



CITY OF LONGMONT | Historic Preservation Commission

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION REQUEST

917 4th Avenue
Schey House
February 4, 2021

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Type of application: Request for designation as local historic landmark
Property owner: Neil & Cynthia Piller
Phone / email: neil.piller@spawlaw.com; 303-772-5881
Contact person: Same as above.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Name of home: The Schey House
Address of site: 917 4th Avenue
Legal description: Lot 1, Block 60, Replat C, Original Town of Longmont City of Longmont, Colorado (Boulder County)
Existing use: Single-family dwelling
Proposed use: Single-family dwelling

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The property owner has requested designation of the house located at 917 4th Avenue in Longmont, which is a contributing property to the Historic West Side District. The Schey family was significant to Longmont's history.

The house was built in 1912 by Theodore Schey, whose father was Solomon Schey, one of the early residents of Longmont in 1882. Solomon Schey established Schey's Clothing Store on Main Street. His eldest son Jacob served as Longmont's City Attorney in 1907. The Schey family is also important to Longmont's Jewish history. The second-floor addition of the house was added later in the 1930s when relatives trying to escape the Holocaust needed refuge.

The applicant believes the home qualifies for designation by meeting review criteria under numbers 1, 3, and 4 of LMC Section 2.56.050. There is a historic building inventory for the property, and it is included as an attachment. The applicant also provided current and historic photos.

The applicant identified meeting review criteria under numbers 1, 3 and 4 of LMC Section 2.56.050. Staff identified the following:

CRITERIA REVIEW FOR DESIGNATION OF LANDMARKS (LMC SECTION 2.56.050)

A. The council may designate a landmark with the consent of the owner if it is at least fifty years old, or is determined to have exceptional historic value, 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.

The home is associated with the early development of Longmont. The Schey family is an integral part of Longmont's Jewish history.

2. It includes the site of a significant historic event.

3. It is identified with a person or persons 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.

The home is associated with a notable individual / family (see criteria 1).

4. It portrays a historic era characterized by a distinctive architectural style.

The home is a classic craftsman bungalow.

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.

7. For an application with the owner's consent, its unique location or singular physical characteristics represent an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community, or the City of Longmont.

8. The site is geographically or regionally important.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AND POSTING

The property was posted with a public hearing sign and a notice was provided in the newspaper. Staff has not received any inquiries to date on this proposal.

COMMISSION OPTIONS

The Commission will hold a public hearing on this matter and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the request to designate this property as a local historic landmark.

The following options are presented for consideration by the Historic Preservation Commission:

1. Recommend that the property be designated as a local historic landmark.
2. Recommend that the property not be designated as a local historic landmark.
3. Defer action on the request based on the need for additional information.

For either option 1 or 2, the Commission should base its recommendation on the review criteria for designation of landmarks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission consider option 1 for designation of the property located at 917 4th Avenue, known as the Schey House as a local historic landmark. The property appears to be eligible for designation as a local historic landmark under criteria 1, 3, and 4.

The Historic Building Inventory Record was completed in 1986 as part of an inventory on the West Side. Staff might also recommend having an updated and more detailed cultural resource survey recorded in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

Designation application and review criteria with historic and current photos
Historic Building Inventory



APPLICATION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Longmont Historic Preservation Commission

Property Information

Historic Name The Schey House
Address 917 4th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501
Legal Description Lot 1, Block 60, Replat C, Longmont Original Town
Year Constructed 1912 Source of Information County Records

Owner Information

Name(s) Neil E. Piller and Cynthia R. Piller
Address 917 4th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501
Phone/Fax 303-772-5881
Email neil.piller@spawlaw.com

Contact Person Information (if different than owner information)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone/Fax _____
Email _____

Submittal Requirements

- ☐ Completed application for historic landmark designation
- ☐ Written statement requesting landmark designation, describing the architecture and history of the property, and addressing any future plans for the property
- ☐ Written statement addressing the criteria for historic landmark designation (review criteria are listed on the next page)
- ☐ Existing cultural resource survey of property, if available
- ☐ Current images of all sides of all buildings on the property
- ☐ Historic images of the property, if available

Process for Review of Historic Landmark Designation

Applications for historic landmark designation require review by staff and public hearings before the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and City Council. Ordinance approval by City Council is required for historic landmark designation.

