

TOWER OF COMPASSION

Longmont Application for Historic Landmark Designation / Colorado Cultural Resource Survey Architectural Inventory Form

Location: In Kanemoto Park at 1151 S. Pratt Parkway, Longmont, Colorado
Parcel Number: 131515239001
E ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of NW ¼ of section 15, of the 6th Principal Meridian

Date of Construction: 1973

Original Owner: City of Longmont
350 Kimbark Street
Longmont, Colorado 80501

Present Owner: City of Longmont
City of Longmont
350 Kimbark Street
Longmont, Colorado 80501

Architectural Style: Other Style (Pagoda)

Historic Use/Function: Landscape / Object

**Statement of
Significance:**

The Tower of Compassion is historically significant relative to the theme of Ethnic Heritage / Asian. Erected in 1973, the tower was presented to the citizens of Longmont, as a gift from the Kanemoto family in appreciation for the community's empathy for the family, especially during the World War II era. The tower stands today as a visual reminder of the Longmont community's compassion for persons of Japanese descent during a period of extreme xenophobia, as well as a tribute to the Kanemoto family's many positive contributions to the City of Longmont. The tower is also historically significant relative to the theme of Community Planning and Development. It was built as, and remains, the most visually prominent feature in Kanemoto Park.

**Researched
and Written by:**

Carl McWilliams
Cultural Resource Historians LLC
1607 Dogwood Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525
(970) 493-5270
historians@frii.com
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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: | 5BL.15005 | Parcel number(s): | |
| 2. Temporary resource no.: | N/A | | 131515239001 |
| 3. County: | Boulder | | |
| 4. City: | Longmont | | |
| 5. Historic name: | Tower of Compassion | | |
| 6. Current name: | Tower of Compassion | | |
| 7. Building address: | 1151 S. Pratt Parkway | | |
| 8. Owner name and address: | City of Longmont
350 Kimbark Street
Longmont, CO 80501 | | |



National Register eligibility assessment:
State Register eligibility assessment:
Longmont Landmark eligibility assessment:

Individually Eligible
Individually Eligible
Eligible

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **2N** Range **69W**
NE ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ of NW ¼ of section 15
10. UTM reference (**NAD83**)
Zone **13: 490886** mE **4443834** mN
11. USGS quad name: **Longmont, Colorado**
Year: **2013** Map scale: **7.5**
12. Legal Description: **Lot 2, Kanemoto Park & Burlington Elementary School Subdivision**
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): **Square Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **11' 3" x 11' "**
16. Number of stories: **Five**
17. Primary external wall material(s): **Wood/Plywood**
18. Roof configuration: **Hipped Roofs**
19. Primary external roof material: **Metal Roofs**
20. Special features: **Flared Eaves, Exposed Rafter Ends, Overhanging Eaves, Finial, Fence**

21. General architectural description:

Built in the style of a traditional Japanese pagoda, the Tower of Compassion is a five-story edifice of steel and wood frame construction, with a series of five truncated hipped roofs with flared eaves. The first story features a square plan that measures 11' 3" north-south by 11' 3" east-west. The second, third, fourth, and fifth stories are also square in plan, with each story progressively smaller than the one below. The tower's exterior walls are made of painted cream white plywood sheets, divided by painted dark brown vertical and horizontal cedar wood members with decorative elements at the top of each wall surface.

Each story features a truncated hipped roof, covered with metal roofing material with a layer of baked green enamel, and with painted dark brown rafters exposed beneath widely-overhanging eaves. (The tower's interior was not available to view at the time of survey; however, pagodas are traditionally open from the bottom floor to the top. Thus, only the first story has a floor.) The first story roof eaves extend seven feet from the wall surface on each side, while the overhangs on each of the upper stories are progressively smaller. The fifth story roof is topped by a tall metal ringed finial or spire known as a "sorin." The base of each upper story is behind a painted dark brown open wood decorative railing that is built on top of the roof below.

The only door enters the tower's east-facing wall. This is a painted cream white solid wood door, with painted dark brown wood framing, that is just six feet in height. A similar, slightly smaller, decorative door, is in the east-facing wall's second story.

The tower is centered within a fenced and gated enclosure that measures 35' 6" north-south x 35' 6" east-west. The enclosure, and the tower itself, have a concrete foundation and floor that is elevated approximately 2' 6" above grade. The foundation walls are finished with uncoursed stones. The fence is 2' 6" in height, and is made of painted red 2" x 6" horizontal wood members and 6" x 6" vertical wood members. A black metal gate is centered in each side of the enclosure. Each gate measures 4' 6" in height. The 6" x 6" vertical wood members at each corner, and on either side of each of the four gates, are topped by painted gold cannonball finials.

Architectural style/building type: **Other Style (Pagoda)**

22. Landscaping or special setting features:

The Tower of Compassion is a prominent feature within Kanemoto Park, a seven-acre park within the Southmoor Park subdivision. Located in the southern environs of Longmont, the park is within lands once owned and farmed by the Kanemoto family. The park is bordered by South Pratt Parkway on the east, Missouri Avenue on the southeast, and Lefthand Drive on the west. The Burlington Elementary school grounds and Kansas Avenue are immediately north of the park. The Left Hand Greenway trail follows the course of Left Hand Creek, where it borders the park's southeast side adjacent to Missouri Avenue.

