

This paper was prepared for use in the Boulder Historic Context collection and is intended to be filed under the theme of 2.10: Ethnic/Cultural Groups, 1858-1900. The purpose is to study the Swedish community that existed here at the turn of the century and examine the houses associated with some of these individuals to determine the extent of contributions this group of Scandinavians made to Boulder's built environment.

THE SWEDISH IMMIGRATION INTO COLORADO

From 1870-1900, the number of Swedish immigrants who settled in Colorado increased swiftly, from approximately 120 to 10,765. This population surge was due to several factors both here and in the homeland. In Sweden, the transition to an urban-based economy and growing industrialization had lessened the need for skilled craftsmen who were forced to seek work elsewhere. In addition,

NORTHERN LIGHTS: BOULDER'S SWEDISH HERITAGE

Prepared for the Boulder Historic Context Project

by

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in America, there were several factors motivating immigration to Colorado being enticed by the Homestead Act of 1862 and courted by the Colorado Territorial Board of Immigration, which in 1877 developed its population enough to qualify it for admission to the union as a state. There were also strong resources and broader its tax base. There were also strong recruitment efforts by private companies and the railroads, which sent agents directly to Sweden to advertise jobs, inexpensive land along the tracks and increasing availability of transportation by rail. These forces, combined with letters from family and friends whom had already moved to America, appeals from Scandinavian groups and other organizations within the United States, newspaper articles about the agreeable climate and the chance to start afresh, must have made the idea of moving to Boulder particularly appealing.

Jane Harmon, "Roots: A Study of the Swedish People in Colorado, 1870-1900," History 3 (1978), p. 10.
Christine Whitacre and R. Laurie Simons, "1995/1996 Boulder Survey of Historic Places," (1986), p. 16.
Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado: 1859-1884," p. 2.

INTRODUCTION

This paper was prepared for use in the Boulder Historic Context collection and is intended to be filed under the theme of 2.10: Ethnic/Cultural Groups, C. 1858-Present. Its purpose is to study the Swedish community that existed here at the turn of the century, and examine the houses associated with some of these individuals to determine the extent of contributions this group of Scandinavians made to Boulder's built environment.

THE SWEDISH IMMIGRATION INTO COLORADO

From 1870-1900, the number of Swedish immigrants who settled in Colorado increased swiftly, from approximately 220 to 10,765.¹ This population surge was due to several factors both here and in the homeland. In Sweden, the transition to an urban-based economy and growing industrialization had lessened the need for skilled craftsmen, who were forced to seek work elsewhere. In addition, church and state had become tightly interwoven, causing much dissatisfaction.²

In America, there were additional new factors motivating immigration to Colorado. Swedes were already being enticed by the Homestead Act of 1862 and courted by the Colorado Territorial Board of Immigration, which in 1872-73 needed to increase its population enough to qualify it for admission to the union as a state, develop resources and broaden its tax base. There were also strong recruitment efforts by private companies and the railroads, which sent agents directly to Sweden to advertise jobs, inexpensive land along the tracks and increasing availability of transportation by rail.³ These forces, combined with letters from family and friends whom had already moved to America, appeals from Scandinavian groups and other organizations within the United States, newspaper articles about the agreeable climate and the chance to start afresh, must have made the idea of moving to Boulder particularly appealing.

¹Jane Harmon, "Rotter (Roots): A Study of the Swedish People in Colorado, 1870-1900," History 3 (1978), p. 10.

²Christine Whitacre and R. Laurie Simmons, "1985/1986 Boulder Survey of Historic Places," (1986), p. 16.

³Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado: 1859-1884," p. 5.

Swedish-Norse vice consul in Denver for the March 12, 1891 edition of the Swedish newspaper Svenska Korrespondenten puts us into context:

"It is the best place in the union in which to settle. The climate is more like Sweden's than that of the East. Moreover, unlike other nationalities, the Swedish people are welcomed by the Americans, because of their peaceful and law abiding conduct and because of their energy and ability to work..Railroad building has been the most remarkable in the world...Colorado is the greatest health resort in the union...Irrigation is making thousands of acres of land the most productive in the world. Price per acre is \$12 to \$25 for ordinary farmland and \$25 to \$500 for fruitlands...The great riches in metals--gold, silver, iron, copper and lead ore--are being worked by a host of our countrymen. Wages are \$3 to \$10 a day. Also, there are riches in coal and rock quarries...Many of our countrymen are coming here from east and west, north and south. They never leave. It is good to be here."⁴