Complete applications are due to the HPC staff liaison at least 3 weeks prior to the next scheduled HPC meeting.

Owner Consent

I, the undersigned, as owner(s) of the property described on this application, hereby consent to the designation of my property as a historic landmark by the City of Longmont.

Signature(s) Cynthia R. Piller Date 12/11/2020
Neil E. Piller

REQUEST FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION FOR
THE SCHEY HOUSE, 917 4TH AVE., LONGMONT, CO

In support of our application for landmark designation of the Schey House, we hereby submit the following information which is based on our discussions of the history of the house with the Schey Family as well as the history books, Longmont Memories written by the Times-Call staff, The Longmont Album written by Betty Ann Newby and The Times-Call paper.

A. Cultural, ethnic, political interest

Our home was built in 1912 by Theodore Schey on the back 60 feet of the residential property at 330 Bross St., owned by his father, Solomon Schey. Solomon Schey was one of the early residents of Longmont. He originally came to Colorado to provide clothing to miners working in the Central City gold mines. When he and his family moved to Longmont in 1882, he established Schey's Clothing Store which had a decades-long run at 370 Main Street.

With the family being of Jewish faith, Solomon's older son, Jacob, was given the privilege of receiving a formal education including a law degree from Columbia University. He established his law practice in Longmont in 1907. He was hired to serve as Longmont's City Attorney beginning in 1920 which continued for 36 years. Solomon eventually sold (or gave) the property at 330 Bross to Jacob.

As the younger son in the family, Theodore ("Rusty") was given responsibility for the family clothing store which he ran for many decades. Rusty and his wife, Florence, built our home at 917 4th Ave. in the classic craftsman bungalow style. Originally, it was built as a one-story home, housing Rusty, his wife Florence, and their two children, Theodore, Jr. (Ted), and Sally. This family is referenced numerous times in both history books

and many photos of the family members can be found in both history books. A photo of Schey's Clothing and Solomon Schey can be found at P. 110 in The Longmont Album.

Our home was originally built as a one-story home. A photo of the house as first built is attached.

During the 1930's, Solomon's relatives were trying to survive in Germany during the Holocaust. When that became an impossible task, they elected to move to Longmont. That move necessitated an addition to our home which was done by adding a second floor with sleeping porches on the front and rear and a separate bedroom for an elderly member of the family. A photo of the home with the recently-constructed second floor is attached.

As many people know, the KKK was a major factor at one time in Longmont's history. In 1922, several Klan members were elected to office in Longmont. Being Jewish, the Schey family was a frequent target of the Klan's vitriol. In addition to the Jacob Schey house on Bross, and our home, the Donovan house to the east of us and the Mahoney house just south of the Jacob Schey home on Bross Street were both occupied by Catholics and this enclave became an easy target for the Klan. The Klan frequently marched down 4th Avenue past the Donovan house and the Schey homes. The Longmont Album, p. 110. This was reasonable because the house that was used for signaling Klan meetings is still located at the Northeast corner of 4th and Pratt (Pirnak home), and the location of the Klan meetings was in a doctor's home then located immediately west of the Times-Call building which has since been moved south.

Ted told us that the Klan would also gather on a fairly regular basis in Thompson Park and then burn crosses in the lawn. Ted and his family would sit in the second floor sleeping porch with shotguns waiting for any attempts by the Klan to enter the home. Fortunately, that apparently never happened.

The Klan also marched on Main Street. The ironic story we were told is that even though they wore full robes and masks to hide their identities, Rusty could identify each of them by the shoes they had purchased from his store. After the marches, many would come back to the store to play cards around the stove with Rusty.

Ted Schey, Jr. was my senior partner in the Schey and Schey Law firm having joined with Jacob after Ted completed his legal education. Ted also served as Assistant City Attorney with Jacob. When Jacob retired from that position in 1956, Ted took over and remained City Attorney for another twenty years.

While Rusty Schey was involved in the clothing store full time, his real passion was growing vegetables and flowers. Our home's back yard originally bordered the back yard of the Mahoney home at 326 Bross. It was vacant so Ms. Mahoney allowed Rusty to plant a large garden there (1/10th Acre). When we purchased the house in 1976, the garden was still there producing vegetables of many varieties.

