominated:** [Church](#)

(List all that are applicable: i.e. house, commercial building, church, etc. Exclude structures not part of the nominated structure but are now located on the (site) property.)

**Use of Property:**

Historic: [Erie Methodist Episcopal Church](#)

Current: [Erie Methodist Episcopal Church](#)

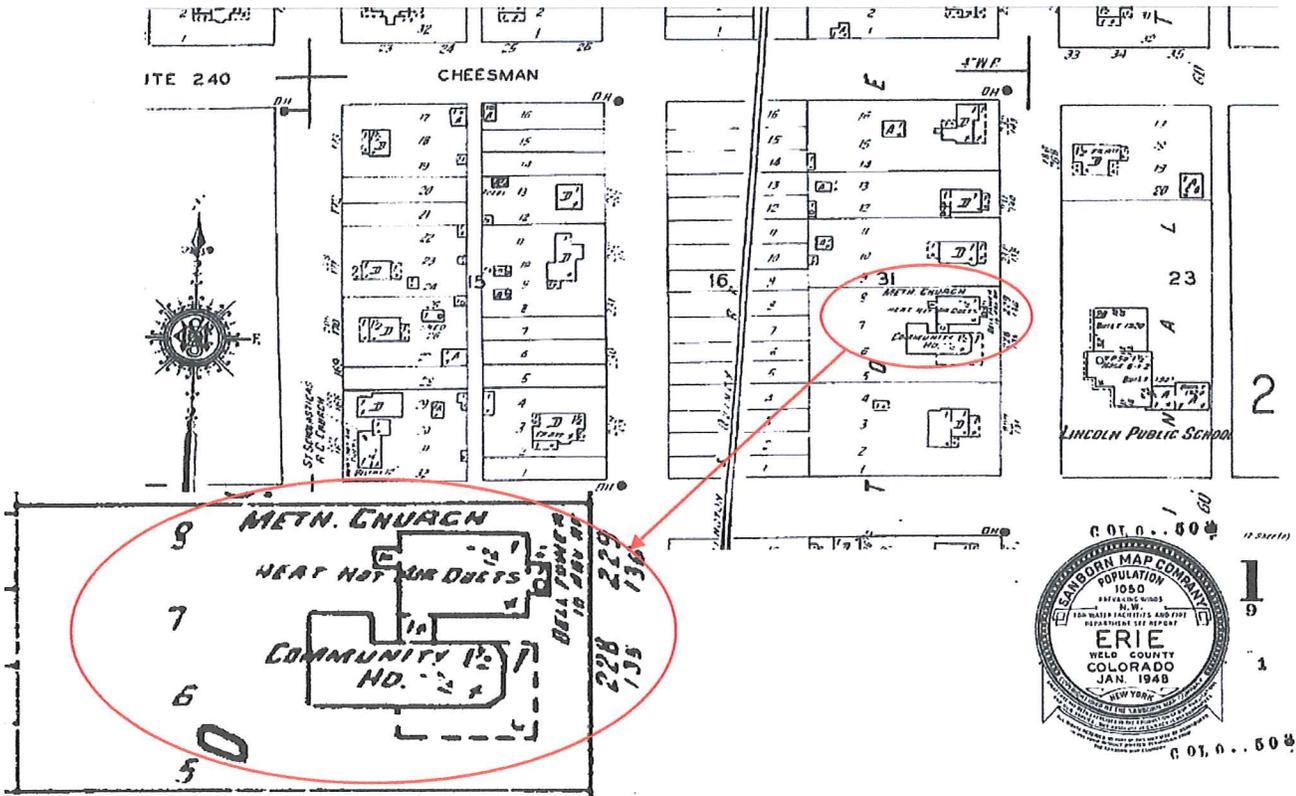
Source(s) of information: [Town of Erie/Front Range Research Associates](#)

Year of Construction: [1888](#)

Year(s) of Exterior Remodeling (if known): [See attached Architectural Inventory](#)

**Historical Narrative:**

See attached Architectural Inventory



*Excerpts from 1948 Sanborn Insurance Map Indicating Historic Location and Configuration of 604 Holbrook Street*

**Description:**

See attached Architectural Inventory

**General Significance of the Property:**

- A. Architectural Criteria. The structure has distinctive characteristics of a type, period method of construction or artisan.
- B. Social/Historic Criteria. The property or structure is associated with events or persons that have made a significant contribution to history.
- C. Geographic Criteria. The structure “Enhances the sense of identity of the community.”