The Tower of Compassion is in the southern portion of the park relatively close to the north side of Left Hand Creek. The park is beautifully landscaped with expanses of planted grass, interspersed with pine, fir, and deciduous trees. A stand of cherry trees is a short distance west of the tower where a bronze plaque affixed to a sandstone obelisk is titled "Kanemoto Memorial Cherry Tree Grove." A concrete sidewalk extends approximately 65' from the tower's west side to a painted red traditional Torii gateway. Other concrete sidewalks or pathways extend along the tower's southeastern and northern sides. Two other bronze plaques affixed to sandstone obelisks are respectively located adjacent to the pathway along the southeast side of the tower, and across Left Hand Creek, adjacent to the public sidewalk along Missouri Avenue. These plaques display the following text:

TOWER OF COMPASSION

FIVE STORY PAGODA IN KANEMOTO PARK

Compassion is to live the life of love, empathy, understanding and gratitude of all things, and giving selflessly of oneself for the happiness of all beings.

The Meaning of Compassion

LOVE (First Level)

If I truly love someone, I must love all humanity. How can I truly love someone if I hate others?

EMPATHY (Second Level)

Your happiness is my happiness. Your sadness is my sadness. I feel your pain. I feel your joy.

UNDERSTANDING (Third Level)

Mankind is one. We are all interdependent. How can I alone be happy if my family is sad? How can we Americans be really happy when over half the world goes to bed hungry?

GRATITUDE OF ALL THINGS (Fourth Level)

I am here because of my parents, food I eat comes from the land, clothing I wear comes from the animals, shelter I live in comes from the trees. The knowledge I have comes from my parents, teachers and others. Therefore, I am the total sum of others, so I must have gratitude to all things.

GIVING SELFLESSLY OF ONESELF (Fifth Level)

As I give myself to others, strangely enough, I find myself and I find real happiness.

All these put together become the essence of true compassion and this is what the Tower of Compassion stands for.

Another, smaller bronze plaque, affixed to a boulder east of the tower, displays the following text:

Longmont Sister Cities Association

Honors the Memory of

JIMMIE KANEMOTO

1917-2006

His citizenship with the citizens of Longmont

And those of our sister cities, Chino, Japan

And Ciudad, Guzman, Mexico will endure

the passage of time

Volleyball and basketball courts are north of the tower, while a playground, an outdoor swimming pool, and a parking lot are to the east.

23. Associated buildings, features, or objects: **Torii gate, bronze plaques affixed to sandstone obelisks, cherry tree grove.**

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

24. Date of Construction: Estimate: _____ Actual: **1973**
Source of information: **“Pagoda Being Erected in Kanemoto Park.” *Longmont Times-Call*, May 21, 1973, p. 1; “Pagoda Presented to City.” *Longmont Times-Call*, September 5, 1973, p. 1.**
26. Designer: **Jimmie Kanemoto and Reid Burton**

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- Source of information: **“Tower of Compassion 50th Anniversary: Longmont Landmark Remains Symbol of Gratitude.” *Longmont Times-Call*, March 8, 2023.**
27. Builders/Contractors: **Reid Burton Construction Company, Dean Reynolds Enterprises, Lew Branch Electrical Company**
- Source of information: **“Pagoda Presented to City.” *Longmont Times-Call*, September 5, 1973, p. 1.**
28. Original owner: **City of Longmont**
- Source of information: **“Pagoda Being Erected in Kanemoto Park.” *Longmont Times-Call*, May 21, 1973, p. 1.**
29. Construction history (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions):
The Tower of Compassion was erected in Kanemoto Park in 1973. Commissioned by the Kanemoto family, the tower was gifted to the people of Longmont to express the Kanemoto family’s gratitude for the compassion shown them by the Longmont community, particularly during the World War II era. Beginning in February 1942, thousands of Japanese-Americans were forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated in “relocation” camps in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. The incarceration of Japanese-Americans, who were not accused of committing any crimes, and without due process, followed the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin Roosevelt. The camps’ establishment, and the incarceration of thousands of individuals based solely on their heritage, occurred against a backdrop of extreme xenophobia that was sweeping the country after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

In Colorado, Governor Ralph Carr was adamantly opposed to the “relocation” policy, and no Coloradans of Japanese descent were incarcerated. This was despite the fact that one of the camps, “Amache,” was located at the town of Granada in Prowers County, Colorado. Then living south of Longmont, the Kanemoto family was, thus, not forced to leave their home, although they were required to surrender to local law enforcement, any guns, cameras, and shortwave radios, and their insurance policies were canceled. Understanding that the Kanemoto family was being unfairly persecuted, their neighbors, and the larger Longmont community, offered nothing but sympathy and support. The Kanemoto family never forgot, and years later, commissioned the Tower of Compassion as a gift to express the family’s gratitude.

In the early 1960s, brothers Jimmie and George Kanemoto developed much of the family’s land south of Longmont into the Southmoor subdivision, and in 1966, they donated ten acres for a park and a new elementary school. Burlington Elementary School was named after the settlement of Burlington which was founded in 1859, thereby predating the founding of Longmont by the Chicago-Colorado Colony. Kanemoto Park was named in honor of Goroku Kanemoto, Jimmie and George’s father, who had died in a car accident in 1935.

Jimmie and his wife, Chiyoko (Chiyo), came up with the idea to build the Tower of Compassion after they were inspired by pagodas they saw while traveling in Japan. George, and his wife, Jane, were soon on board as the two couples collaborated with local contractors to make the project a reality. Jimmie Kanemoto and contractor Reid Burton, who held a degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University, reportedly collaborated on the tower's design. In March 2023, Jimmie's son, Ken Kanemoto, was quoted as saying "no one knew how to build a pagoda, so dad kind of oversaw that, and we had a lot of contractors who donated a lot of their time in helping build this."