Rusty's passion for growing things caused him to be a major proponent for establishing the Memorial Rose Garden on the west end of Roosevelt Park. A photo of him in front of the Garden Gate recently appeared in the Times-Call and is attached.

Rusty's passion for plants also was instrumental in his secondary business during the Great Depression of selling mushrooms to the Brown Palace and Broadmoor Hotels. He would take florescent light fixtures that were being replaced in the clothing store and install them in the basement of our home where he grew the mushrooms. A photo of that arrangement is attached. Also during the Depression and prohibition, Rusty brewed his own variation of Mogan David wine under the roof eaves of our home. When we moved in, we found remnants of that activity.

The Schey family has been a major part of Longmont history for more than 100 years. The law firm founded by Jacob Schey with Theodore, Jr. continues to be one of Longmont's oldest firms serving the greater Longmont community for 113 years. I have been a happy member of the firm for more than 45 years. Our home was an important part of Longmont's history. We are only the second family to occupy the home.

B. Distinctive Architectural Style

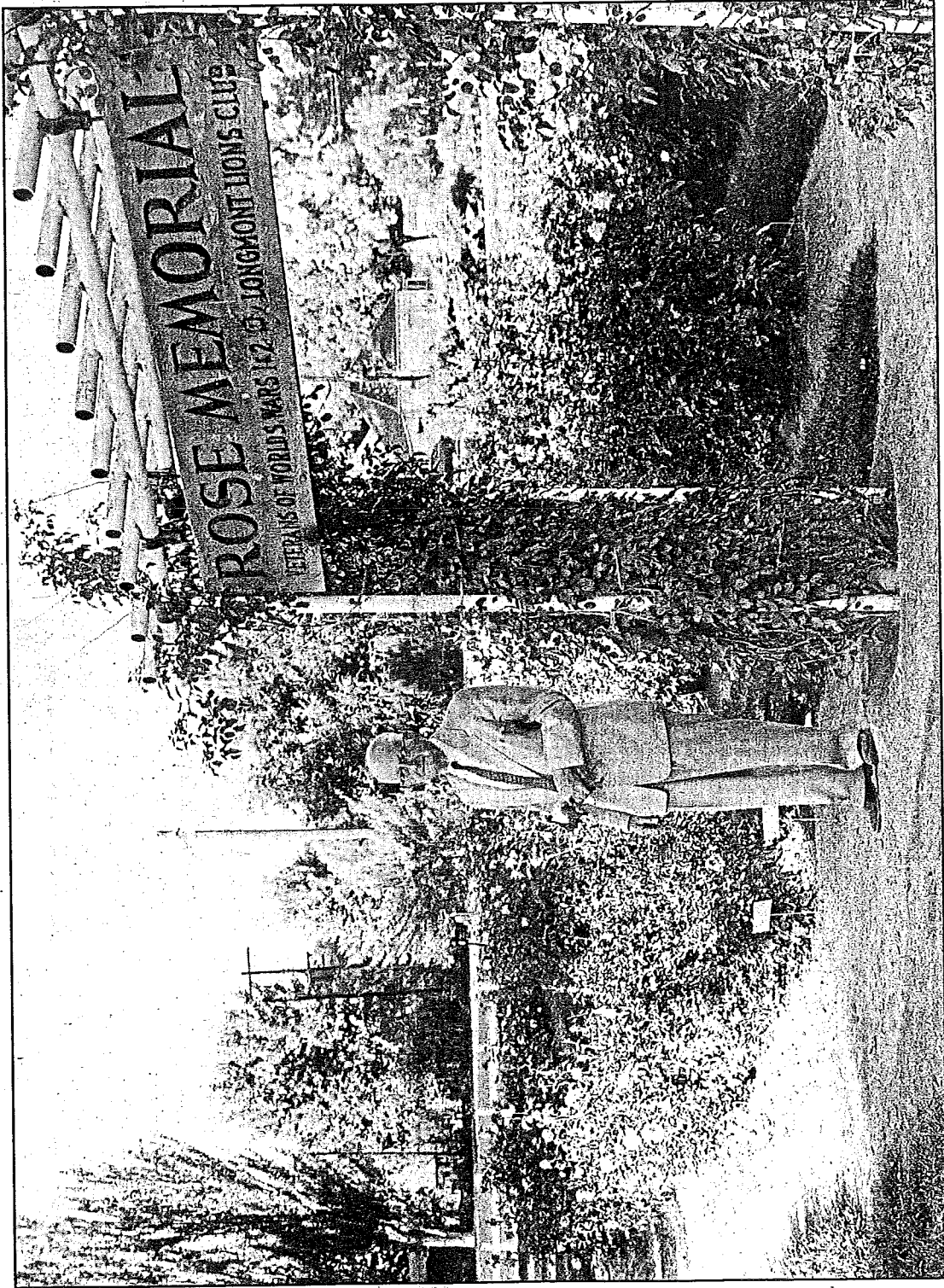
As mentioned above, the home was designed and built in classic craftsman bungalow style. With the projects we have done on the home, our focus has been on preserving the fundamental elements of that classic style. Many of these homes were built in Longmont during the 1910's and 1920's but few have maintained the fundamental exterior design elements of that style.