BOULDER'S SWEDISH IMMIGRANTS

When Boulder first incorporated in 1859, foreign-born residents numbered 41, or 10.7% of the City's total population of 383. Of this group of immigrants, 18 were from Canada, 4 from England, 3 from Germany, 3 from Ireland, 3 from Norway, and 1 from Holland. No Swedes are listed at this time. The 1860 census report reveals that more than half of these newcomers were employed as follows: 17 miners, 1 butcher, 1 carpenter, 1 cook, 1 farmer and 1 saddler. The high number of miners indicates that, like the majority of American-born settlers, most of the foreign-born came here initially for the gold.⁵

Eight Swedish families arrived in 1869, forming the farming community of Ryssby, northeast of Boulder. This settlement served as the Swedish center of northern Colorado for nearly 20 years, with Swedes gathering there on Sundays to worship, sing native

⁴Jane Harmon, "Rotter (Roots): A Study of the Swedish People in Colorado, 1870-1900," p. 6.

⁵Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado (1859-1884)," p. 2.

songs and dance traditional folk dances.⁶

By 1870, Boulder's population had swelled to 1,158. The number of foreign-born immigrants totaled 12.1 per cent, including newcomers from Ireland (29), Sweden (24), Switzerland (9), Scotland (6), Poland (3), Belgium (3), Wales (3), France (1) and Austria (1). Of the two dozen Swedes, seven were farmers, three were carpenters, two were laborers, and one was a cook. Only one Norwegian, employed as a miner, appears in the census at this time.⁷

By 1873, the Ryssby settlement had grown to include 14 Swedish families on 2,000 acres of land. In 1881-82, when there were nearly 80 families, the community formed a Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and built a church on 63rd Street south of Nelson Road. Modeled after a church in the parish of Ryssby, a province of Smaland, Sweden, the stone church was designated a Colorado Historic Site in 1933 and a National Historic Site in 1984.⁸

By 1880 the number of foreign-born totalled 12.9 per cent of Boulder's overall population of 3,966. Scandinavians, specifically 42 Swedes and three Norwegians, comprised nearly 10 per cent of this number. Among the Swedes, there were 7 laborers, 5 servants, 3 farmers, 3 carpenters, 1 shoemaker, 1 miner, 1 teamster, and 4 others (unknown). Only two occupations are listed for the Norwegians: shoemaker and carpenter.⁹

ETHNIC CLUSTERING

By this time, some ethnic clustering was beginning to occur in Boulder. Most visible was the City's African-American population, which totaled 30 in 1880 and 200 by 1910. Between 1900 and 1910, black families occupied six of the 32 homes in the Goss-Grove neighborhood. While this was by no means a majority, it was the beginning of a pattern. By the 1920s, Boulder's black population was more or less confined to "the little rectangle," the section of Goss-Grove bounded by Canyon Boulevard on the north, Goss Street on

⁶Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign-Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado (1859-1884)," p. 15.

⁷Ibid, p. 4.

⁸Ibid, p. 15.

⁹Ibid, pp. 6-9.

the south, 19th Street on the west and 23rd Street on the east.¹⁰

Many of the blacks were former slaves who had come from the South, and had spent some time in the Midwest before following the gold and silver rush west. While some did end up working in the mines, most were limited to service occupations dictated by the racial prejudices of the period. Census records at the turn of the century show that the majority of black males were employed as day laborers (with building contractors or the railroad), or as teamsters, janitors, carpet cleaners, shoeshiners, barbers and hotel porters). Black women employed outside the home worked primarily as servants or washerwomen.¹¹ But, as always, there were exceptions to the rule: Ruth Cave Flowers, a Goss-Grove resident who became the first black graduate of the University of Colorado, and the Reverend James Clay, the first pastor of the Allen Chapel (who lived first at 802 Marine Street in Highland Lawn and in 1913, at 663 Concord Street on Mapleton Hill).

Among the white foreigners, some ethnic clustering was also visible before 1900. The Germans, another significant group in the City's early history, for the most part settled in west Boulder along Pearl and Walnut Streets. The German House, a small hotel and restaurant at 807 Pearl, was erected c. 1878 by Frank Heizelman, a native of Baden who operated the hotel until 1897. Conveniently located only a few blocks from the railroad stop at Canyon & 9th Street, the hotel served as the social headquarters for the local German population.¹²

As a rule, the Germans tended to be more prosperous than other ethnic groups, working as brewers, butchers, carpenters, harness and saddlemakers, tailors and seamstresses. Frederick and Christian Phillippi, brothers who opened the first saddlery and harness shop in Boulder in the mid-1870s near the northwest corner of 13th and Pearl, are good examples. Another was Frank Marquardt, as successful grain dealer who lived at 543 Marine.¹³ Still others were brothers-in-law Frank Weisenhorn and Charles Voegtle, who opened the Boulder City Brewery in 1876 between Arapahoe and Marine Streets. The site included a spring and pond, used in the brewing process, and was surrounded by extensive landscaping and public beer gardens. Both partners gained considerable social standing,

¹⁰Christine Whitacre and R. Laurie Simmons, "1985/1986 Boulder Survey of Historic Places (1986)", p. 20.