In an article published on May 21, 1973, the *Longmont Times-Call* described the tower's construction:

The structure portrays symbolic meanings based upon the meaning of "compassion." It begins with a 30 foot square base and the first level is a 25 foot square roof. A white square section then forms the center of the building and elevates the second roof. The theme is repeated from the base through the fifth roof structure with the dimensions growing smaller at each level. The roof structures are made of aluminum with baked green enamel. The center is comprised of wood surfacing, painted white and trimmed with rough cedar which will be allowed to weather naturally. Atop the fifth level roof is a gold and silver spire which crowns the structure. It also has various levels which are known by such symbolic titles as 'the dragon ring,' 'flower bowl' and 'dew basin.' Topping off the spire is a large metallic ball... The basic steel design and engineering was done by the Reed [*sic.*] Burton Construction Co., of Fort Collins. The Dean Reynolds Co., of Longmont fabricated the exterior and wood trim. Lew Branch Electric Co. is installing the lighting system which will illuminate each level and the crowning spire.

In a subsequent article published on September 5, 1973, the *Times-Call* reported:

The steel pagoda, designed to withstand 100-mile-per-hour winds was constructed by the Reed [*sic.*] Burton Construction Co. of Fort Collins and the woodwork – made without blueprints or plans – was performed by Dean Reynolds Enterprises of Longmont. Electrical work was done by Branch Electrical Co."

The Kanemoto family formally presented the tower to the City of Longmont in a ceremony held on September 4, 1973. Among others from the community, the ceremony was attended by members of the Kanemoto family, by students from nearby Burlington Elementary, by mayor Wade Gaddis, and by city manager Charles Klarich. Colorado Governor John Vanderhoof was also in attendance, having been driven from Denver to Longmont by Sergeant Will Kagohara, a twenty-one-year veteran of the Colorado State Patrol of Japanese descent. At the ceremony's conclusion, Jimmie Kanemoto was quoted as saying " he hoped the tower would bring, peace, tranquility and enrichment to the lives of the community." And, further, he called upon the city to proclaim one day each year as "compassion day."

Las Animas, Colorado native Reid Burton founded Burton Builders in 1963, as a franchise to erect Butler buildings. He had previously worked for Peter Kiewit and Sons for thirteen years, after earning his degree in civil engineering at CSU. Originally located in Fort Collins, Burton's firm evolved into the

Burton Construction Company, as it expanded into a full-service contracting enterprise. By the early 1970s, the company was well-established with offices in Boulder and Fort Collins. Notable buildings constructed by the company include: the Trautman Millwork an Trautman Enterprises facility on South Boulder Road in Lafayette (1971), the Storm Meadows Townhomes complex in Steamboat Springs (1972), the Estes Park Municipal Building (1974), the Alpine Federal Savings and Loan Building in Steamboat Springs (1981), and the Edora Pool and Ice Center (EPIC) in Fort Collins (1986). Reid Burton retired in 1988, and passed away in 2000, in Fort Collins, at the age of 74. He is interred with his first wife, Erma, who preceded him in death, in the Las Animas Cemetery.

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

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Landscape / Object**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Landscape / Object**

33. Current use(s): **Landscape / Object**

35. Historical background:

The Tower of Compassion was erected in Kanemoto Park in 1973. Brothers Jimmie and George Kanemoto, and their wives, Chiyo and Jane (who were sisters), commissioned and oversaw the tower's construction. The idea to build the tower was conceived by Jimmie and Chiyo, after viewing pagodas on a visit to Japan. Upon its completion, the Kanemoto family gifted the tower to the people of Longmont to express their gratitude for the compassion they had received from the community, particularly during the World War II era. The tower's five stories symbolize the five levels of compassion: love, empathy, understanding, gratitude of all things, and giving selflessly of oneself.

The history of the Kanemoto family in America begins with Goroku Kanemoto. Born in Hiroshima, Japan on August 15, 1883, Goroku immigrated to the United States by way of Mexico in 1907. He boarded a freighter in the seaport village of Asagun, Japan, and arrived in Mexico after a voyage of unknown duration. From there, Goroku and a friend traveled north, by train, intending to settle in Canada. Goroku and his friend, however, instead left the train at Denver's Union Station after learning of the possibility of work on a railroad building crew with a Japanese foreman.

The 1910 U.S. federal census records Goroku Kanemoto as residing in the small town of Koehler, in Colfax County, New Mexico, where he worked as a coal miner. His name appears, along with twenty-six other Japanese immigrants, as a boarder in a hotel owned or managed by Ono Kataro. Goroku soon returned to Colorado, however, where he found work as a farm laborer in the Canfield area south of Longmont.

