Louisville Historical Museum
Department of Library & Museum Services
City of Louisville, Colorado
March 2012

Louisville Grain Elevator History

Address: 540 County Road, Louisville, Colorado

Legal Description: Referred to as Tract 712, Louisville

Year of Construction: Likely 1905-06 (see discussion)

Summary: This building is considered to be one of the area's last remaining wooden grain elevators. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986 due to the elevator being "historically and visually the most significant structure associated with the agricultural history of the community." It is also listed on the Colorado Register of Historic Places. Its stacked plank construction style is considered to be rare.

This building was constructed by John K. Mullen, an Irish immigrant who built and operated a number of grain elevators in Colorado in his capacity as President of the Colorado Milling & Elevator Co. Besides being associated with John K. Mullen, the building was also associated with the Moore and Thomas families. The elevator was managed for about 35 years by Louisville resident Howard A. Moore and then his son, Donald Moore. In 1957, it was purchased by Louisville residents Charles Thomas and Quentin Thomas. Charles Thomas was the brother-in-law of Donald Moore.

As shown below, this building is connected with not only Boulder County's agricultural heritage, but is also connected with the area's railroad history, mining history, and the history of the Irish in Colorado. It was owned by an outsider before it became a locally owned Louisville business several decades later. It is located in Louisville's historic downtown area.

Every attempt has been made in the writing of this report to give accurate factual information, to discontinue the use of incorrect information that has occasionally cropped up in past reports about the building, and to compile in this document all of the available information about the structure's history.

Construction by John K. Mullen and Early Operation

The story of Louisville, Colorado is often told in terms of its history as a small coal mining town. However, farming not only predated mining in the area, but local farmers continued to play an important role in the town's economy and cultural life through much of the 1900s.

It was on the farm of David Kerr that coal was first discovered in 1877. And since coal mining was seasonal in this area due to the high moisture content of the coal that caused it to disintegrate once the coal was brought out of the ground, coal mining and farming came to have a complimentary

relationship. Some miners worked on farms in the warm months, while some farmers worked in coal mines in the cold months. Louisville area farmers, though they did not live in town, certainly identified themselves as Louisville residents and fully participated in the town's economic, civic, and cultural life. They attended Louisville churches, shopped in the stores, and sent their children to Louisville schools. Just as Louisville miners tended to be recent European immigrants, the area farmers also represented different ethnicities.

Louisville faced particular challenges in the 1880s and 1890s (following its founding in 1878) and finally emerged with a viable economy after the turn of the century. This development likely made it a particularly attractive site for someone to build an elevator or mill in the early 1900s. A 1902 *Denver Post* item reported that a company called the Centennial Mill and Elevator Company in Louisville had been incorporated. However, there is no evidence that this was the company that constructed the Louisville Grain Elevator.

Boulder County property records indicate that the property on which the Grain Elevator was built came from The Union Pacific Coal Company. The deeds show that Peter F. Murphy of Louisville purchased property from Union Pacific in August 1905 and resold this parcel to John K. Mullen in October 1905. Both were Irish Catholics. It could be speculated that they knew one another and that Murphy was even acting on Mullen's behalf.

John K. Mullen, who had the Louisville Grain Elevator built, was an Irish immigrant who rose to great heights as the head of an empire of grain elevators and flour mills in Colorado and some surrounding states. He was born in County Galway, Ireland in 1847 and came to the United States in 1856 at the time of the Irish Potato Famine. He and his family settled in Oriskany Falls, New York, where he worked at a flour mill. As a young man, he worked his way West and assumed more and more responsibility in the grain industry. As described on the jacket of William J. Convery's biography of Mullen, *Pride of the Rockies: The Life of Colorado's Premiere Irish Patron, John Kernan Mullen*, Mullen "ruthlessly rose to control of the West's flour milling industry and was one of the architects of early Denver's transformation from a dusty supply town to the Queen City of the Mountains and Plains. A celebrated giver during his lifetime, J.K. Mullen endowed many religious and civic monuments." For example, Mullen High School in Denver was named for him, as was the Mullen Library at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He helped finance and oversaw the construction of Denver's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. At times, he was even the owner of Elitch Gardens and the famous Matchless Mine in Leadville, among other prominent Colorado properties.

The book states that "[e]vidence of Mullen's contribution to the architectural landscape stretches beyond Denver. The tallest structure in many farming towns throughout the Rocky Mountain West is the grain elevator constructed by Mullen's Colorado Milling and Elevator Company" (p. 2). "By 1924, The Colorado Milling and Elevator Company owned nearly three hundred mills, warehouses, and elevators …" (p. 197). The following is a portrait of J.K. Mullen from 1933:

Portrait accessed online from the Denver Public Library,
Western History Collection, www.denverlibrary.org

As explained in the UC-Denver report on *Eastern Plains and Front Range Grain Elevators of Colorado,* Mullen was not only responsible for bringing to Colorado the Hungarian milling process, but he also played a leading role in creating high altitude flour. The fact that he owned both the grain elevators where farmers would bring their grain and the flour mills where the grain could be processed had the effect of tightening his control on the industry.