**Statement of Significance:**

See attached Architectural Inventory

**Bibliography:**

See attached Architectural Inventory

**Description of Property:**

See attached Architectural Inventory

**Photos of Current Structure:**

See attached Architectural Inventory

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

# Architectural Inventory Form

- 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: 5WL6196
  - 2. Temporary Resource Number: N/A
  - 3. County: Weld
  - 4. City: Erie
  - 5. Historic Building Name: Erie Methodist Episcopal Church
  - 6. Current Building Name: Erie United Methodist Church
  - 7. Building Address: 602-04 Holbrook Street
  - 8. Owner Name and Address: Erie Methodist Church, P. O. Box 8, Erie, CO 80516
- Parcel Number: 146718304002  
SHF/CLG Grant Number: 2009-M2-011

## II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 9. P.M. 6th Township 1 N Range 68 W  
NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 18
- 10. UTM Reference Zone 13 Easting 495744 Northing 4433196
- 11. USGS Quad Name: Erie, Colorado Year: 1967 (PR1979) Map Scale: 7.5'
- 12. Lot (s): 1-8 Block(s): 31  
Addition: West Addition to Erie Year of Addition: 1883
- 13. Boundary Description and Justification:  
Boundary includes the building and the parcel on which it is located.

## III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

- 14. Building Plan (footprint, shape): Irregular
- 15. Dimensions in Feet: Length 48 X Width 41
- 16. Stories: 1
- 17. Primary External Wall Material(s) (enter no more than two):  
Wood/Weatherboard/Horizontal Siding
- 18. Roof Configuration (enter no more than one):  
Gabled/Front Gabled
- 19. Primary External Roof Material (enter no more than one): Asphalt/Composition
- 20. Special Features (enter all that apply):  
Stained Glass, Tower, Finial, Chimney, Fence.
- 21. General Architectural Description:

This one-story, front gable roof church has asphalt composition roof, overhanging eaves, and walls clad with horizontal wood drop siding with corner boards. On the roof ridge near the front (east end) is a bell tower with a pyramidal roof with overhanging eaves, a wood finial, dentil molding, triangular arch openings, a hanging bell, and base clad with roofing shingles. On the roof ridge at the rear is a short metal chimney boxed with drop siding. The front gable face of the church features a gable ornament, decorative end brackets, and a round louvered vent area with a cross canted from the wall surface. There is a projecting gable roof entrance bay with overhanging eaves, exposed rafters, decorative end brackets, and walls clad with drop siding; double, paneled wood doors have a pointed arch transom with panels of colored glass. One tall, one-over-one-light window with amber glass is located

on the north and south walls of the entrance bay. The doors face onto a raised concrete stoop with stone sidewalls and wood railings. Flanking the entrance bay are tall, narrow, triangular arch windows with amber glass surrounded by small colored glass lights.

The north wall has three tall, triangular arch stained glass windows: a wider center one, flanked by narrower ones. The south wall has the same windows, but features a paneled door at its east end that opens onto a concrete pedestrian ramp with a metal railing; there is also a small gable roof projection at the west end of the south wall, with a paneled door on its east wall and a small two-part window on its south wall. The rear has a small gable roof projection with drop siding walls and a triangular arch window on its south wall. One of the church's stained glass windows was installed in memory of the three Webber brothers (John, 37; Thomas, 29; and William, 21), who died in the Schofield Mine in Utah on 1 May 1900.

Associated Buildings.

There are five other buildings on the church property. Southwest of the church is the one-story, shallow front gable roof education building, with ribbed metal panel walls and roof (the building was manufactured by Wedgcor). The front (east) has center, glazed double doors flanked by two-part sliding windows. West of the education building on the alley is a nonhistoric gambrel roof storage shed, with asphalt composition roofing, walls clad with T1-11 panels, and double doors with cross-bracing on the south wall. Southwest of the education building is a storage shed with a front gable roof clad with asphalt composition shingles, walls composed of painted plywood, and a slab pedestrian door on the north wall. At the southeast corner of the parcel is the parsonage (pre-1908), an irregularly-shaped, one-story dwelling with metal lap siding; the house has asphalt composition roofing and overhanging eaves. The house faces east and features a front gable roof section with an off-center hipped roof porch that has an off-center door and a single light window flanked by wide one-over-one-light windows. There is a projecting gable roof section on the south with center paired one-over-one-light windows. A shed roof porch is present on the west. West of the house is a one-story, front gable roof garage with metal lap siding and double, plywood doors on the south wall.