¹¹Ibid, p. 18.

¹²Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign-Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado (1859-1884)," p. 14.

¹³R. Laurie Simmons and Christine Whitacre, "1989 Boulder Survey of Historic Places: Highland Lawn (1988)," p. 22.

with Voegtle building the structure at the northwest corner of Broadway and Pearl in 1911, and Weisenhorn serving on the Boulder Board of Trustees in the 1880s and 1890s.¹⁴

The Norwegians who came to Boulder appeared to have favored the northwest (Mapleton Hill) side of town. Charles Larson, a well-known Boulderite who worked as a homebuilder but was also a one-time Socialist candidate for both mayor and state senator, lived first in the Highland Lawn neighborhood, at 905 Marine Street, but then at 623 Concord Street. According to his diary, Larsen built his Mapleton Hill residence, of stucco, concrete and wood with some Craftsman-style elements, in 1901 with help from fellow Scandinavians.

Mapleton Hill Norwegians also included Evan and Leonard Blystad, who around the turn of the century lived in the Edwardian Vernacular residence at 2433 5th Street and the bungalow at 424 Concord Street respectively. The Blystads came from Christiana, Norway via Sioux City, Iowa in 1894 to help build the Boulder Sanitarium and later, numerous homes and other buildings in the City. Leonard's sister, Marie, married Nels Jacobson, another Norwegian who lived in the bungalow just down the street at 404 Concord and in the FourSquare house at 429 Maxwell.

Jacobsen, born in Bergen, Norway, came to the U.S. as a boy and resided in Boulder for nearly 50 years. He was a well-known road construction contractor who also built many homes in Boulder. In his later years, he acquired a tract of land between 2nd and 3rd Avenues and 11th and 12th Streets which he subdivided into lots, building a new home at the rear of his own residence at 2845 12th Street. In the 1920s Jacobsen built a log cabin on the site of his stone quarry at Four Mile Canyon.

Other Norwegians included Andrew and Anna Hansen, who married in Oslo in 1883 and came to Sioux City, Iowa in 1888. They moved to Boulder from Lincoln, Nebraska in 1895. After Andrew's death, Anna who lived in the Vernacular Queen Anne residence at 652 Concord. Last but not least were Arthur Miller Knudsen, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, and his wife, Elna Jorgensen Knudsen. In 1916, the Knudsens lived in the Classic Cottage-style dwelling at 2441 7th Street.

The Swedish settled primarily in the Goss-Grove and Whittier neighborhoods, with a handful choosing to live on Mapleton Hill. Some of the most prominent families, and their homes, are identified below.

¹⁴Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado (1859-1884)," p. 19.

THE GOSS-GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Goss-Grove district lies just south of Canyon Boulevard (originally known as Railroad or Water Street). This early subdivision was developed in the 1870s by Robert Culver, a New York lawyer who came to Colorado to engage in mining. He arrived in Boulder in 1863 and eventually acquired a large parcel of land named Culver's Addition. Culver built what is believed to have been Boulder's first brick house at 1716 17th Street (now razed). Until the 1890s, Arapahoe Avenue (then known as Valley) contained only a few widely scattered residences. The 1800 block of Grove Street was the earliest section to develop, with six houses by 1883. These and some of the later homes were mostly owned by middle-class professionals, including a lawyer, merchant and water commissioner.¹⁵

Nearly all of the other residents had careers associated with mining, making Goss-Grove primarily a "working-class" neighborhood for those "on their way up" in society. By 1910, the area was essentially developed, yet it managed to retain its pastoral qualities for a long time. And although there have been many changes over a 100-year period, many of the original houses are still extant.¹⁶

The high concentration of Swedes in Goss-Grove was probably due to the influence of Charles Anderson, the first Swede to reside in the area, and a key figure in its later development. Anderson, born in Gottenberg in 1848, moved to Boulder in 1876 after living in Denver for three years. A third-generation carpenter, he worked as a shop foreman for three months before starting his own business in Boulder. He became a prominent contractor, affiliating first with A.J. Emerick, another Swede who was one of Boulder's earliest carpenters.

Anderson constructed many homes in the Goss-Grove neighborhood, as well as numerous commercial structures in Boulder, including Ryssby Church, the original portion of Highland School, Boulder Preparatory School, the first Episcopal Church and the first fraternity house on University Hill. Other accomplishments included a term as the director of the Boulder Building and Loan Association, and installation of the City's first plate-glass window.¹⁷

¹⁵Christine Whitacre and R. Laurie Simmons, "1985/1986 Boulder Survey of Historic Places (1986)," pp. 15-16.