Although an accounting of the number of remaining J.K. Mullen's Colorado grain elevators and mills could not be located for this report, information was found regarding Boulder County grain buildings. According to available information, two separate milling/elevator structures in Boulder burned down in 1889 and 1931. Longmont lost a flour mill and Mullen-owned grain elevator to fire in 1934. According to the UC-Denver report on *Eastern Plains and Front Range Grain Elevators of Colorado,* two other elevators besides the Louisville Grain Elevator still stand in Boulder County: in Lafayette and on a private farm in Hygiene. As with many historic elevators, the elevator in Lafayette has had metal siding installed on its sides to reduce the risk of fire, something that has never been done to Louisville's, other than in a few limited sections. Specific information about the elevator in Hygiene could not be located for this report. Louisville's elevator is the only one in the County that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A 1918 *Denver Post* article shows that Louisville area wheat farmers at times disputed Mullen's practices, not unlike similar conflicts of the time between Louisville coal miners and the mining companies. The articles states:

> The wheat growers of the Lafayette-Louisville district are up in arms over the practices of the J.K. Mullen elevator there. Instead of the $2.20 per bushel price fixed by the federal food commission, the elevator is paying only about $1.00 or less for the highest grade wheat. . . . [The] Mullen explanation of a deduction of the freight to Kansas City does not explain this entire discrepancy. . . . [The farmers] are told that the purchase of wheat may be abandoned if there is any complaint.

According to the UC-Denver report *Eastern Plains and Front Range Grain Elevators of Colorado*, citing Convery's biography of Mullen,

> In an effort to placate suspicious farmers who felt CM&E [the Colorado Milling & Elevator Company] was a monopoly guilty of price fixing, Mullen looked for ways to improve CM&E's image. J.K. instituted several measures designed to reestablish trust in his company. In order to provide a sense of local ownership, subsidiary mills acquired or opened by CM&E were named for the community ….

In this connection, it should be noted that the first and longtime name of the Louisville Grain Elevator was the "Louisville Milling & Elevator Company," and it appears to have been selected for the public relations reason noted. Other legal owners of the building were the Northern Colorado Elevator Company and the Colorado Milling & Elevator Company. It was also called the "Denver Elevator" and the words "The Denver Elevators" were painted on the side of the building even while it was owned by the Colorado Milling & Elevator Company. Despite the name changes, all of these companies are believed to have been under the control of John K. Mullen.

Date of Construction

A review of the available evidence shows that the date of construction of this building was most likely 1905-06.

(The Boulder County Assessor lists two improvements located at 540 County Road and gives the date of construction of both of them as 1936. However, the County has sometimes been found to be in error with respect to the dates of construction of Louisville buildings. The 1936 date is clearly not accurate with respect to the Grain Elevator building.)

Different reports that have been written about the history of this building have given the dates of construction as 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1908.

The 1908 Sanborn fire insurance map for Louisville showed the Elevator and stated the year of construction to have been 1903. However, an examination of the deeds reveals that it was not until August 1905 that The Union Pacific Coal Company sold the property to Peter F. Murphy, who then sold it to J.K. Mullen in October 1905. It seems unlikely that the structure would have been built prior to the transfer of these deeds. Also, in February 1905, the Longmont, Colorado *Ledger* newspaper reported that "Louisville, in Boulder County, wants a flour mill." While a flour mill is not the same as a grain elevator, the statement suggests that what Louisville may have more broadly been seeking was a way for its wheat farmers to easily get their wheat crops to a mill. The construction of a grain elevator would have fulfilled that need, and the appearance of the item in the Longmont paper could suggest that Louisville did not yet have a grain elevator.

The Elevator, and Howard Moore as its manager, were first listed in the 1907-08 directory for Louisville, which could indicate that it was built before 1907. Significantly, the Elevator is not listed in the 1904 or 1906 Louisville directories. (A 1905 directory for Louisville appears to not exist.)

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the Elevator was constructed in 1905-06.

Location of Grain Elevator and Association with Railroad

The Grain Elevator and the nearby Acme Mine that was located at Roosevelt and Hutchinson used the same railroad spur that left the main track just northeast of the Elevator and curved over to the Acme. In fact, the 1905 deed that conveyed the property from Peter F. Murphy to J.K. Mullen specifically referred to the "Acme switch" in its legal description of the parcel (a description repeated in the 1957 deed to the Thomas family). The following section of the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville shows this relationship, with a building labeled "Elevator" on the upper right, on the spur that continued to the west past the Acme mine dump towards the Acme Mine.