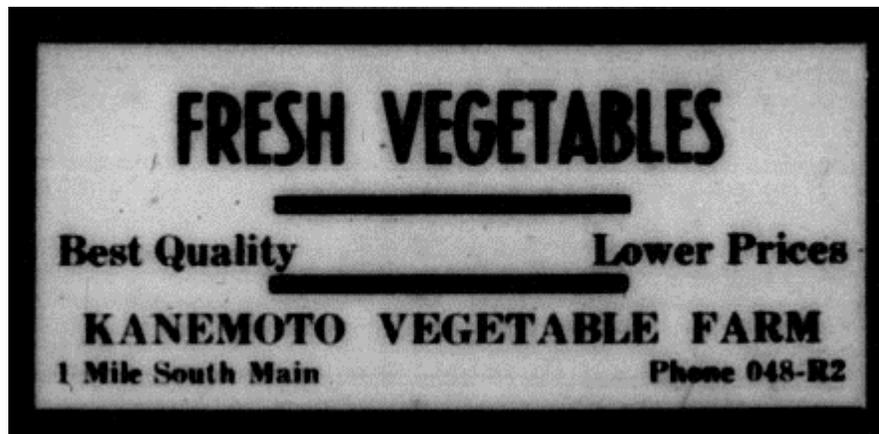
In 1916, Goroku's parents in Japan arranged for their son to marry Setsuno Nakasaki, a young woman from Hiroshima who had been born on February 5, 1894. Thus, in 1916, at the age of 22, Setsuno left her family to travel by ship to a country where she did not speak the language, to marry a man she had

never met. Goroku traveled to Seattle to meet Setsuno when she disembarked, and where on July 3, 1916, they were married in the Buddhist church. Goroku signed their marriage certificate in English, while Setsuno signed in Japanese.

Goroku and Setsuno then returned to the Canfield area, where by 1920 they were the parents of three small children: Tsutomo (born May 2, 1917), Fumiko "Fumi" (born June 30, 1918), and Kiyoshi (born July 27, 1919). In time, the three children adopted the Anglo names of Jimmie, Faith, and George. The 1920 U. S federal census records the Kanemoto family as living in Precinct 6, in Boulder County, with Goroku's occupation listed as "farm laborer. By 1930, however, they had moved closer to Longmont, as that year's census lists the family's place of residency on "Lane South of Sugar Factory," in Precinct 1 of Township 3 North. In that year's census, Goroku's occupation is listed as "farmer – general."

The Kanemoto family faced various hardships, but for the most part prospered as they made a life for themselves in their adopted homeland. Family members suffered two injuries that were noted by local newspapers. On January 1927, Goroku broke his left arm when it became entangled in a harness. The bone was set at the Longmont hospital, and in due time Goroku recovered. Then in March 1931, the middle finger on Jimmie's left hand had to be amputated after it was caught in some farm machinery. True tragedy struck, however, on April 7, 1935 when Goroku was killed in an automobile accident. Following their father's death, Jimmie, Faith, and George interrupted their educations to work with Setsuno on the family's leased farm south of Longmont. They did graduate from high school, however, and by 1940 Faith had moved to Los Angeles to attend Woodbury College where she majored in fashion arts and illustrations. Jimmie and George, meanwhile, remained lifelong Longmont residents.

In 1937, the Kanemotos opened Freshway Market at 917 S. Main Street where they sold a variety of fresh produce including corn, cucumbers, dill weed, eggplant, green and red peppers, pumpkins, and tomatoes. The family maintained the market at that location until 1968, with the following advertisement appearing frequently in local newspapers:



On March 21, 1944, Jimmie married Chiyoko (Chiyo) Miyasaki, and on January 17, 1948, George married Chiyo's sister, Jane Miyasaki. The daughters of Japanese immigrants Kunihei and Sono Miyasaki, Chiyo and Jane were born in Lafayette, Colorado, respectively on July 3, 1925, and June 21, 1927. In the years following their marriages, the two couples formed a lifelong partnership that began with operating the family farm and Freshway Market, and later saw the establishment of the Kane Manufacturing and Supply Company, and the development of the Southmoor subdivision, along with other interests.

Circa late 1940s, the two couples and Setsuno Kanemoto made the wise decision to finance the purchase of 140 acres south of Longmont in the vicinity of Left Hand Creek. They farmed the land, and in time expanded their holdings to some 350 acres. Following the successful patent of an irrigation device, in 1960, the Kanemotos began operating the Kane Manufacturing and Supply Company. Later known as the Kane Companies, the firm specialized in the manufacture and sale of irrigation products and other farming equipment. Thus, although they continued to operate Freshway Market until 1968, the Kanemotos began to diversify their interests some years previously.

Longmont saw rapid population growth in the 1960s, due to the arrival of a Federal Aviation Administration facility, along with IBM and other high-tech industries. With Longmont's residential growth primarily south of the original city, the Kanemoto's land was ideally located for residential development. Rather than sell, however, the Kanemotos instead decided to develop the land themselves. Construction in the 700 home Southmoor Park subdivision began in 1965, and within the subdivision, the Kanemotos donated seven acres along Left Hand Creek to the City of Longmont for a park, along with an adjacent three acres for a school. Jimmie and George asked that the park be named Kanemoto Park, in honor of their father, Goroku Kanemoto. The school, meanwhile, was named Burlington Elementary, in honor of the area's original settlement which had been named Burlington.

Following a trip to Japan, in 1973, Jimmie and Chiyo were inspired to build a pagoda in Kanemoto Park. George and Jane were also soon on board with the idea, and with the city's blessing, they began to work with local contractors to make the Tower of Compassion a reality. Construction began in May 1973, and the tower was formally dedicated and presented to the citizens of Longmont on September 4, 1973. Although a follower of the Buddhist faith, Jimmie was quoted as saying that "the tower was not meant as a religious symbol," and further that "the meaning of compassion isn't one religion or another." The tower, rather, was intended as a gift from the Kanemotos to express their gratitude for the compassion shown to them by the community. The Kanemotos were especially thankful for the community's support during World War II when thousands of Japanese were incarcerated in "relocation" camps, and were otherwise discriminated against during a period of intense xenophobia toward persons of Japanese descent. In 2002, Jimmie Kanemoto was quoted as saying: "All the people were very supportive and helped us out here. That's one of the reasons we built the Tower of Compassion. It's an appreciation for the people of Longmont [and] what they did for us."