**22. Architectural Style/Building Type:** Late Victorian/Gothic Revival

**23. Landscaping or Special Setting Features:**

This large corner lot has concrete sidewalks on the east and south and an unpaved alley to the west. The front of the church features plantings and a stone retaining wall; a large Colorado Blue Spruce tree is located southeast of the church entrance. South of the church is an asphalt paved parking area. There is a picket fence behind the church.

**24. Associated Buildings, Features, or Objects:**

On the same parcel with the church is a large education building, a parsonage, a garage, and two sheds (See Description).

#### IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

**25. Date of Construction:** Estimate 1888 Actual

**Source of Information:** Dyni, Erie, Colorado, 13

**26. Architect:** Unknown

**Source of Information:**

**27. Builder/Contractor:** James L. Wilson

**Source of Information:** Dyni, Erie, Colorado, 13

**28. Original Owner:** Erie Methodist Episcopal Church

**Source of Information:** Dyni, Erie, Colorado, 13

**29. Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):**

This location is not included on 1893 and 1900 Sanborn maps. The 1908 Sanborn showed the Methodist Episcopal Church in the northern part of this parcel as a one-story rectangular building with a small front projection; an outbuilding was located to the west on the north parcel line. To the south at the northwest corner of Wells Street was a one-story, roughly L-shaped dwelling with an open porch at the east and southeast. The 1948 Sanborn map showed the same church building (labeled Methodist Church) connected with a short one-story section to a one-and-a-half-story "Community House" to the south. The latter building was roughly L-shaped with an L-shaped open porch on the east and south. The dwelling was still present at the corner with an open porch on the east and a separate open porch at the southeast corner. There was a small outbuilding northwest of the house.

30. Original Location: Yes Date of Moves: N/A

## V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original Use(s): Religion/Religious Facility/Church

32. Intermediate Use(s): Religion/Religious Facility/Church

33. Current Use(s): Religion/Religious Facility/Church

34. Site Type(s): Church

### 35. Historical Background:

The Erie Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of a Sunday School established by Rev. Richard J. Van Valkenburg (See below). Van Valkenburg was one of the earliest settlers at what would become Erie. He started the Sunday School in his home with "the pupils, to the number of perhaps a dozen, assembling in his dining room to study the lesson." Reverend Van Valkenburg came to Erie in about 1867, built one of the first houses in town, and became one of the principal leaders of the community. Van Valkenburg (1823-1912), a native of Scholario County, New York, studied the Bible at an early age and in 1841 joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which he soon became licensed to preach. He and Cordelia Briggs married in 1843 and he joined the Wyoming Conference of the church, serving churches in New York and Pennsylvania until the mid-1860s. During the Civil War, he raised a company of men for the Union Army in Pennsylvania and served as a chaplain with General Sherman's army in Georgia. Falling ill, he received a discharge in 1865 and returned home to New York. Van Valkenburg's illness persisted and he came to Colorado for his health in 1866.

After riding as a circuit preacher for a few years in Colorado and Wyoming, the Van Valkenburgs settled at Erie. The pastor served as an incorporator of the town in 1874. Van Valkenburg helped organize the local chapters of the Masons and the Odd Fellows, operated the Erie House hotel, and owned and edited the Erie-Canfield Independent newspaper. Van Valkenburg held many governmental and civic positions, including mayor, president of the school board, and state legislator, as well as decades as justice of the peace and police magistrate. In 1894, the Boulder Daily Camera summed up his influence in the community: "Rev. Richard J. Van Valkenburg, monarch of all he surveys at Erie...." His religious efforts grew into the Erie Methodist Episcopal Church.

The 1879 State Business Directory listed the Methodist Church in Erie, but some years passed before a building was constructed. The congregation erected this church building in 1888 at a total cost of \$1,475. Erie carpenter James L. Wilson was the contractor. Stella Lee, his daughter, "recalled how he had to begin all over again after strong winds blew down the framing." Wilson built many dwellings within the town, including his own home at 724 Holbrook Street. The 1889 Colorado State Business Directory listed the Methodist Episcopal Church in Erie with Rev. O.L. McKay as pastor.