1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Louisville Historical Museum

This map shows how the Elevator was actually constructed to be parallel to the railroad spur, not the main track. This is why even today, even with the spur gone, it sits at an angle to the main track. It is believed that the reason was that it was better for the railroad cars being loaded with grain at the Elevator to not block the main line of the railroad.

This photo, looking east, shows the relationship of the Elevator to the Acme Mine, with the Elevator visible in the rear to the left of the photo:

Rescue squad by Acme Mine looking east, circa 1920s, Louisville Historical Museum

Architecture, Physical Description, and Functions of the Grain Elevator

The building has been the subject of three different architectural and historical surveys. These are believed to have been funded and completed jointly by the City of Louisville and the State of Colorado in 1982, 1985, and 2000. In addition, information about this building is available from the 1986 National Register listing and in the 2011 structural report by Anderson Hallas Architects that was commissioned by the City of Louisville.

It is believed that the general, original purpose of a grain elevator in this area was to receive grain, particularly wheat, from farmers. A farmer would bring a wagonload of grain to the elevator; interviews of local residents indicate that the grains brought to the Louisville Elevator included wheat, corn, oats, and barley. The Louisville Historical Museum has in its collection annual licenses given in the 1930s by the state of Colorado to Donald Moore, operator of the Grain Elevator, to inspect and grade wheat, barley, oats, corn, and rye.

The wagon would be weighed on the weigh scale, then emptied into a pit. Then the empty wagon would be weighed again in order to obtain a true weight of the contents. The manager of the grain elevator was responsible for this recordkeeping. Merwin Jay Harrison, whose father was manager of the Mullen-owned grain elevator in Broomfield, Colorado, stated in a 1996 oral history interview for the Carnegie Library for Local History that wheat would then be loaded onto boxcars and shipped to Denver, where, he believed, it would be delivered to the Hungarian Flour Mill, which was also owned by J.K. Mullen. Later, trucks rather than boxcars were used to transport the grain.

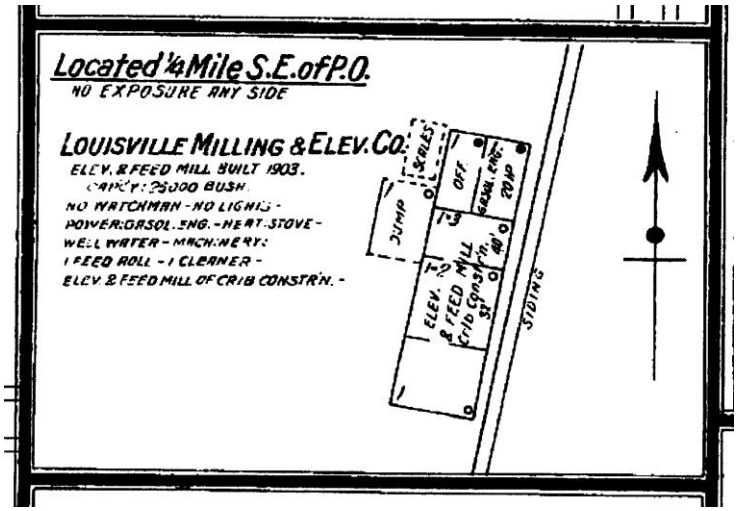
A grain elevator in this area would have also performed some processing of the grain, including separating out gravel and weed seeds from the grain brought in by farmers, and grinding.

Local residents could purchase 100-lb. sacks of flour directly from the Grain Elevator. These may have been brought from flour mills in Denver, but precise information could not be located for this report. Families in Louisville used the flour sacks from the Grain Elevator to make clothing.

Out of six possible types of materials used in the construction of grain elevators in the United States, the Louisville Grain Elevator was constructed of wood. Also, as a wooden elevator, it is considered to be of "cribbed" construction, meaning stacked lumber, as opposed to balloon frame construction.

The UC-Denver report on *Eastern Plains and Front Range Grain Elevators of Colorado* states that wood was the earliest construction material used for grain elevators. A disadvantage of wood was its high combustibility, particularly with elevators typically being located near railroad tracks where sparks could start a fire. The report cites the statistic that wood grain elevators had to be replaced at an average of every four years due to fires. (As noted below, the Louisville Elevator had an interior fire in the 1950s.)

The Louisville Grain Elevator is a three story building in the section of its tower. The following excerpt from the 1908 Sanborn fire insurance map for Louisville shows the layout:



Louisville, Colorado [map]. 1908. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. (Excerpt.)
Accessed at www.louisville-library.org.

The 2000 survey of the building further describes the parts of the elevator: "This structure is oriented north-northeast to south-southwest, with overall measurements of 88' by 28'. From the north-northeast end, the building is composed of five sections, including an office, an elevator, an elevator tower, grain bins, and a warehouse." More detailed information about the purpose of these sections can be found in this 2000 survey report and in the 2011 structural engineering report by Anderson Hallas Architects. The covered area shown in historic photographs is where the scales were located.