C. Unique Longmont Location. A recent photo of the home's exterior is attached. Our home is also located in the Westside National Historic District. It is the only home in our block on 4th Avenue that faces north on Thompson Park which makes it very easy for us to enjoy the 4th of July concerts by the Longmont Symphony, and to a lesser extent, the annual Longmont Bicycle Criterium.

D. Modifications. Twenty-five years ago, we were able to acquire the garden area behind the house and we constructed a family room, bedroom and garage as additions to the home. These are shown in the photos of the house. We were absolutely dedicated to making sure the architectural features of the original craftsman-bungalow design were incorporated into the additions.



From the archives



Longmont Times-Call File / Longmont Museum

From the Times-Call photo archives via Longmont Museum: "Memorial Rose Garden at Roosevelt Park portrays colorful grandeur. Sponsored by Lions Club in memory of World War veterans, it is AARS Test Garden. Theodore Schey, 'daddy' and chief supervisor of the rose garden, makes his daily inspection." Originally published Oct. 8, 1959.

thinking their time is more important than yours; it's the right thing to do.

Tax increase

A few weeks ago I signed a petition to increase my taxes. Here's my thinking: Even after I pay a bit more tax, I will still have 10 times what many essential workers have, and I can't figure out what I'm not going to buy that I need.

Stop the destruction

When is someone going to step up and put a stop to all the destruction and vandalism caused during so-called peaceful protests? The Democratic mayors in Chicago, Portland and Denver would rather sit back and watch the cities be destroyed with vandalism and shootings rather than condemn this and put a stop to the destruction. People throwing ... fireworks at police, breaking windows and setting fires around the police station Saturday night in Aurora should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law. The

Democratic leadership across the country are doing all they can to make President Trump look worse rather than doing their part to calm things down for the good of the country. And the media need to stop publicizing these acts of destruction.