The church does not appear to have had any long-term pastors. State Business Directories list the following: Thomas Andrew (1891); H.L. Beardsley (1892-93); G.A.W. Cage (1896); J.R. Rader (1899); T.J. Hooper (1900); J.C. Gullett (1903); Arthur Morrison (1906); W.J. Richards (1909); C.L. Marsh (1915); F.F. Gibbs (1920); T. Marion Davis (1923); W.J. Keeser (1926); and Earl Lewis (1950). A continuing presence at the church was Rev. Van Valkenburg, who remained as superintendent of the Sunday School until 1896 and who filled in when the assigned pastor was absent.

The church sponsored events of interest to the congregation and the town. For example, in February 1897 Chancellor McDowell of the University of Denver presented a lecture for local residents. In 1897 the church sponsored a series of socials and entertainments at the Odd Fellows Hall. In 1915 speaker Mary Harris Armor that it was inconsistent to allow the sale of liquor and also pray about ridding the community of evil. The church had an active Ladies Aid Society that supported it through various fundraising activities.

As the congregation grew, rather than adding on to the original building, the church was expanded by moving church buildings from other sites to the parcel. The small Pleasant View church was brought in and used as an annex. Later the previous Presbyterian Church a half-block south was moved in for use as the church's activity center. In the 1920s, the activity center became the Erie Community Center and was used for dances, screening films, and other activities. Colorado saw an emergence of Ku Klux Klan activity in the 1920s, and in 1926, when a group of KKK members entered the church during a service. Rev. W.J. Keeser requested that they leave because they refused to remove their hoods. He instructed them to leave a donation as they departed.

By the early 1970s the average Sunday attendance was sixty-five persons. Rev. Harold T. Upton served as minister then. The church complex now includes the original church building, a educational building, a parsonage, a garage, and two storage sheds.

**36. Sources of Information:**

Heritage Title Company abstract records; Weld County Assessor records; Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps; Colorado State Business Directories; U.S. Census, 1880-1930; Weld County Genealogical Society, Master Index; Erie Cemetery Listing, accessed at <http://files.usgarchives.net/co/weld/cemeteries/erie.txt> on 16 December 2009; Anne Quinby Dyni, Erie, Colorado: A Coal Town Revisited (Erie: Town of Erie, 2001), 12-14 and 39; Sociology and History Classes of Erie High School, Erie: Yesterday and Today, 2nd ed., (Erie: Erie High School, 1974), 13 and 76; Hallie Sawyer, Erie Community Development, Interview by Tom and Laurie Simmons, February 2010; S. T. Powers, Survey of Selected Buildings in Erie, August 1976, copy on file in the Erie Historical Society Collection, Wise Homestead Museum; Weld County Directories, 1961, 1964, 1967, 1969; Boulder Daily Camera, 26 June 1894, 4; Greeley Tribune, 11 November 1891, 4, 1 April 1897, 2; Chapman Publishing Company, Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado, (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1898); Town of Erie Historic Preservation Board, A Selected Timeline of Erie's History (Erie, Colorado: Town of Erie Historic Preservation Board, 2009; John Garcia, Erie, Colorado, Interview by R. Laurie Simmons, 14 December 2009; Carbon Star, 29 October 1915, 2.

**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;
  - X B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
  - X 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 to history or prehistory.
- Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (See Manual).  
Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

**39. Area(s) of Significance:** Architecture  
Religion

**40. Period of Significance:** 1888-1896

**41. Level of Significance:** Local

**42. Statement of Significance:**

The Erie Methodist Episcopal Church, erected in 1888, was the first building erected specifically as a church in the town. It served the community in the early days when most local residents had some affiliation with coal mining in the area and were of British extraction. It continued to serve the religious needs of the community as new ethnic groups arrived and coal mining experienced periods of labor unrest, boom, depression, and decline. The building, still used as the Methodist chapel, was built by local carpenter James L. Wilson. Rev. Richard J. Van Valkenburg, who was closely connected with the development and improvement of Erie and founded the congregation, was closely associated with its activities in the early years of its history. This property is potentially eligible to the National Register under Criterion C, for its architecture, which represents the Gothic Revival style as applied to a nineteenth century church in a small coal mining town, and for its representation of the work of local carpenter James L. Wilson. The church is also significant under Criterion B in the area of religion, for its association with Rev. Richard J. Van Valkenburg, who founded the congregation, was its first pastor, and was involved in many ways in the development of Erie.

**43. Assessment of Historic Physical Integrity Related to Significance:**

The church maintains excellent historic physical integrity. There are small additions on the rear and on the south wall (at the south end) and a door opening onto a pedestrian access ramp has been added to the south wall.

**VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT**

**44. National Register Field Eligibility Assessment:** Eligible

**45. Is there National Register district potential? Discuss.** Unknown

This building was documented as part of a selective intensive survey. Other buildings in the immediate area were not surveyed. District potential is unknown.

**If there is NRHP district potential, indicate contributing status:** N/A

**46. If the building is in an existing NRHP district, indicate contributing status:** N/A

**VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION**

**47. Photographic Reference(s):** WL6196-01 to -09

**Negatives Filed At:** Town of Erie

**Photographer:** Roger Whitacre

**48. Report Title:** Erie, Colorado, Historic Buildings Survey, 2009-10

**49. Date(s):** Nov. 2009

**50. Recorder(s):** R.L. Simmons/T.H. Simmons

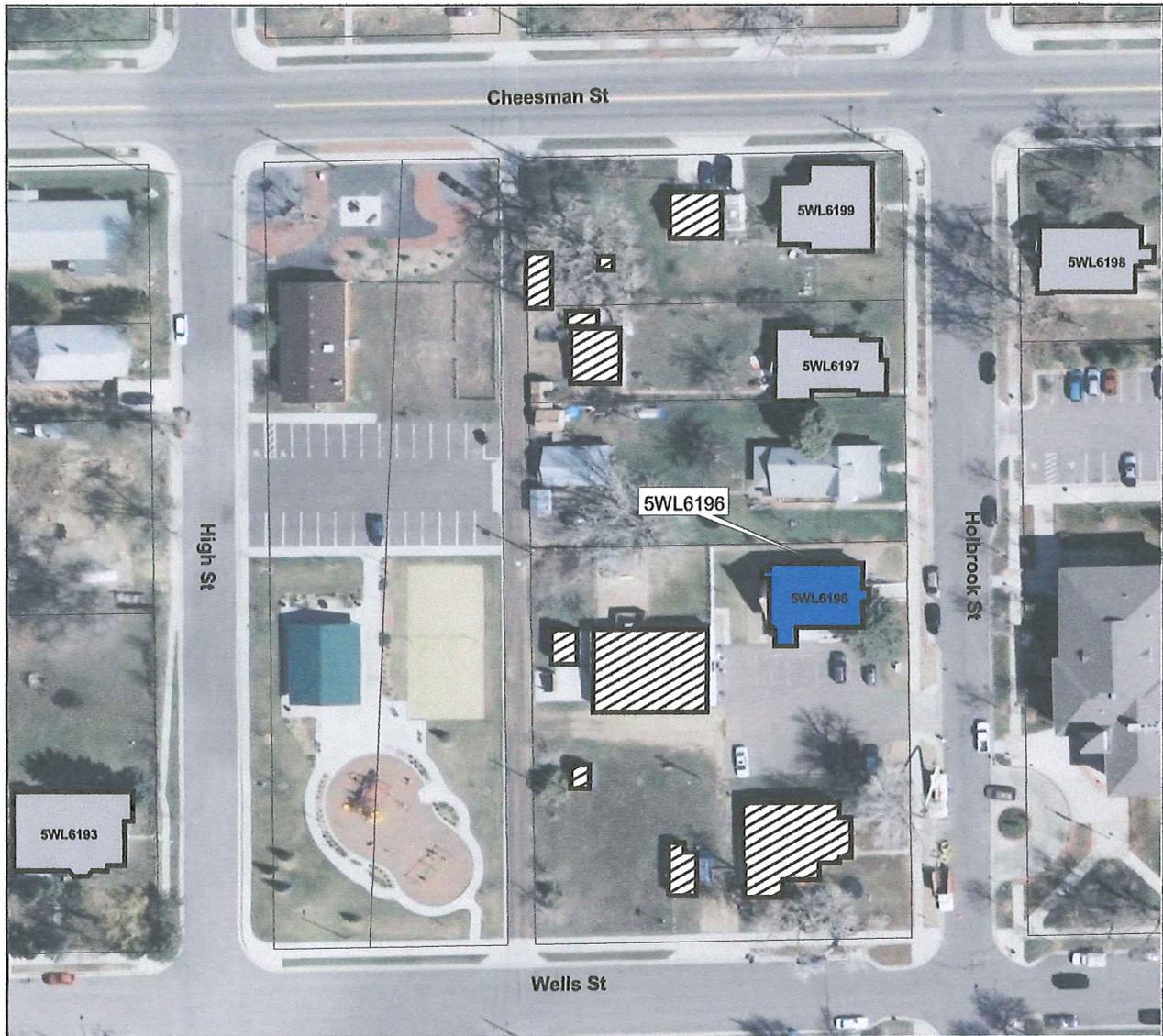
**51. Organization:** Front Range Research Associates, Inc.