Members of the Kanemoto family interred in Longmont's Mountain View Cemetery include, Goroku, Setsuno, Jimmie, Faith, and George, and Jimmie's and George's wives, Chiyo and Jane. Setsuno

Kanemoto (nee Nakasaki), the family matriarch, passed away on February 5, 1989 at the age of 85. Chiyoki (Chiyo) Kanemoto (nee Miyasaka) died on October 31, 1999 at the age of 74. Jimmie Tsutomo Kanemoto died on December 5, 2006, at the age of 89. Faith Fumiko (Fumi) passed just four months later, on April 19, 2007, also at age 89. George Kiyoshi Kanemoto passed away on October 8, 2009, at the age of 90. Jane Kanemoto (nee Miyasaka) passed on July 7, 2016, at the age of 89.

Today, in 2023, the Tower of Compassion remains as a beacon for compassion in Kanemoto Park where it is maintained by the City of Longmont and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Longmont.

36. Sources of information:

“Executive Order 9066: Resulting in Japanese-American Incarceration (1942).”

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/executive-order-9066>.

“George Kiyoshi Kanemoto.” World War II Draft Registration Card, October 16, 1940. (accessed through www.Ancestry.com.)

“Jimmie Tsutomo Kanemoto.” World War II Draft Registration Card, October 16, 1940. (accessed through www.Ancestry.com.)

“Goroku Kanemoto.” World War I Draft Registration Card, September 12, 1918, (accessed through www.Ancestry.com.)

Kanemoto family burial records, accessed through www.findagrave.com.

“Marriage Certificate,” for Goroku Kanemoto and Setsuno Nakasaki. Seattle, King County, Washington, July 3, 1916.

“Sakura Square.” <https://coloradoencyclopedia.org/article/sakura-square>.

Newspaper Articles (arranged chronologically)

“Rancher Suffers Broken Left Arm.” *The (Longmont) Daily Times*, January 15, 1927, p. 1.

“James Kanemoto...” *The Lafayette Leader*, March 6, 1931, p. 1.

“Auto Crash Fatal to Jap Farmer Here.” *Longmont Times-Call*, April 9, 1935, p. 1.

“Kanemoto Rites Are Held Friday.” (Goroku Kanemoto obituary) *The Lafayette Times*, April 13 1935, p. 1.

“Fresh Vegetables.” (Kanemoto Vegetable Farm advertisement) *Longmont Times-Call*, August 5, 1939, p. 6

“School Board Accepts Kanemoto Land Offer.” *Longmont Times-Call*, March 14, 1963, p. 1.

“City Given Park Adjoining New Elementary School Site.” *Longmont Times-Call*, May 10, 1966, p. 1.

“Kanemoto Brothers Offer \$5000 to Develop Park.” *Longmont Times-Call*, December 13, 1966, p. 1.

“Burton Builders Company.” *The Louisville Times*, August 19, 1971, p. 7.

“Pagoda Being Erected in Kanemoto Park.” *Longmont Times-Call*, May 21, 1973, p. 1.

“Pagoda Nears Completion.” (photo) *Longmont Times-Call*, May 21, 1973, p. 1.

“60-Foot Pagoda in Park to be Completed.” *Rocky Mountain JIHO*, May 30, 1973, p. 1.

“Memorial Tower Dedicated.” *Rocky Mountain JIHO*, September 3, 1973, p. 1.

“Pagoda Presented to City.” *Longmont Times-Call*, September 5, 1973, p. 1.

“Seasons Greetings Kane Companies (advertisement) *Rocky Mountain JIHO*, December 31, 1980, p. 10.

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- “Japanese-Americans Feel Unwelcome in Homeland.” *Longmont Times-Call*, December 7, 1991, p. A-1
- “Anything That Comes to Mind: A Remarkable Family Partnership.” *Rocky Mountain JIHO*, April 24, 1996, p. 2.
- “The Kanemotos: A Tower of Compassion.” *Rocky Mountain JIHO*, September 16, 1998, p. 1.
- “Chiyo Kanemoto.” (obituary) *Longmont Times-Call*, November 1, 1999 p. B-7.
- “A Real American Dream: Kanemotos Went From Immigrants to Longmont Icons.” *Longmont Times-Call*, October 26, 2000, p. B-5.
- “Longmont Business Icon Dies.” (Jimmie Kanemoto obituary) *Longmont Times-Call*, December 6, 2006, p. A-1.
- “Jimmie T. Kanemoto.” (obituary) *Longmont Times-Call*, December 6, 2006, p. B-4.
- “Kanemoto’s Life Touched and Inspired Many.” *Longmont Times-Call*, December 11, 2006, p. A-1.
- “George Kanemoto Helped Build Longmont.” (George Kanemoto obituary) *Longmont Times-Call*, October 29, 2009, p. A-1.
- “Tower of Compassion 50th Anniversary: Longmont Landmark Remains Symbol of Gratitude.” *Longmont Times-Call*, March 8, 2023.
- “Longmont Landmark Tower of Compassion Turns 50 This Year.” *Longmont Times-Call*, March 15, 2023.

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. Applicable State Register Criteria:

- ✓ 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 Longmont Standards for Designation: Longmont Municipal Code 2:56:050

The council may designate a landmark with the consent of the owner if it is at least 50 years old, or is determined to have exceptional historic value, and meets one or more of the criteria listed below.