¹⁶Ibid, p. 17.

¹⁷Ibid, p. 16.

In the 1890s, after first constructing a temporary log cabin and planting more than 2,000 fruit trees on his land (which probably gave Grove Street its name), Anderson built a house at 1902 Grove Street which is still standing. This small brick structure served as the family homestead for his wife, Catharine (born in Helsingfors, Sweden in 1853), and family. In 1896, Anderson built an imposing FourSquare-style house at 1500 28th Street (now extensively remodeled and used for commercial purposes). Because of its "remote" location, this residence was first used only in the summertime but was soon inhabited year-round by the family as the number of children increased to ten. The Andersons also owned a cabin in the Devil's Gulch area near Sugarloaf, and later a wood-framed house at 1519 16th Street.

Charles Sr. also owned property on Bluff Street, which he subdivided and sold to at least two Swedish couples, the Wickstroms and the Lundborgs.¹⁸ Olaf P. and Hedwig Wickstrom, both from Malmo, Sweden, married in Denver in 1891 and are associated with the Edwardian Vernacular-style dwelling at 2141 Bluff, which may have been their original homestead. Olaf and his three sons owned and operated a bakery at 2026 12th Street. The Lundborgs address is not known, but Gustav Edwin Lundborg was a successful architect and builder who built many homes in Boulder, particularly bungalows in the University Hill area (see below).

Catharine Anderson's parents, the Norborgs, resided on a small farm off of Cherryvale Road, but came to live with their daughter after a drought caused them to lose their crops and fall into debt. Tragedy struck the family a few days later when Catharine's distraught father hung himself inside the icehouse on the Grove Street property.¹⁹

In 1896, Anderson was listed as the superintendant of the Swedish Mission House at 17th & Spruce Streets (which he also built). In this post he made several trips back to his homeland to urge fellow Swedes to move to Boulder. His overall success rate is not known, but he did manage to persuade several family members, including his brother, August (who took up residence at 1935 Grove Street), to relocate here.

¹⁸Catharine Anderson, Oral History recorded by Kathy Kaiser (2/21/85 and 3/7/85), Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder, Colorado, p. 1.

¹⁹Ibid.

August Anderson (1854-1942) arrived in 1882, becoming "probably the most widely known carpenter in Boulder."¹⁰ With Charles he built many commercial and domestic buildings in town. For many years, August also worked for Boulder businessman, C.G. Buckingham, repairing and renovating his buildings downtown. One of these was probably the Buckingham Building at 1101 Pearl Street (now The Boulder Bookstore).

THE WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD

The Whittier neighborhood, particularly Mapleton and Bluff streets, was another area popular with Swedish citizens, who built their homes and ran businesses there at the turn of the century. The John Lund Hotel, located at 1904-12 Pearl Street (now the site of Business Express), was one of the first structures to be built in what would become the commercial portion of this district. It was constructed in 1877 by Swedish immigrants, John and Sophia Lund.

John Lund, born December 16, 1838 in Rosana (Smaaland), Sweden, came to America as a young boy and later worked as a hotelkeeper in Black Hawk, Colorado. There on February 12, 1875, he married Anna Sophia Lindstrom, whom he had met earlier in Chicago. Sophia was born September 22, 1851 in Velby Kobeck, Westmanland, Sweden. In 1876, after Sophia began suffering from altitude sickness, the couple visited her sister and brother-in-law, Mary (Lindstrom) and Rasmus Parsons in Boulder. By August 5th, Lund had purchased the west half of Lot No. 4, Block 74 for \$300 from Amos Widner (in 1825 he bought Lots No. 1,2,3 and the east half of Lot No. 4, Block 74 for \$1050).¹¹

On their land, the Lunds built a hotel, complete with a saloon on the west side. Although the saloon is not listed in the Colorado State Business Directory after 1896, the hotel prospered. It served as an informal social center for the burgeoning Swedish community. Lund would greet newcomers getting off the train from Denver, and bring them back to the hotel, where Sophia cooked food from the homeland. The Lunds also helped the immigrants find jobs and locate or build permanent residences.¹² The one-story, red brick triplex across the street from the hotel at 1911-15 Pearl Street may have been used by some of these newcomers as temporary living quarters. Built to house multiple families, the building

¹⁰August Anderson Obituary, Boulder Daily Camera Biographical Files, Boulder, Colorado.

¹¹Sanford Charles Gladden, Hotels of Boulder, Colorado from 1860 (Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Publishing Company, 1970), p. 70.