**52. Address:** 3635 W. 46th Ave., Denver, CO 80211

**53. Phone Number(s):** (303) 477-7597

NOTE: Please attach a sketch map, a photocopy of the USGS quad map indicating the resource's location, and photographs.

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



602-04 Holbrook Street, Erie, Colorado



30 0 30 60 Feet

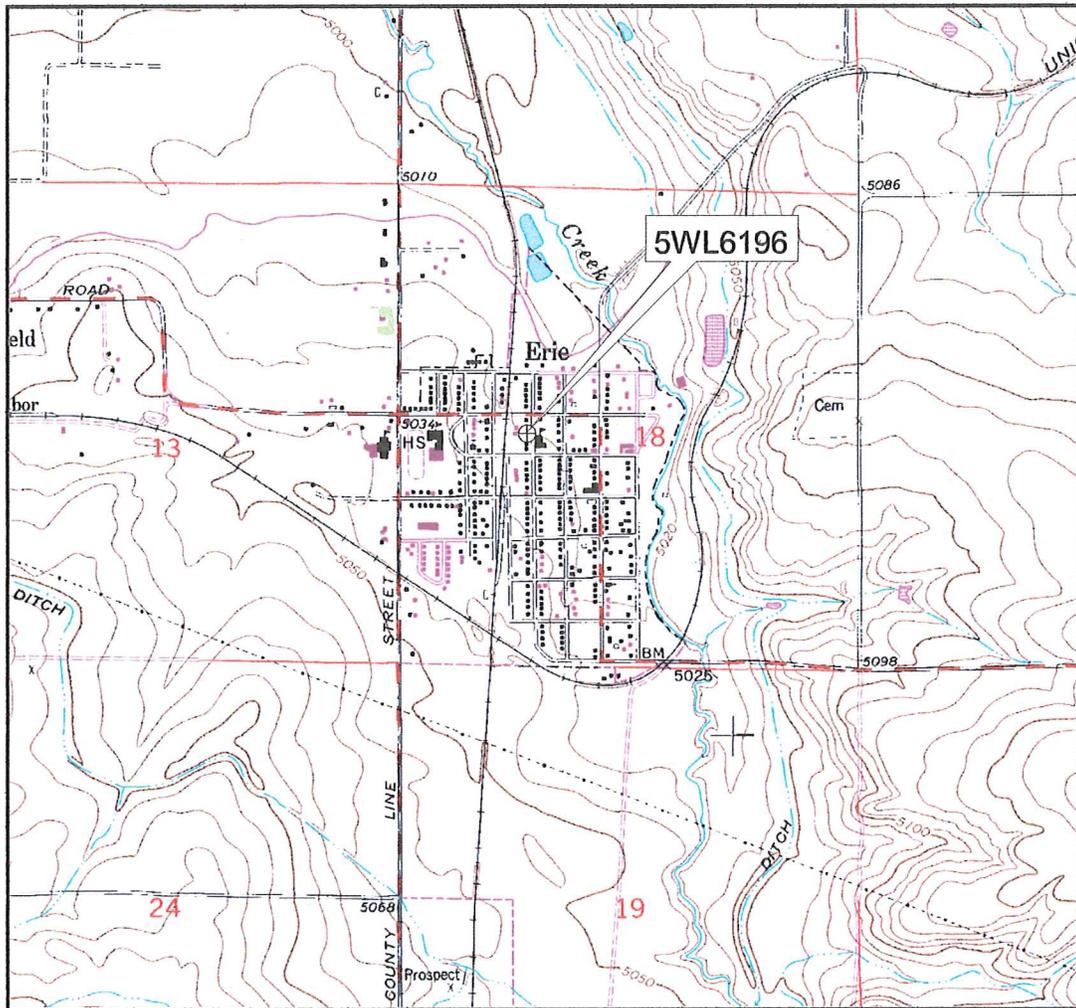
**Legend**

Surveyed Buildings

-  Primary Surveyed Building
-  Surveyed Outbuilding
-  Parcels

Resource Number: 5WL6196  
Temporary Resource Number: N/A

Architectural Inventory Form  
USGS Location Map



602 Holbrook Street, Erie, Colorado



600 0 600 1200 Feet

SOURCE: Extract of Erie, Colo., USGS map, (1967, PR 1979).