The council may designate a historic district if it includes significant concentration of designated landmarks and contributing properties and meets one or more of the criteria listed below:

- ✓ 1. The landmark or historic district has character, interest, or value as part of the development, or the cultural, artistic, social, ethnic, economic, political, technological or institutional heritage, of Longmont, Boulder County, Weld County, the State of Colorado, or the United States.
- 2. It includes the site of a significant historic event.
- ✓ 3. It is identified with a person who significantly contributed to the development, or the cultural, artistic, social, ethnic, economic, political, technological or institutional heritage of Longmont, Boulder County, Weld County, the State of Colorado, or the United States.
- 4. It portrays a historic era characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
- 5. It is identified as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of Longmont, Boulder County, Weld County, the State of Colorado or the United States.
- ✓ 6. It embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship that represent a significant architectural innovation.
- ✓ 8. The site is geographically or regionally important.

Does not meet any of the above Longmont Standards for Designation

39. Area(s) of significance: **Architecture, Art, Ethnic Heritage / Asian**

40. Period of significance: **1973**

41. Level of significance: **Local**

42. Statement of significance:

The Tower of Compassion is historically significant relative to the theme of Ethnic Heritage / Asian. Erected in 1973, the tower was presented to the citizens of Longmont, as a gift from the Kanemoto family in appreciation for the community's empathy for the family, especially during the World War II era. The tower stands today as a visual reminder of the Longmont community's compassion for persons of Japanese descent during a period of extreme xenophobia, as well as a tribute to the Kanemoto family's many positive contributions to the City of Longmont. The tower is also historically significant relative to the theme of Community Planning and Development. It was built as, and remains, the most visually prominent feature in Kanemoto Park.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

The Tower of Compassion displays a high level of physical integrity relative to the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service and History Colorado – location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is in its original location in Kanemoto Park, the setting of which remains unchanged since the Tower was erected in 1973. Some sections of the lower walls were repaired or replaced with in-kind materials in 2016, following flooding that had occurred in 2013. With no other additions or alterations, the Tower's integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, is, thus, fully intact. The Tower also retains its integrity of Feeling and Association, as it relates directly to the Kanemoto family and to Ethnic Heritage / Asian as an area of significance. The property as a whole, including the tower itself, the Torii gate, the cherry tree grove, the bronze plaques, and the park setting, evoke deep feelings for the Kanemoto family and the bond they formed with the City of Longmont.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT44. National Register eligibility assessment: **Individually Eligible**State Register eligibility assessment: **Individually Eligible**Local Landmark eligibility assessment: **Eligible**45. Is there National Register district potential? **No**

Discuss: The Tower of Compassion is an isolated historically significant resource within Kanemoto Park.

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 #1, Images 1-32**

**CD filed at: City of Longmont, Department of Economic Development,
Planning and Development Services
385 Kimbark Street
Longmont, CO 80501**

48. Report title: **N/A**

49. Date(s): **November 27, 2023**

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

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

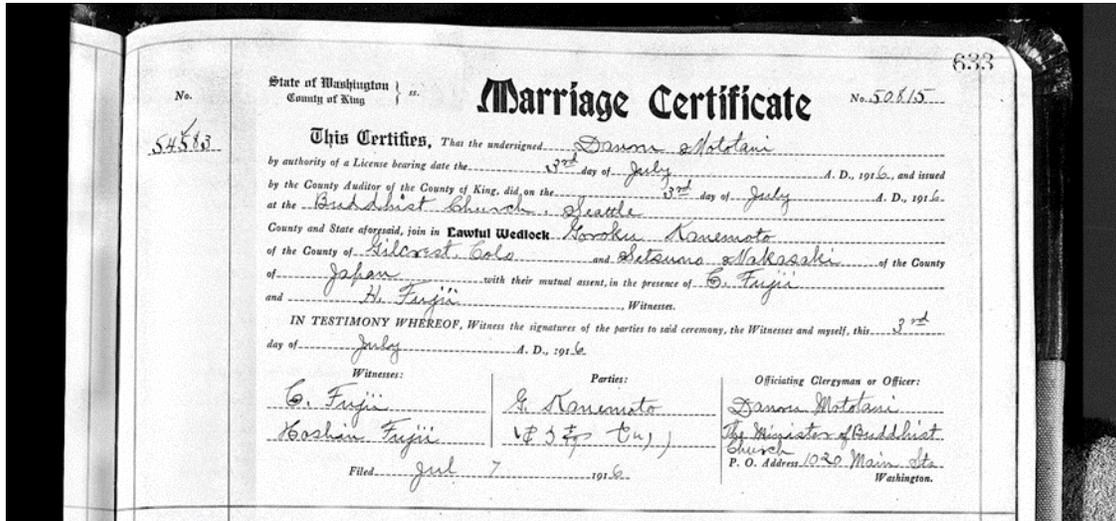
52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525**

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

Historic Images



Kanemoto family, circa early 1920s (courtesy of the Kanemoto family and the Longmont Leader)



Goroku Kanemoto and Setsuno Nakasaki marriage certificate (obtained through Ancestry.com)



Kanemoto family members, circa early 1960s. Back row, left to right: Ken, Jim, Dale, and George. Front row, left to right: Setsuno, Gail, Chiyo, Joyce, Jane, with daughter Karen on her lap, and Ed. (courtesy of the Kanemoto family and the Longmont Leader)



Jimmie and George Kanemoto, circa 1990s. (courtesy of the Kanemoto family and the Longmont Leader)

Season's Greetings

KANE COMPANIES

LONGMONT, COLORADO

JIM and CHIYO KANEMOTO
GEORGE and JANE KANEMOTO

謹賀新年

一九八一年元旦



9 17 S. MAIN, LONGMONT, COLORADO 80501

Kane Companies advertisement featuring a rendering of the Tower of Compassion. (obtained through Colorado's Historic Newspapers Collection from the December 31, 1980 edition of the Rocky Mountain JHO.)

