

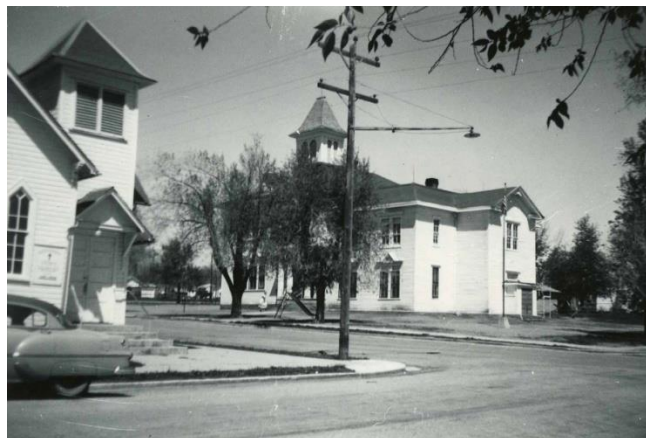


History of 741 Jefferson (Louisville's Methodist Church)

This report is intended to supplement and update the 2000 survey that was conducted with respect to the history of the Methodist Church at 741 Jefferson. This church was the second church building in Louisville and is the oldest church still meeting in its original building.

When Charles Welch conveyed this property in 1891 to the "Methodist Episcopal Church" for the construction of a church building, it likely made sense for it to be located on Spruce, which was developing into the major east-west street in downtown Louisville. Maps and firsthand accounts indicate that Spruce was at the time a through street to the west, and Pine was not (whereas today, Pine is a through street, and Spruce is not.) By the early to mid 1900s, Spruce as it passed through the Jefferson Place Addition included the offices of the Louisville Times at 800/804 Spruce, a very nearby store at 805 La Farge, the William Austin store at the northeast corner of Spruce and Jefferson, the Methodist Church at 741 Jefferson, and the Louisville grade school. Farther west on Spruce were the brick school house at 801 Grant and the German Lutheran Church at Spruce and McKinley.

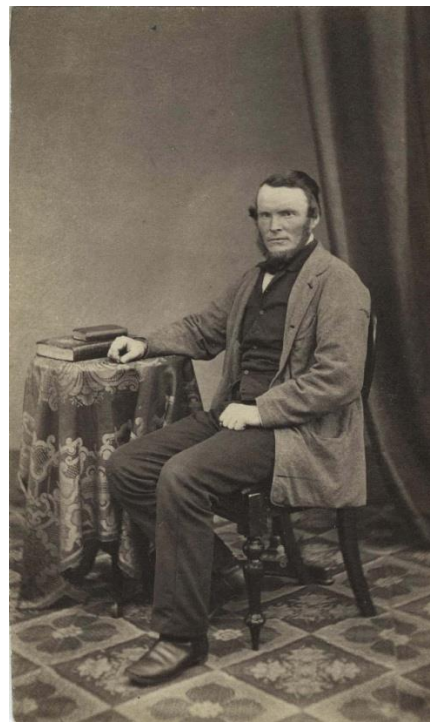
The following photo shows the relationship of the Methodist Church (on the left) to the Louisville Grade School across Spruce to the north; it was taken in 1961, not long before the school was demolished:



As noted in the 2000 survey, this church was established by, and appealed to, the many English pioneer families who came to Louisville in its earliest years. Many of the men were miners who had come from mining areas of England. Surnames of families who belonged to this church included (but are not limited to) the following prominent Anglo families who lived in Louisville: Carlton, Hutchinson, Dalby, Jenkins, Lawrence, Thirlaway, Thomas, Thompson, Ferguson, Robinson, Hilton, Cable, Pickett, and Henning.

Tom Carlton, who was a miner and preacher (though not ordained, apparently), is generally recognized as having been the force behind the establishment of the church. He was born in 1824 in the village of Flimby in Cumberland, which is on the Irish Sea near Maryport and near the border with Scotland. He married in 1844 to Jane McLean (1818-1891) and they had several children. English census records show that he was a "colliery viewer," which was a position similar to that of a foreman. The Carlton family immigrated to the US in the 1870s. By 1880, Tom Carlton was a mining engineer in Gold Hill in Boulder County, and by 1885, he was living in Louisville with his family. Records indicate that he was a preacher for Louisville's English settlers who met in private homes prior to the building of the Methodist Church and that he personally raised \$800 for the building. He died in January 1892, not long after the death of his wife, before the Methodist Episcopal Church could be opened.

The following two photos are strongly believed to show Jane and Tom Carlton based on the available evidence and writings on the backs of the photos. The photo of Jane Carlton was taken by a local Colorado photographer, while the photo of Tom Carlton was taken in Maryport, England (near his home village of Flimby):



The earliest available photo of the church shows a central entrance on the east and a bell tower, although records indicate that there may not have ever been a bell installed in that particular tower.

The photo would likely have been taken between 1892 and 1910 (when some modifications were made). In these earliest years, the pews faced south and the pulpit was in the south alcove.