¹²R. Laurie Simmons and Christine Whitacre, "1922 Boulder Survey of Historic Places: Whittier/West Pearl/Downtown (1922)", p. 20.

has three separate entrance porches facing Pearl Street.

In a 1952 article in the Daily Camera, Mathilda Josephine Borgstrand, a niece of John Lund, gave a first-hand description of life at the hotel:

"John Lund was my uncle. In 1888 he sent tickets to Boulder back to Sweden to my sister (Mrs. Ida Johnson of Denver) and me. We would work to pay him back for them after we arrived here. That was the custom in those days. I was eighteen, my sister fifteen.

"We boarded the ship at Gothenburg and went to England, across the North Sea. My, but it was rough! Then we went aboard a larger ship and crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Boston. Here we took a train for Boulder.

"My uncle met us at the train and brought us to his hotel. He had a horse and carriage and he met all the trains, picking up Swedish people who called for the John Lund Hotel. He was a big fine-looking man with brown hair and a full beard.

"My sister and I stayed there until we found work. My uncle had a saloon on the west side of the hotel but he soon discontinued it. Sophie (Mrs. Lund) did the cooking. She was a wonderful cook. It's no wonder that the miners came down there on weekends.

"We had dances and parties and had a jolly good time. There was a violin player by the name of Cline who walked around over the floor as he played, singing our old Swedish songs. Then there was an old man named Burk who played the violin at times. Oscar Lund, one of the sons of my uncle, played an accordion.

"In those days there was a white picket fence all around the place. Gooseberries followed the fence around. In the back was a summer house painted green with a big long table and benches inside. We used to have lunch and cold beer out there in the summer evenings. There was also a big red barn in back where they kept a cow. On the front of the hotel was a platform porch that ran full length. On the east side were big willow trees and on the west were maples.

"I met John Borgstrand and we were married in the hotel. In 1895 we bought two lots from my uncle and in 1900 we built our house here." (The transaction occurred July 11, 1895, when John Lund sold Lots No. 1&2, Block 74 to John Borgstrand for

\$700).²³

Another Swedish immigrant, Charles Solomon Wahlstrom, was a talented Boulder blacksmith, who in 1950 was living at 2119 20th Street. Born in Smoland, Sweden in 1875, he learned the blacksmithing trade from his father, whose own father and grandfather had also mastered the art. Wahlstrom won a government grant to perfect his education at an agricultural college in southern Sweden. He then spent 90 days serving as a horseshoer with the Swedish cavalry, before obtaining his blacksmith's diploma. Wahlstrom's recollections paint a vivid picture of his early days in Boulder:

"When I got off the train in 1898, I didn't know where to go. Some fellows were supposed to meet me but they didn't get there. I couldn't talk English, so a Swedish expressman named Nelson picked me up and took me to the Lund Hotel.

"John Lund took me up the next day and introduced me to 'Doc' Morrison, who had a blacksmith shop on the north side of Pearl Street in the 1500 block. He put me to work right away shoeing horses.

"I stayed there at the John Lund Hotel for a long time. Mrs. Lund did the cooking and I tell you we had wonderful meals. The lower part of the hotel on the west side had been a saloon and dance hall. Every evening if we felt like it we had a dance. All the boarders were Swedish and we talked our own language. It was just like our own home.

"All the Swedes from around this part of the country headed for the Lund Hotel. When the Moffat railroad was being built, those Swedes who had good contracts driving tunnels would come down for a good time. They'd been up there seven or eight months, roughing it, and they had a good stake (money). They had fun!

"Miners from the hills up here used to come down on the narrow gauge (Colorado and Northwestern) Saturday evenings and stay over until Sunday. We'd all have a big time together.

"There was a big ice box there in the back where John Lund kept a keg of beer cold. We used to have good times, let me tell you, on summer evenings out in that summer house in the back and at the dances. There were lots of Swedes here then and they all gathered at the hotel."²⁴

²³"John Lund," Boulder Daily Camera Biographical Files, Boulder, Colorado.

²⁴Ibid.

After serving as proprietor of his hotel for at least 10 years, John Lund died on August 23, 1907, seven years after a tragic misunderstanding left him paralyzed. One evening in 1900, a fellow Swede, Charles Nelson, entered the hotel office and shot Lund. As the story goes, Nelson believed that Lund knew, but refused to reveal, the whereabouts of a woman with whom Nelson was infatuated. When Lund made out his will on October 24, 1900, he was unable to sign it.²⁵

THE MAPLETON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

A small number of Swedes chose to take up residence on Mapleton Hill. For example, Frank Fagerstedt, a mason who came to Boulder in 1893, purchased property on Mapleton Hill the following year, and built the vernacular masonry dwelling at 545 Maxwell Street. Fagerstedt was born in Orebro, Nerike, Sweden in 1844 and graduated from Upsala University. Frank and his wife, Marie, had seven children.