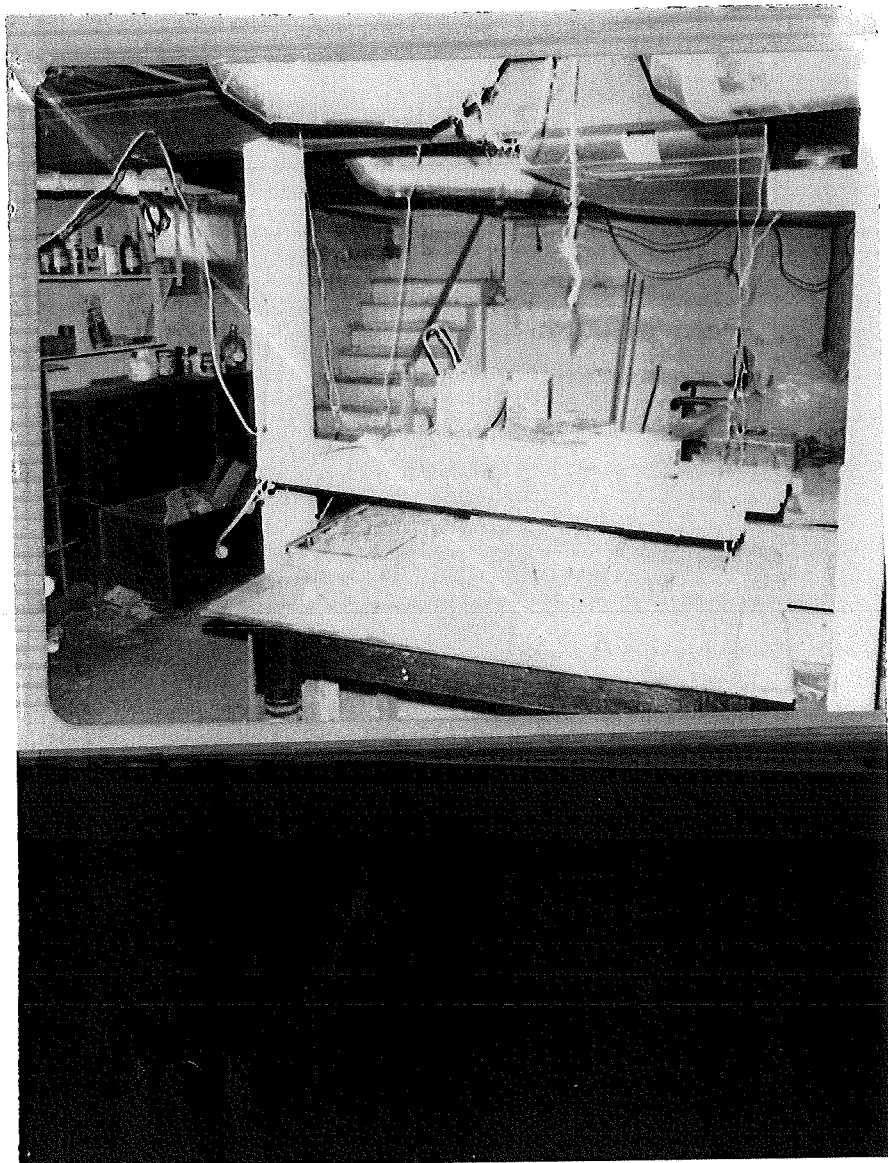
Sports schedules

Thank you, Times-Call for printing the sports schedule. We really appreciate it.

Thank you

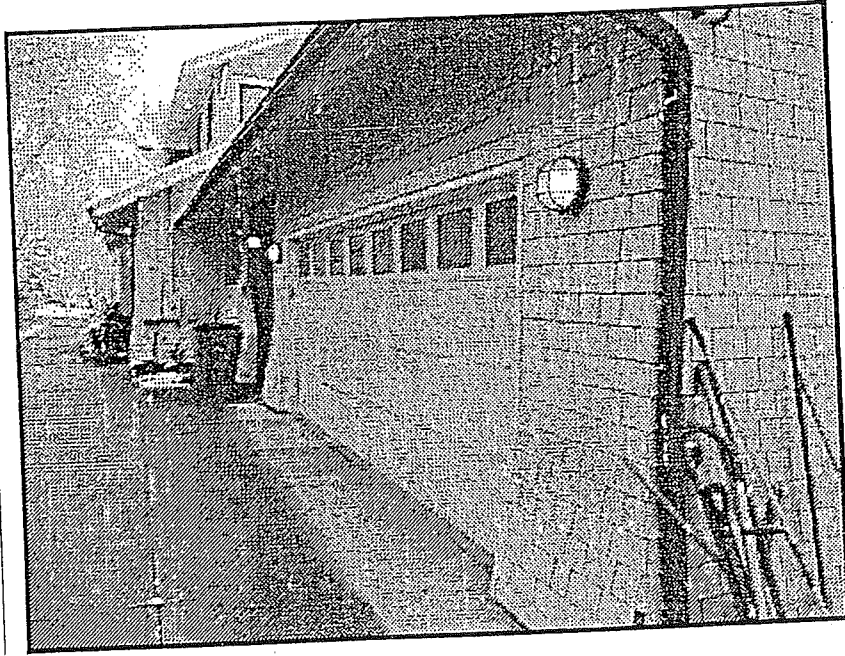
I want to thank the person that paid for my race the