The Methodist Church had a strong affiliation with the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. The Iliff School provided student pastors for the church. According to local historian Carolyn Conarroe, writing in 1991, “[o]f the total 60 ministers who have served Louisville Methodist Church, 57 are thought to have been students.” It was true for at least some of these student pastors that they would come up from Denver and stay over the weekend in a small room in the building.

One of these student ministers was Ralph Mulhollen, who was assigned by the Iliff School of Theology to be the pastor for the Louisville Methodist Church from 1923 to 1925. It was likely during this time frame that he made a map of the Louisville parish that shows the location of not only streets but also houses and businesses at the time. His name appears on the map. This map was found in a home at 700 Lincoln that until recently was still owned by the Thomas family and was donated to the Louisville Historical Museum. Mary Thomas, the home’s former resident, was among the founders of the church, according to a Thomas family history. (She and her husband, Nicholas Thomas, were also associated with 733 Pine in Jefferson Place.)

The date of construction of the church has been well established as having been 1892, but it should be noted that the church building does appear in the correct location on the 1909 Drumm’s Wall Map of Louisville and on the Methodist Church Map of Louisville that was made in circa 1923-25. The property in question is outside of the boundaries of the Sanborn Maps that were done for Louisville in 1893, 1900, and 1908 (they focused on the downtown business district and La Farge Avenue only).

The Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church was a very active group of women who are credited with starting Louisville’s Labor Day Fall Festival that is to this day a crowd-drawing annual event that has played a large role in Louisville’s reputation as a festival town. It quickly grew out of an annual church bazaar that was started in 1932. The Ladies Aid Society had almost identical members as the Pioneer Club and the Saturday Study Club, which operated the Louisville Public Library for decades. The following photo, dated 1925, shows the Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church:



The woman seated on the farthest right was Jane Carlton, the daughter-in-law of Tom and Jane Carlton. She was the widow of their son, David Carlton, and was very active in the Ladies Aid Society and in the Methodist Church. As noted by local historian Carolyn Conarroe, in her booklet "A Cloud of Witnesses" written for the centennial anniversary of the Methodist Church in 1991, "Some men of the church were merchants who put in long hours at their businesses. Many men were coal miners in the early years before the mines closed in the 1940's. Their workloads were so heavy, the hours so long, there were no hours left for church work. And the women took over."

Carolyn Conarroe further stated in her booklet "A Cloud of Witnesses" that the Methodist Church was also used for public education in that it provided space for overflow classes from the public grade school across the street. She wrote, "Photographs and the Louisville Times history features tell that the north alcove was added in about 1910. This addition provided space for classes from the overcrowded school across the street in what is now Memory Square Park, but the dates of this primary school annex are not certain." The Methodist Church is also known to have had an active Sunday School program.

According to Carolyn Conarroe, the direction of the seats was changed in 1937, being turned to face west instead of south. Her booklet "A Cloud of Witnesses" also recounts other physical changes made to the building over time.

It should be noted that the statement in the 2000 survey for 741 Jefferson that Charles Welch "had originally homesteaded the land which became Louisville" is now known to be incorrect. As the operator of the first mine, the Welch Mine, he did purchase land in order to expand the Welch Mine, and he also purchased land for residential development. However, Welch did not homestead any land in the Louisville area.

Another address found for 741 Jefferson, under Louisville's old address system, was 240 Jefferson. This address appears in the directories from the late 1920s and early 1930s. In other old directories, the church was simply described as being on the corner of Spruce and Jefferson, with no number address given. The 1940 directory is the first one in which the address of 741 Jefferson appears.

Sources of information

Boulder County "Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master," on file at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder's Office and Assessor's Office public records, accessed through <http://recorder.bouldercounty.org>.

Directories of Louisville residents and businesses on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Census records and other records accessed through www.ancestry.com

Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909.

Methodist Church Parish Map of Louisville, Colorado, circa 1923-25.

Sanborn Insurance Maps for Louisville, Colorado, 1893, 1900, and 1908.

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum, including an untitled and undated family history provided by the Thomas family.

"Church History Dates Back to Late 80s." *The Louisville Times*, September 3, 1942.

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Conarroe, Carolyn, *A Cloud of Witnesses.* (Booklet written for the Methodist Church Centennial, 1891-1991.)

Conarroe, Carolyn, *Louisville Legends.* Capitol Hill LLC, 2004.

Conarroe, Carolyn, *The Louisville Story.* Louisville Times, Inc., 2000.

Gleeson, Carol, "Fall Festival Draws a Crowd." *The Louisville Times*, September 4-10, 2002.

"Good ole Days." *Daily Camera* Fall Festival Guide, September 2001.

"Ground Breaking Celebration Kicks off Expansion at Louisville United Methodist." *The Louisville Times/Lafayette News*, September 22, 1999.

Martin, Lindsey, "Methodist Church Buildings Gets a New Lease on Life." *The Louisville Times* (believed), February 23, 1983.

McAllister, Margie, "Coal Miner Starts United Methodist Church 100 Years Ago This Week." *Daily Camera*, September 4, 1991.

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