

Rockland Memorial Community Church and Cemetery



It is unclear when exactly construction of the Rockland Community Church began. Various reports indicated that the church was built around 1878. At that time, three prominent members of the Mount Vernon Canyon community decided the area had grown enough in population to support their own church. Henry Wilson Chiles, from Washington County, Virginia, donated the land with the condition that it would be used for church and burial activities. Mr. Chiles stated that the church would be for the community at large, with no particular denomination controlling the church.

The Church's primary architectural style would be classified as "Pioneer Victorian", with minimal ornamentation. The structure used rough sawn timber for the walls, floor and roof structure. The exterior finish is painted 6" shiplap wooden siding with the original single hung sash windows that are operable and protected with operable shutters. The interior is a single-room sanctuary with a wooden floor and a one-step raised alter and alter rail. The interior is finished with plaster, a wooden wainscot, and a board and bead coffered ceiling.

The cemetery contains about 120 souls dating back to 1881. New wooden crosses and plaques mark the graves without headstones.

The Rockland Community Church and Cemetery has been in operation for over 120 years, and is one of the oldest churches in Colorado. The National Register of Historic Places listed the church and cemetery on August 5, 2009.