The 2011 report prepared for the City of Louisville by Anderson Hallas Architects states that the building footprint is 2,800 square feet and that there are 8,500 square feet of accessible interior floor space. The building sits on a 1.2 acre parcel.

The capacity of the elevator was stated in the 1908 Sanborn map excerpt above to be 25,000 bushels. A penciled notation on the County Assessor card completed on the building in the 1950s appears to state the capacity as having been 20,500 bushels.

The 1982 survey of the structure states that the building was partially renovated by the owners in the 1970s.

The April 4, 1999 *Denver Post* article stated: "Its stacked plank design and diminutive size make the elevator unique. Most elevators stored 35,000 bushels of grain. Louisville's held far less."

The elevator is wood sided and has never had metal siding put on, as many grain elevators have had, except in a few sections by the gabled roofs.

Management by Howard A. Moore and Donald Moore

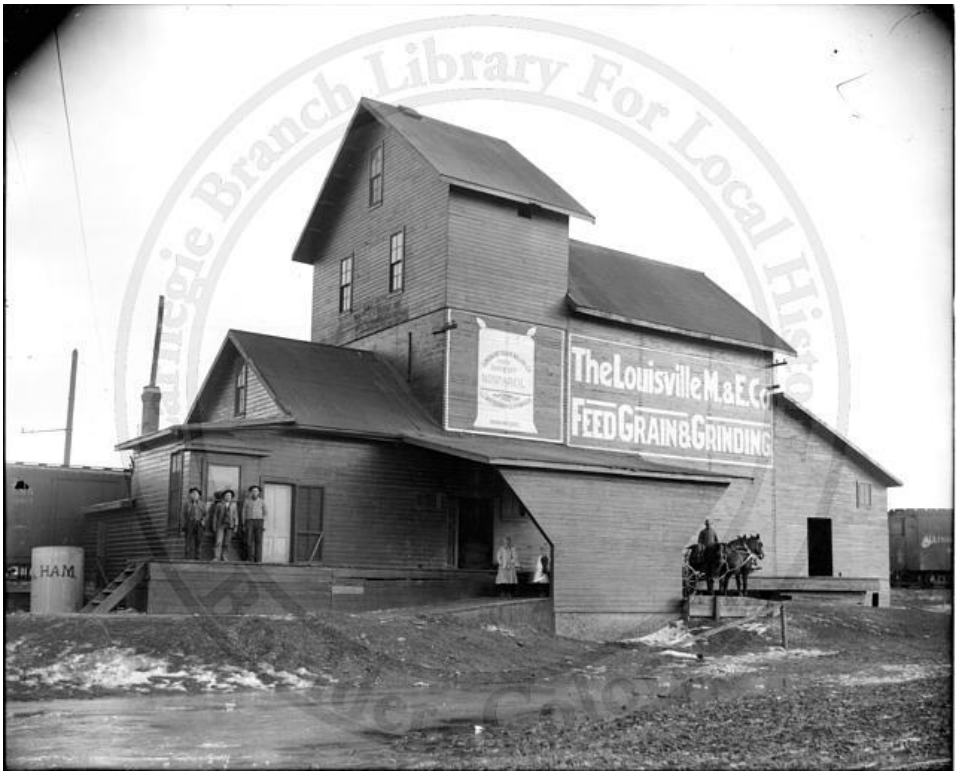
Howard A. Moore operated the Grain Elevator for about thirty years (while it was owned by Mullen's companies) and was followed in this job by his son, Donald Moore. Howard Moore was living in Louisville and managing the Elevator by 1907, according to Louisville directories. He lived from 1876 to 1934. He, his wife, Zura, and their children lived in Louisville. Their children were Grace, Sadie, Donald,

Ethel, Howard Jr., Lois, and Louanna. Museum records indicate that Howard A. Moore served as mayor of Louisville from 1915 to 1917.