Current Photos



CD 1, Image 1, View to Northwest



CD 1, Image 2, View to Northwest



CD 1, Image 3, View to North



CD 1, Image 4, View to North



CD 1, Image 5, View to North



CD 1, Image 6, View to Northeast



CD 1, Image 7, View to Northeast



CD 1, Image 8, View to Northeast



CD 1, Image 9, View to Northeast



CD 1, Image 10, View to East



CD 1, Image 11, View to East



CD 1, Image 12, View to East



CD 1, Image 13, View to East



CD 1, Image 14, View to East



CD 1, Image 15, View to Southeast



CD 1, Image 16, View to Southeast



CD 1, Image 17, View to Southeast



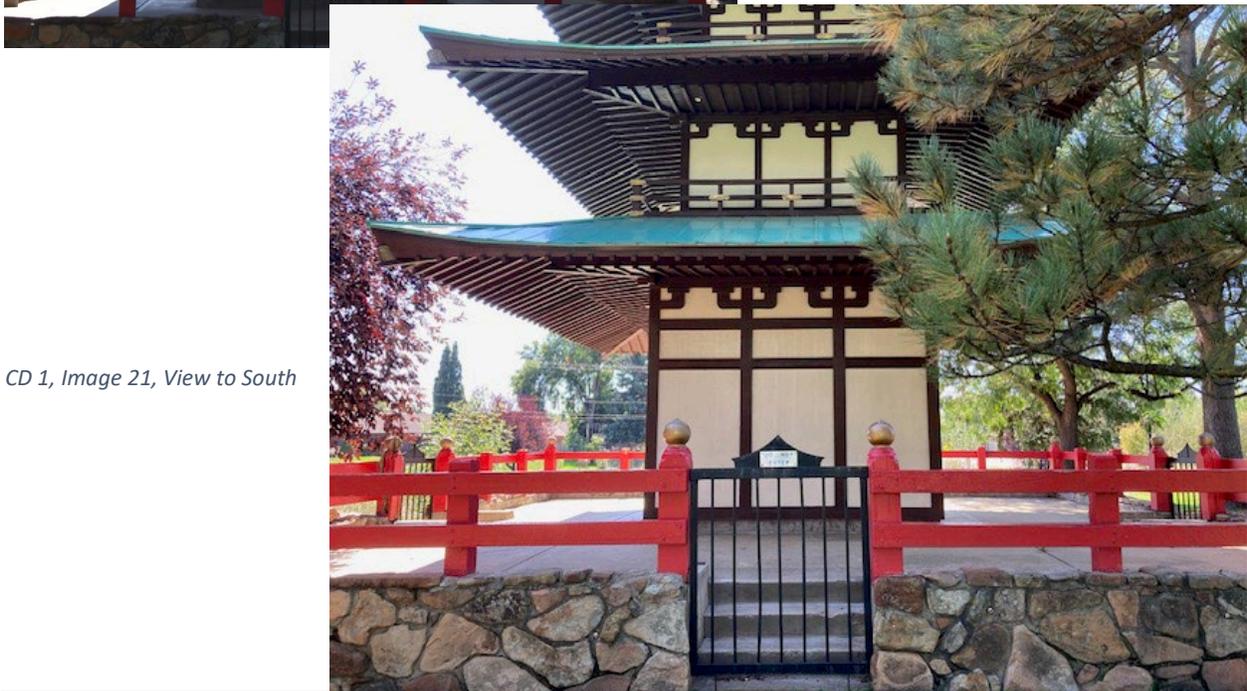
CD 1, Image 18, View to Southeast



CD 1, Image 19, View to South