Jennie Hockinson, born in Sweden in 1867, came to the U.S. in 1886 and married August Hockinson in Central City in 1897. The couple built the Edwardian Vernacular residence at 435 Concord. Peter Johnson, born in Varmland, Sweden in 1864, came to Colorado sometime after 1875, when his father, who had emigrated to Leadville, sent for his wife and children. After serving as the proprietor of the Black Hawk bakery, Johnson moved to Boulder where he operated the bakery in the Masonic Temple building for 35 years. Johnson's wife, Emma Larson Johnson, was the another Swede whose father helped build Ryssby Church. The Johnsons lived in the FourSquare-style house at 457 Maxwell.

CONCLUSION

Like the Anderson brothers, A.J. Emerick and John Gumeson, most of the Swedes were skilled craftsmen - carpenters, plasterers, stonemasons and contractors whose work no doubt left a mark on Boulder's architectural legacy. One particularly talented individual, Gustav Edwin Lundborg, whose exact residence on Bluff Street (on property he purchased from Charles Anderson) has not been determined, was born in Varmland, Sweden in 1867 and came to Colorado in 1895. Lundborg became a successful architect and building contractor who designed and built numerous homes, particularly bungalows, in Boulder. Proud of his "artistic" homes, he once made the statement, "You may have noticed that my plans are original and different from the ordinary. I have some of the best

²⁵Sanford Charles Gladden, Hotels of Boulder, Colorado from 1860, p. 127.

bungalow plans ever made and I don't care who knows it."²⁵ Lundborg is credited with several "modern" bungalows on University Hill, five homes in the 700 block of Cascade Street (717, 721, 740, 743 & 747 Cascade - all razed), the Shideler apartment building and the Seventh Day Adventist Baptist church here.²⁶

Unfortunately, however, most of the records relating to buildings constructed prior to and around the turn of the century do not indicate the names of the designers, builders, stonemasons, carpenters, woodcarvers and/or plasterers responsible for much of the exterior and interior character. In some cases, if a home's first owner was someone who earned a living as a carpenter or stonemason, it may be logical to assume that he would have also been the builder. But for the most part, the primary craftsmen - ironically, the ones who put their hearts and souls into their creations - remain unidentified and unacknowledged. As a result, we can only guess at the extent of their contributions.

Although Boulder has lost its share of historic buildings, a great many significant structures are still standing, and most of these have been inventoried in a series of ongoing neighborhood surveys conducted for the City of Boulder Department of Planning and Community Development. Because Goss-Grove and Whittier - the areas which attracted the largest number of Swedes - were determined early on to be under threat of development, they were the first areas to be surveyed by the City back in 1985-86. The north side of Mapleton Hill, another part of town favored by Scandinavians (particularly Norwegians), was surveyed in the spring of 1993. The information contained in these reports has been particularly useful in researching Boulder's early Swedish settlement, and has been used extensively in this paper.

At the outset of this project, it was hoped that a recognizable "Swedish" style might emerge from the buildings which were studied. Although a pure form cannot be discerned, some generalizations can be made about the houses. Prior to 1900, the size and form of most of the structures appear to have been dictated primarily by the owner's personal wealth. As time wore on, other factors, such as the demographic make-up of the neighborhood, were influential. For example, Goss-Grove contains a high concentration of small, vernacular-style buildings, built in a working-class neighborhood by individuals who were just getting their start in society. The Emerick and Anderson residences at 1820 and 1902 Grove Street respectively are good examples.

²⁵"G. Edwin Lundborg," Boulder Daily Camera Biographical Files, Boulder, Colorado.

²⁶Ibid.

Towards the turn of the century, however, the homes begin to reflect the increased fortunes and cultivated tastes of their owners, as well as trends of the period. In Charles Anderson's case, as his building and contracting business grew, he could afford to build a bigger and more "stylish" home, such as the residence at 1500 28th Street. This house was originally designed in the FourSquare style, which was one of the most popular housing forms in Colorado between 1900-1930 (because of extensive alterations, however, it has not been included in the Appendix.)

