

**William G. Blunt
South Park Community Church, P.O. Box 488
Fairplay, CO 80440**

20 October 2008

Re: Recommendation in regard to Architectural Services by

**Marc Diament Architecture, PC
2175 S. Jasmine Street, Suite 221
Denver, Colorado 80222**

This writer was Project Coordinator for the 2004-2006 site assessment and exterior restoration projects done at South Park Community Church. We had previously sought a Restoration Grant from the Colorado State Historical Fund, and were advised that we should apply for an Assessment Grant and do an assessment first. We decided we needed help complying with the Fund's grant application process.

We were fortunate to receive an enthusiastic recommendation for the services of Marc Diament Architecture. We contacted Marc in October, 2003. Though we had already begun preparing Assessment Grant documents ourselves, Marc's familiarity with the grant application system was an invaluable aid and guide, and with his help we were able to submit our revised Assessment Grant application in March, 2004. We were awarded the Assessment Grant, and then contracted with Marc's firm to provide the assessment services specified in the grant. The assessment was completed by mid-year, and we began working on a Restoration Grant application with Marc's guidance, and with the invaluable aid of his document files, his familiarity with the Fund grant system, and his before- and after- professional photographic support.

Our project envisioned rehabilitation of exterior portions of the church building and the surrounding grounds and fence, including conducting paint and mortar analyses, door hardware review, landscape and drainage planning, repainting the exterior, re-pointing of existing masonry foundation walls, restoring and repainting exterior woodwork, replacing existing roofing, installing a fire detection system, restoring and repairing windows, and rebuilding the entry stairs.

Our Restoration Grant application was approved in December, 2005. We began work in April, 2006, and completed the restoration in October, 2006. Marc Diament Architecture was instrumental throughout in preparing specifications, providing guidance for our grant-compliance documentation, coordinating and negotiating contractor bids for all the trades involved, and providing the specialized guidance and interface we needed for consulting with technical specialists.

The budget for the restoration project, including the architect's compensation, was \$97,145. The actual total cost of the project was \$104,274, or about 7% over budget, which we considered a successful outcome. The support of Marc and his staff was invaluable throughout.

We strongly and enthusiastically recommend the services of Marc Diament Architecture, PC, for Colorado State Historical Fund assessment or restoration grant application assistance, and as the preferred source of assessment or restoration expertise.



William G. Blunt
% 963 Reeds Lane
Vicksburg, MI 49097-9724
970-376-4941