CD 1, Image 20, View to South



CD 1, Image 21, View to South



CD 1, Image 22, View to Southwest



CD 1, Image 23, View to Southwest



CD 1, 24, View to Southwest



CD 1, Image 25, View to West



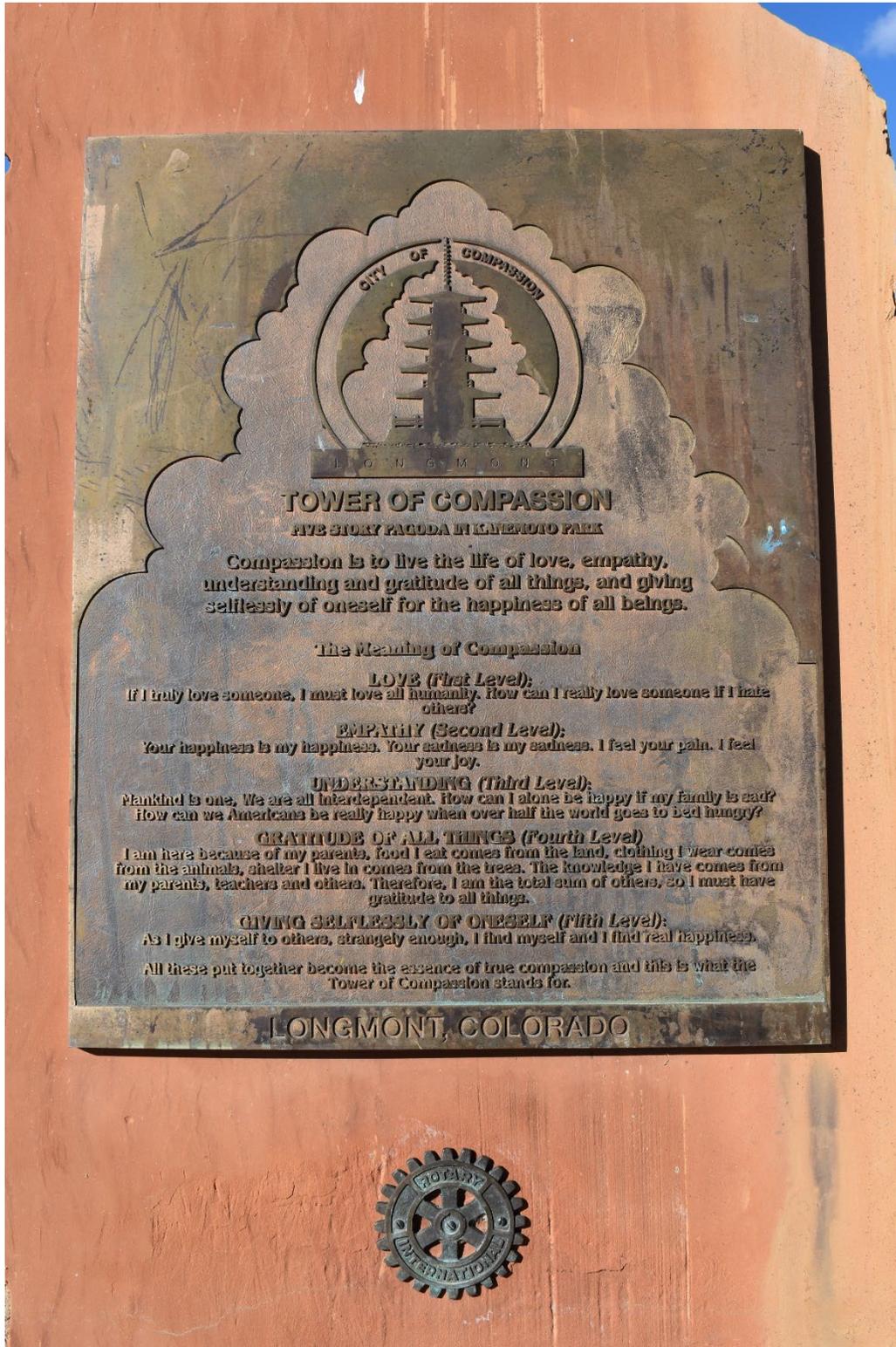
CD 1, Image 26, View to West



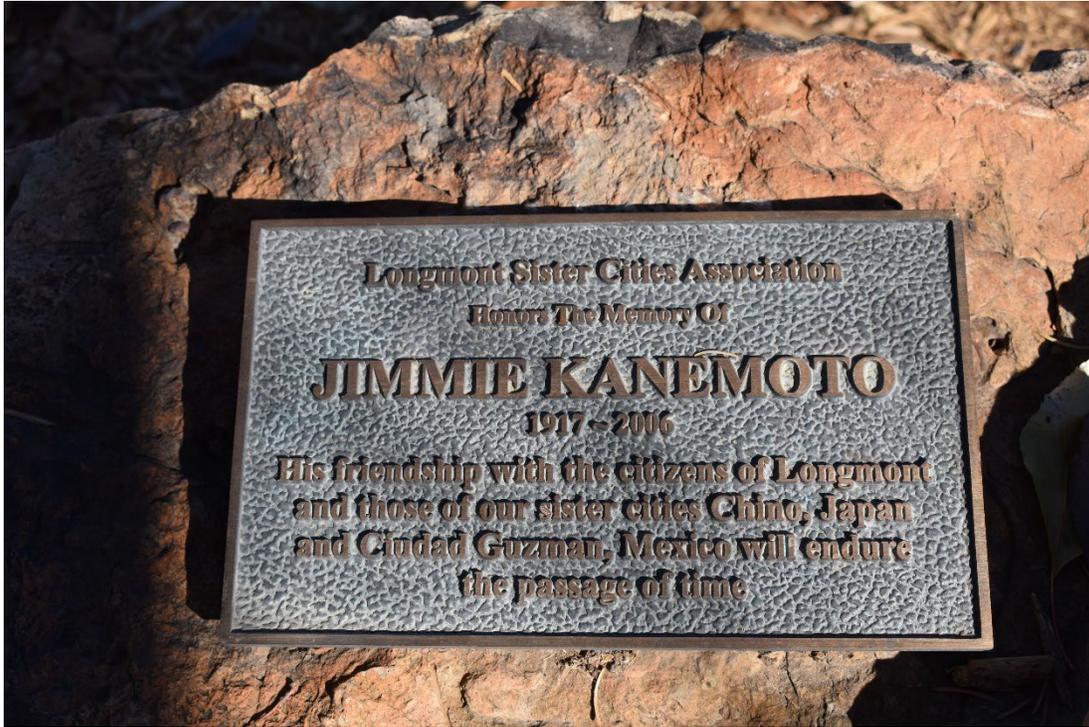
CD 1, Image 27, Detail view of the underside of the eave overhang on the east side



CD 1, Image 29, Detail view of the underside of the eave overhang on the west side



CD 1, Image 30, Plaque adjacent to public sidewalk along Missouri Avenue



CD 1, Image 31, Plaque east of the Tower of Compassion



CD 1, Image 32, Plaque west of the Tower of Compassion, near the Cherry Tree Orchard