For today for a lifetime

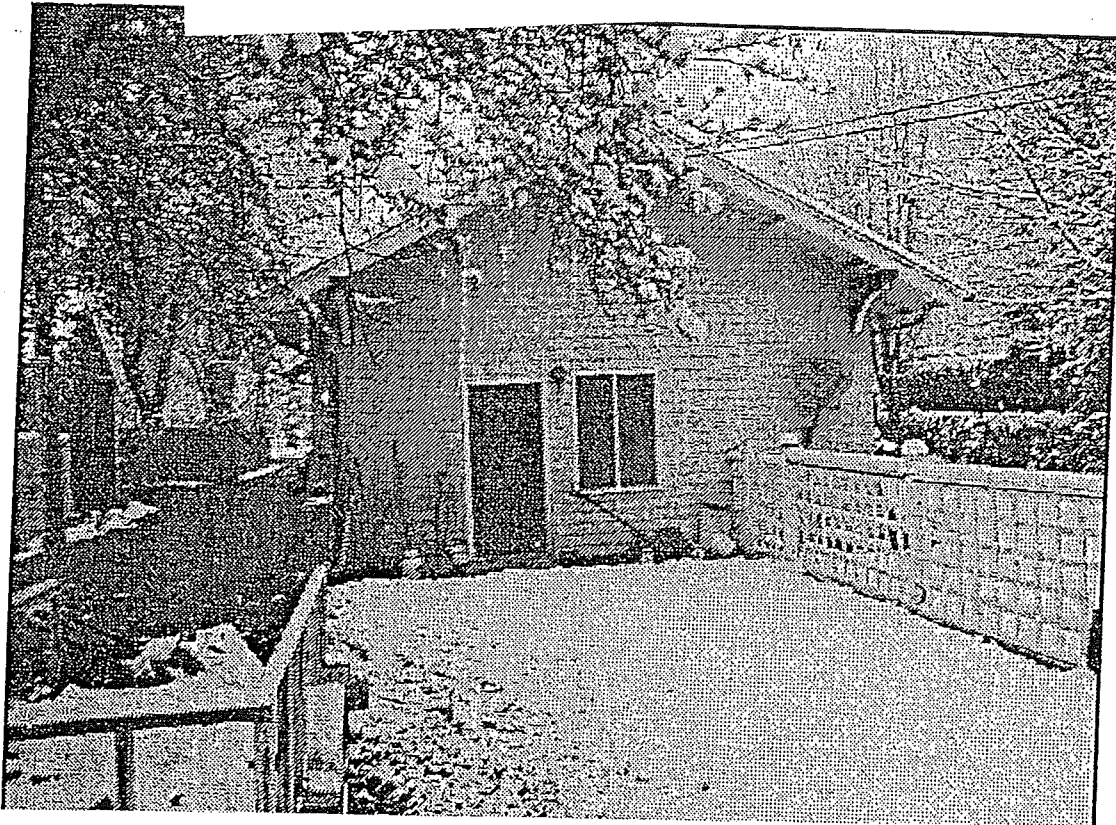


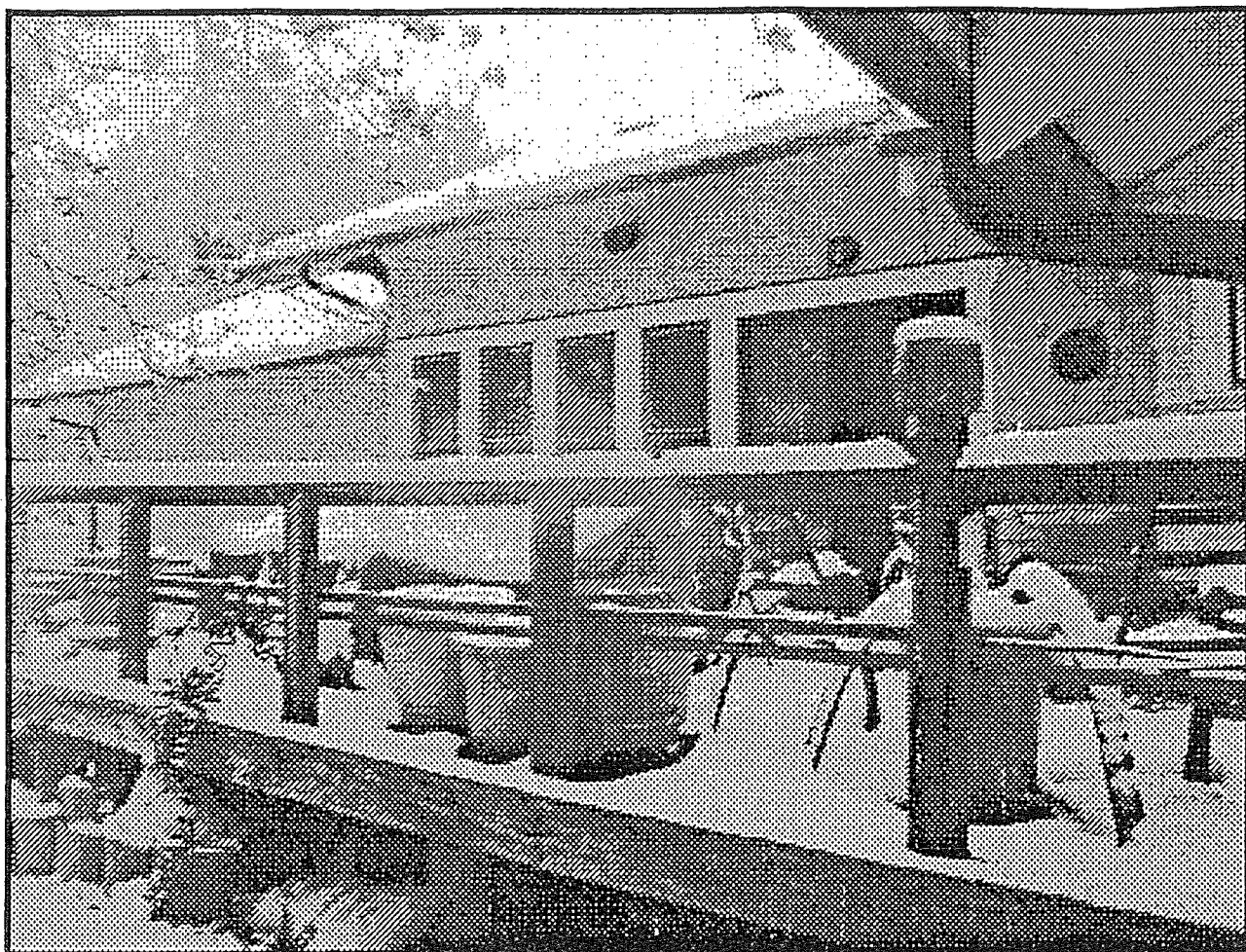


side



side





side



COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
1300 Broadway Denver, Colorado

Historic Building Inventory Record

NOT FOR FIELD USE


ELIGIBLE

DET. NOT ELIG.

NOMINATED

CERTIFIED REHAB

DATE

project name Longmont Historic Survey	county Boulder	city Longmont	state ID no. <u>1209.34</u> temporary no. <u>178</u>
current building name		owner <u>Piller, Cynthia</u> <u>Marie</u> <u>Longmont 80501</u>	
address 917 4th Avenue		tnsp 2N range 69W sec 3, NW 1/4, SW 1/4	
historic name <u>Thos. Schuy. House</u>		USGS quad name Longmont 1979yr. xx 7.5' 15'	
district name West Side Historic District		blk. 60 lot(s) 1 addition yr. of addition Original Townsite 1871	
film roll by HSGA no. 8	negative nos. 12	loc. of neg. city of Lmnt	date of construction estimate <u>1912</u> actual source <u>Winter tap record</u>
			use residential present residential historic
			condition excellent XX good fair deteriorating
			extent of alterations XX minor moderate major describe:
			XX original moved date(s) of move:
style <u>Bungalow</u> <u>CRAFTSMAN</u>	stories 1 1/2	field assessment XX eligible not eligible	
materials wood frame shingle	sq. footage	district potential XX yes no XX contributing non-contributing	
architectural description roof: gables foundation: n.v. windows: wood double hung, 1/1, front tops leaded porch: brick and wood posts details: eave brackets, battered front windows side bay window		local landmark designation name date associated buildings? yes type if inventoried, list ID nos.	
additional pages yes XX no			