Of these later, Swedish-built homes, two other structures stand out: the Gumeson and Borgstrand residences, at 1843 Grove Street and 1928 Pearl Street. Built in 1899 and 1900 respectively, they were both executed in a vernacular interpretation of the Queen Anne style. According to America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups That Built America, this asymmetrical housing form was popular with the Swedish-born who settled in America during the Victorian era. Furthermore, the wooden shingles, brackets, fretwork and other details which typically decorated these houses would have provided Swedish craftsmen the perfect place to exercise a little creative license reminiscent of the "old country." As the book points out, however, for the most part, like other immigrants the Swedes "adapted their traditions to the new environment and styles."²⁸ Subsequently, their architecture, along with other cultural distinctions, soon became part of mainstream America.

²⁸The National Trust for Historic Preservation, America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups That Built America (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1986), pp. 154-159.

APPENDIX

Included in this Appendix are 10 Swedish-built residential, commercial and ecclesiastical structures in the Goss-Grove, Whittier and Downtown districts which are still extant and in good condition. This list has been included for two reasons: to provide physical evidence of the Swedes' contributions to Boulder's built environment, and to fulfill the main purpose of an historic context: to protect historic properties, structures and sites associated with themes important to a community.

GOSS-GROVE NEIGHBORHOOD

Emerick Residence (1820 Grove Street)

The simple, vernacular wood-frame house at 1820 Grove Street was probably built in the late 1870s by Andrew J. Emerick, whose listing in the 1876 State Business Directory makes him one of Boulder's first carpenters. Sanford Gladden's 1883 Directory lists Emerick and his wife, Marietta, as living at this address. At that time, Emerick and Charles Anderson were listed professionally as Emerick & Anderson, Contractors & Builders. By 1898, other residents of this house included W.W. Emerick, tinner, E.E. Emerick, laborer, and L.L. Emerick, painter (presumably all sons).

The small, one-story residence has a side-gabled roof with central chimney, and a projecting porch supported by wooden spindles. Openings include an off-center door, and double-hung windows. Alterations include shingled siding, an aluminum door and an addition on the east side.

Charles Anderson Residence (1902 Grove Street)

Built by Charles Anderson in the 1890s in a simple vernacular style, this red brick dwelling is one stories high, with a cross-gabled roof and two chimneys. It features an open porch with large, turned wooden spindle supports. The windows have segmental brick arches and wooden sills, and spindles on the east facade. A picket fence surrounds the yard, which contains outbuildings related to the site's former use as an orchard. Unfortunately, the building's exterior has been irreparably damaged by sandblasting.

August Anderson Residence (1935 Grove Street)

In 1894, August Anderson built a one-story brick house with a hipped roof on this site. The current 1-1/2-story dwelling either replaced the original structure, or incorporated it into its design. It features a foundation of stone, a first story of stuccoed brick, and gable ends with variegated wooden shingles. The front-gabled roof, with overhanging eaves, contains one dormer on the east side and two on the west side. The front porch, which spans the facade, has a poured concrete floor and a pent roof supported by wooden spindles and fretwork. There is an addition on the north (rear) side of the house, and asphalt shingles on the roof.

Charles Anderson Residence (1519 16th Street)

A later home of Charles Anderson, this 1-1/2-story wood-framed and -shingled dwelling was built in 1908. It features a front-gabled roof with smaller side gables, and overhanging eaves with brackets. The projecting front porch has a shed roof supported by piers. There is a central entry and double-hung windows, some paired, with divided upper sashes. A second porch projects from the rear of the house. The lot is heavily shaded by mature trees located on the property. The Boulder County Assessor's records indicate that the house was subsequently owned by Anderson's son, Charles N. Anderson, and his wife, Martha.

Gumeson Residence (1843 Grove Street)

The vernacular Queen Anne residence at 1843 Grove Street was built c. 1899, probably by John and Amanda Gumeson, who are officially listed as the occupants in 1916. Gumeson, Swedish-born, came to Colorado in 1871 and worked as a carpenter at the University of Colorado from 1901 to 1936. His wife, Amanda, was born in Sweden in 1873 and lived in Boulder from 1896 to 1946. In 1944, just two years before John's death, the Gumesons were living at 2021 Walnut Street.

The 1-1/2-story house, built of red brick on a stone foundation, features a side-gabled roof with shingled ends and gabled and shed-roofed dormers. The main porch, with Doric columns and a spindled rail, is located at the southeast corner. The facade has a bay window, double-hung windows with segmental arches and stone sills, and brick corbelling. There is a secondary entrance at the southwest corner. An exterior staircase has been added to the rear elevation.