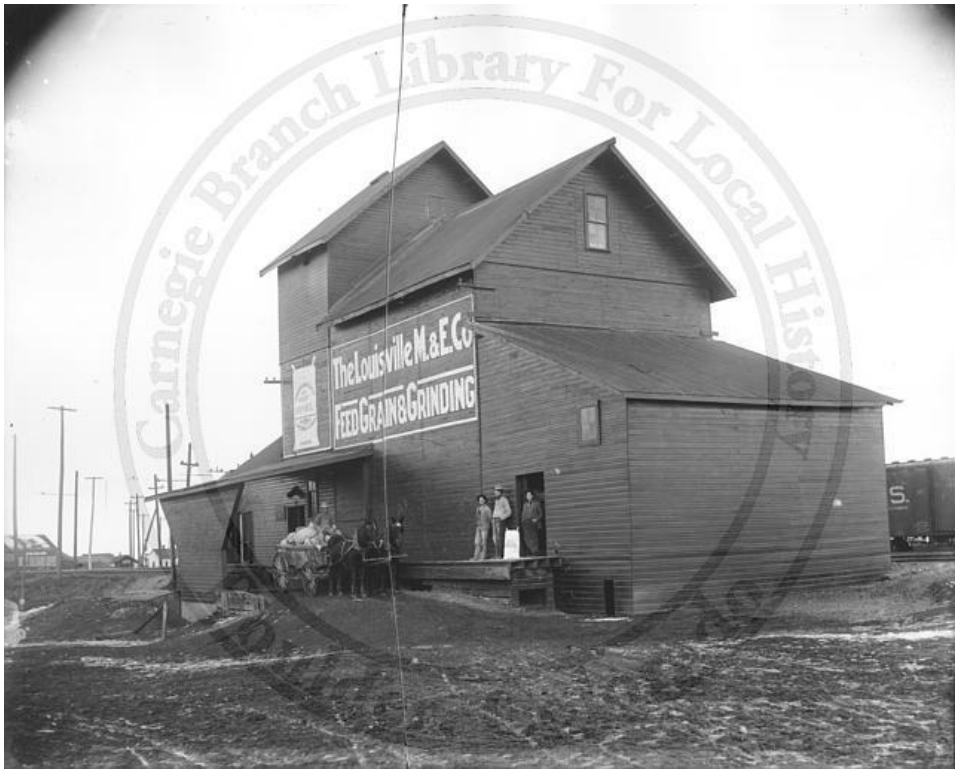
The following photos from the collections of the Louisville Historical Museum and Boulder's Carnegie Branch Library for Local History show the Grain Elevator while it was managed by Howard A. Moore:

Louisville Grain Elevator, 2/8/1916, Louisville Historical Museum

Louisville Grain Elevator, 2/8/1916, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder



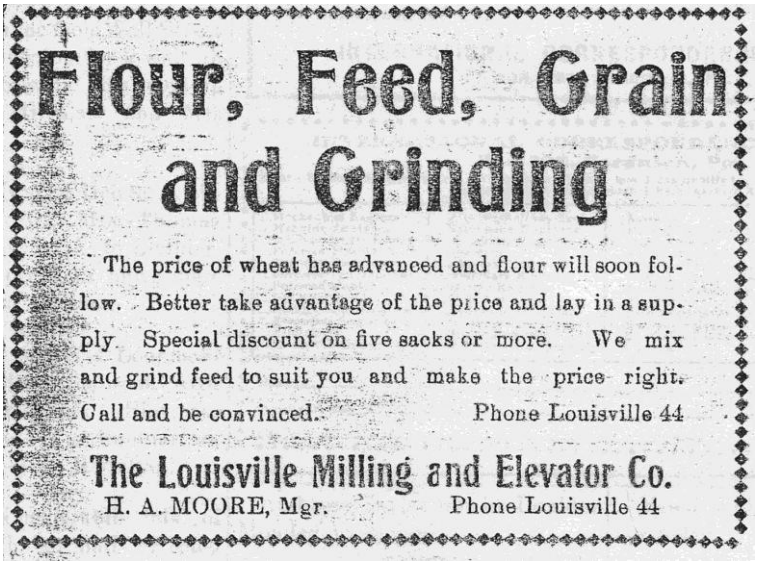
Louisville Grain Elevator, circa 1916, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder



Louisville Grain Elevator, circa 1916, Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder

Louisville directories show that after the death of Howard Moore in 1934, his son, Donald (1909-1975), took over the management of the Elevator. Directories indicate that by 1943, Donald had left this position and the new manager was Wayne Bickel. Managers after this era are noted below.

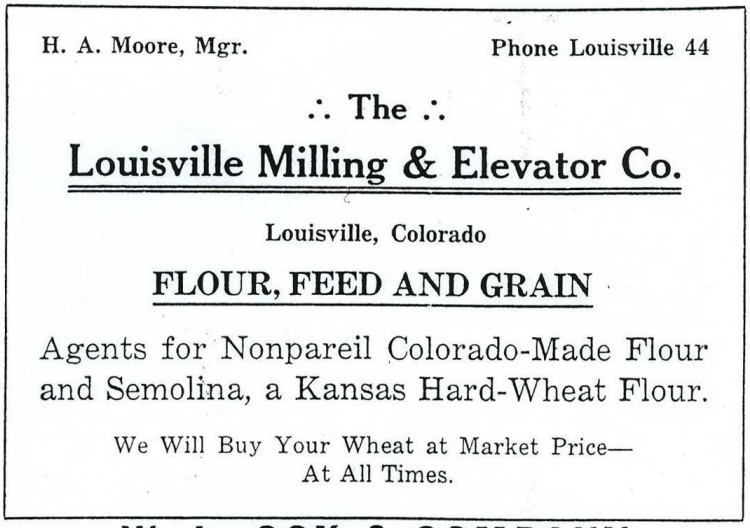
The following advertisements for the Grain Elevator show that this was a longtime, active business that played a vital role in the economy of the Louisville area:


Flour, Feed, Grain and Grinding

The price of wheat has advanced and flour will soon follow. Better take advantage of the price and lay in a supply. Special discount on five sacks or more. We mix and grind feed to suit you and make the price right. Call and be convinced. Phone Louisville 44

The Louisville Milling and Elevator Co.
H. A. MOORE, Mgr. Phone Louisville 44

From *Louisville News*, 1909, Louisville Historical Museum


H. A. Moore, Mgr. Phone Louisville 44

∴ The ∴

Louisville Milling & Elevator Co.

Louisville, Colorado

FLOUR, FEED AND GRAIN

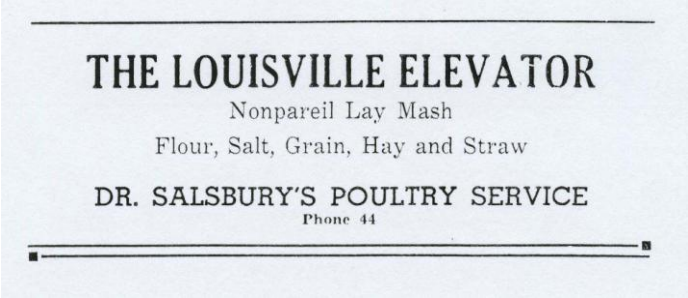
Agents for Nonpareil Colorado-Made Flour and Semolina, a Kansas Hard-Wheat Flour.

We Will Buy Your Wheat at Market Price—
At All Times.

R.L. Polk Directory, 1916, Boulder County, Louisville Historical Museum

Louisville Historical Museum

The Rex Theatre movie curtain, which is a painted canvas made in 1927-28 with advertisements of twenty-two Louisville businesses, includes the above advertisement for the Louisville Grain Elevator; the curtain currently is on exhibit at the Louisville Historical Museum.


THE LOUISVILLE ELEVATOR
Nonpareil Lay Mash
Flour, Salt, Grain, Hay and Straw
DR. SALSBURY'S POULTRY SERVICE
Phone 44

From 1940 St. Louis Church Annual Bazaar booklet, Louisville Historical Museum

From *Louisville Times*, Sept. 3, 1942,
commemorating the 50th anniversary of Methodist Church,
Louisville Historical Museum

Howard Moore and Don Moore are remembered as having given jobs at the Elevator to Louisville's young men. For example, Lee Evans, who was born in 1917, worked at the Louisville Grain Elevator in the mid 1930s. In his autobiography, entitled *From Happy Valley to the Mountaintop*, he wrote: "As I grew older, I worked regularly after school and on Saturdays at the elevator, shoveling grain into the chute after it was delivered. I sacked grain and loaded it into cars and trucks for customers or for delivery on the elevator-owned truck into Denver. At my highest rate of pay, I got 50 cents a day! But I grew strong with the heavy work, and by the time I was seventeen I could grab the ear of a sack and lift a one hundred pound sack of grain with each hand and pitch it from the walkway up into a truck about four feet higher" (p. 71).

Thomas Family Association and Ownership

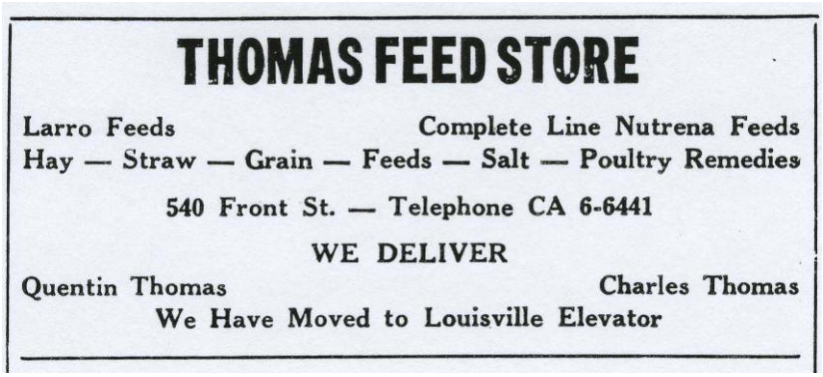
By the time of the 1946 Louisville directory, Charles Thomas had become the manager of the Grain Elevator. Charles Thomas' wife (Iona Bowes Thomas) and Donald Moore's wife (Sadie Bowes Moore) were sisters, perhaps leading to Charlie Thomas taking over the management of the Elevator not long after the tenure as manager by Donald Moore and his father. A newspaper account states that Thomas lost one hand while working with a corn conveyor at the Elevator. By 1949, the manager had become Vance Lynn, possibly as a result of Thomas' injury. According to the 1951, 1953, and 1955 directories for Louisville, the manager was Dan Gunkel.