WHITTIER NEIGHBORHOOD

Borgstrand Residence (1928 Pearl Street)

Built c. 1900 by John and Mathilda Borgstrand, who purchased part of Charles Anderson's original property, this vernacular Queen Anne residence features a stone foundation and red brick exterior, with shingled gables and dormers. The double-hung windows have stone sills and lintels, and the central door has a transom. The front porch is supported by turned posts and has decorative bracket supports, fretwork and balustrade. In a 1988 survey of the Whittier neighborhood, this residence was considered potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

Carl John Borgstrand, born in Katmer Lane, Sweden in 1857, came to the United States in 1877 to work on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He married Matilda Josephine Olson, born in Vislanda, Sweden in 1869, in Boulder in 1891. After moving to Clear Creek Canyon for seven years, where Borgstrand worked on the old Colorado Central narrow-gauge railroad, the couple returned to Boulder and built the Pearl Street house. They raised four children in the house, which they still owned when Carl died in 1950.

The John Lund Hotel (1904-12 Pearl Street)

Built c. 1877 by John and Sophia Lindstrom Lund, the hotel served as a focal point for Boulder's early Swedish community, especially for the miners and Moffat Railroad workers who congregated in town on weekends. The original 2-story, flat-roofed structure, built of brick, featured a full-width platform porch which faced Pearl Street, and included a saloon which closed before the turn of the century. In the back was a summer dining house and barn. A picket fence surrounded the property, which abounded with maple and willow trees and gooseberry bushes.

From 1907 to 1915, Sophia Lund operated the hotel. She then let her daughter Jennie's husband, John Wahlgren, manage it. Off and on from 1918 until Mrs. Lund's death on June 7, 1939, the hotel rooms were rented out as furnished rooms. From 1940 to 1946, Gertie M. Wahlstrom, another daughter, managed the Lund Hotel Apartments. By 1949, Esther Wahlstrom (yet another daughter) was listed as manager.

The property remained in the Lund family until 1951, when it was sold to Johnny and Alean La Salle. In 1970, the building housed Don's Cheese and Sausage Mart. At present, it serves as headquarters for Business Express, a local office supply store. The building has been extensively remodeled, with stucco and new stone facing (painted bright purple); however, some original brick and segmental-arched windows can be seen on the side elevations.

CHURCHES

Another important building type, the church, has been included because it was one of the few places where foreigners could retain some vestige of their former way of life, enjoying a truly communal spirit. There were originally four Swedish churches in Boulder proper. Of these, only three structures remain (see Note below).

Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethesda Church (17th & Mapleton)

The Bethesda Lutheran Church was the first to be organized, in 1887, at the home of Peter Magnus Shold at 1824 17th Street. It formally incorporated in 1892, under the name of Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethesda Congregation of Boulder. The church had several other locations, including the Seventh Day Baptist Church at the southeast corner of Broadway and Arapahoe (razed) and the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Broadway and Mapleton (now a parking lot), before laying the cornerstone of its first building in 1895, at 17th and Mapleton. The church was dedicated in 1901 and used by the congregation until they found a new location in south Boulder in the 1950s. It was then sold to the Foursquare Gospel Church, which still uses the building.²⁹ The red brick building on top of a stone foundation features stepped brick buttresses on the sides and Gothic-arched leaded glass windows. Alterations to the original structure include an addition on the south side and a new, wood-shingled roof.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Broadway & Pine)

When the Bethesda Lutheran church was first organized, there was considerable debate over whether to conduct services in Swedish or English. The decision to use Swedish caused a split in the congregation, and the 31 members who preferred English established the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Boulder in 1896. This sect, which also met in the Seventh Day Baptist Church until 1899, included numerous Germans. The congregation purchased the Seventh Day Adventist building at the corner of Broadway and Mapleton (then 12th & Hill) in 1899, and constructed a new church, now known as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, at the northeast corner of Broadway and Pine in the 1920s.³⁰

²⁹Lysa Wegman-French, "Foreign-Born Immigrants in Boulder, Colorado: 1859-1884," p. 22.

³⁰Ibid.

Swedish Evangelical Mission Church (17th & Spruce Streets)

A third Swedish church was the Swedish Christian Tabernacle (also known as the Swedish Mission Church and/or the Swedish Evangelical Mission Church of Boulder). The Swedish-speaking congregation purchased a lot at the southwest corner of 17th & Spruce Streets in January, 1889 and, with the Anderson brothers' expertise, constructed a frame building. This church was very traditional in its orientation, resulting in it having a hard time attracting new members as the younger members of the community became assimilated. This unwillingness to change with the times forced the church to close when the last of the original members died.³¹ Although the original building, now known as Leprechaun's gift shop, has been clad with painted aluminum siding and a new wood-shingled roof, the original front-gabled form with projecting gabled entry and double doors is still visible.

NOTE: The fourth church was known as the Swedish Baptist Church, which welcomed all Scandinavians. In 1899, the congregation was still meeting in the hall over the post office, but after the turn of the century, it is not clear what became of this sect.

³¹Ibid.

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