In 1957, Charles Thomas (1912-2002) and his brother, Quentin Thomas (1908-1986), who had a feed store nearby on Pine Street, purchased the Grain Elevator from the Colorado Milling & Elevator Company. The deed states that it was purchased for "$10 and other valuable consideration." This was the first time that the building became a locally owned business, after fifty years of outside ownership.

The Thomas family was a pioneer family of Louisville with varied business interests and properties. Charles Thomas and Quentin Thomas were the grandsons of Nicholas and Mary Thomas. Nicholas Thomas was from Wales and worked as a coal miner, while Mary Oldacre Thomas 's personal history includes the fact that she had worked as a chain maker as a young woman in England before marrying and coming to the United States. They immigrated from England in 1881 with their young son, Nicholas Thomas, Jr., and came to Louisville in 1883. In 1892, Mary Thomas was one of the founders of the Methodist Church in Louisville, still located at 741 Jefferson, along with other early English settlers in Louisville. The family homes were at 733 Pine and 700 Lincoln (which, like the Grain Elevator, is listed on the National and Colorado Registers of Historic Places). Nicholas Thomas Jr. helped stated the Big Six Coal Company , which operated the Sunnyside Mine just southeast of Louisville. Nicholas Jr. and his sons formed the Ko-Z Coal Company and operated the Fireside Mine in Louisville, after which today's Fireside Elementary School in Louisville is named. It is believed that they had other coal mining interests as well. Thomas family members also operated the City Market on Main Street and moved the business to a new building on Front Street that they constructed. The Thomas family ran the City Market from the Front Street location from about 1966 until 1982. This building at 637 Front later became the location of the U.S. Post Office in Louisville and is now the location of a restaurant and ice cream shop. Another business owned and operated by the Thomas family was the Thomas Feed Store on Pine Street.

In the 1950s, and before 1957, a fire at the Grain Elevator damaged the interior. It was believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion. Louisville volunteer firefighters Herb Steinbaugh and Tommy Cable are credited with saving the building in a risky and dramatic effort. They climbed up onto the Elevator roof in order to spray water into the tower section. A 1999 *Denver Post* article about the Louisville Grain Elevator stated that the year of the fire was 1955.

It is believed that by this time, the emphasis was on using the Grain Elevator for animal feed as opposed to purchasing wheat from wheat farmers to send to flour mills in Denver. As noted above, Quentin Thomas had operated a feed store on the south side of Pine Street facing north, on the site of today's 637 Front Street. The following 1957 advertisement dates from the Thomas family's early ownership and shows that the Thomas Feed Store had been moved to be located at the nearby Grain Elevator:


THOMAS FEED STORE

Larro Feeds Complete Line Nutrena Feeds
Hay — Straw — Grain — Feeds — Salt — Poultry Remedies

540 Front St. — Telephone CA 6-6441

WE DELIVER

Quentin Thomas Charles Thomas
We Have Moved to Louisville Elevator

From 1957 St. Louis Church Annual Bazaar booklet, Louisville Historical Museum

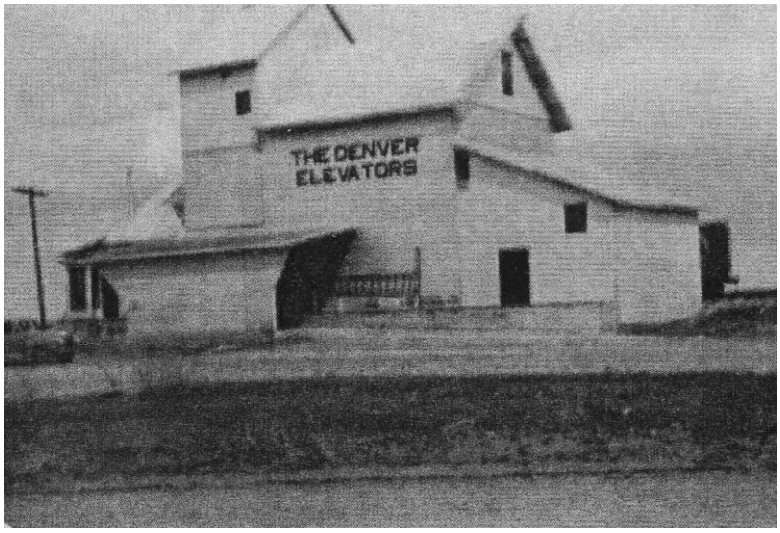
As noted in the April 4, 1999 *Denver Post* article about the Louisville Grain Elevator, "the automotive industry essentially made grain elevators obsolete, since trucks could load grain in the field and transport it." The UC-Denver report on *Eastern Plains and Front Range Grain Elevators of Colorado* states that many grain elevators were abandoned between the 1930s and 1950s for basically this reason and because of the failure of railroad companies, the droughts of the 1930s, changes in transportation and farm mechanization, and other reasons.

Although it is believed that the Grain Elevator was not used for the storage of grain for human consumption after the 1950s, the scales continued to be useful for weighing purposes for several more years. This usage of the building continued into at least the mid 1960s. For example, a local teen working for a Louisville farm in the 1960s regularly drove truckloads of silage to the Elevator so that the truck could be weighed, with owner Quentin Thomas making the scales available. These scales from the Grain Elevator were later acquired by a Louisville farming family and are currently located on a Louisville farm. They are believed to have last been used on this farm in the 1990s.

According to the report by Anderson Hallas Architects, the Thomas family's feed store located in the Grain Elevator was open until as late as 1972.

County Assessor Cards

This image from the County Assessor shows the building in circa 1949-1958:



A statement written by the County Assessor's office in 1958 says "This building has been burned out on the inside but is still being used." (As noted above, this fire is believed to have occurred in around 1955.)

Placement on National Register and Colorado Register of Historic Places

In 1986, twelve historic buildings (seven residences and five businesses) in downtown Louisville were found to have met the required criteria and were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The stated reason for the selection of the Grain Elevator was that "the elevator is historically and visually the most significant structure associated with the agricultural history of the community. Its frame construction and functional design illustrate an important resource type traditionally associated with agriculture. Listed under Louisville Multiple Resource Area and under Railroads in Colorado, 1858-1948 Multiple Property Submission."

Statements of Significance from Architectural and Historical Surveys

The survey of this building conducted in 2000 for the State of Colorado gave the following statement of significance:

> This building has been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is historically significant, relative to National Register Criterion A, for its association with the theme of agriculture during the first half of the twentieth century. The structure is architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C, because it [is] one of the region's last remaining wooden grain elevators, and because of its rare stacked plank construction. The preservation of this building should be one of Louisville's highest preservation priorities.

The 1982 inventory record stated the building's special features to be "Multi-level steep gables, 50 feet high at highest gable; next to railroad track for transport" and gave the following statement of significance:

> This tall frame structure, although badly deteriorated, provides a valuable visual record of the agricultural heritage of Louisville which has been so largely overshadowed by the pervasiveness of coal mining. . . . [I]ts location near the tracks, (like the early lumber companies), pointed out the fact that Louisville had become an important distribution point for agricultural products by the early 1900's.

The 1982 inventory records also stated that "rehabilitation would help preserve perhaps the only structural link to the agricultural heritage of the town."

Past Community Discussion About and Recognition of the Louisville Grain Elevator

A 1996 *Louisville Times* article pointed to the strong support expressed by the Economic Development Committee of the Downtown Business Association for saving and re-using the Grain Elevator, and stated:

> Its roof is full of holes and its white pained is cracked and faded, but the 91-year-old elevator off Front Street is still coveted as a piece of Louisville's history.
>
> The elevator is considered one of the city's last recoverable landmarks, and a coalition of downtown business interests and historical preservationists is exploring ways to return the building to its former glory and open it to the public.

Citing the DBA's Vice President, Cheri Ruskus, the article noted that "preserving a landmark on what will be an increasingly important gateway to Louisville when the 96th Street interchange opens could mean good things for downtown business."

1998 saw the completion of "A Preservation Master Plan: Louisville Colorado." This project and document were funded by the Louisville Downtown Business Association; Historic Boulder, Inc.; the Colorado Historical Society/State Historical Fund; and Boulder County Cultural Council, Tier III SCFD. The completed plan stated that the Economic Development Committee of the Downtown Business Association recognized the potential in sites such as the Grain Elevator "for multiple uses with significant public benefit."

A 1990s *Denver Post* article stated,

> If an enthusiastic group of business owners, preservationists and architects has its way, a towering remnant of this town's rural past will someday welcome visitors to what has become a sprawling modern suburb. The group is studying the possibility of buying and renovating the historic Thomas Grain elevator, built about 1905. Located just a block from Main Street and adjacent to a still-active railway line, the grain elevator rises above Front and Pine streets in downtown Louisville.

A *Denver Post* article from the 1990s noted that the stacked plank method of construction of the Louisville Grain Elevator is unique. The article cited James Stratis, a restoration specialist for the Colorado Historical Society, as stating that "the elevator's role in the grain transportation system and its unique 'stacked-plank' architecture make the structure a national treasure."

In 2007, the organization Historic Boulder, Inc., which is a 501c3 preservation organization focused on the Boulder area, selected the Louisville Grain Elevator for placement on its endangered list.

Boulder County installed a large photo collage at the Boulder County Courthouse within the last two years. This collage includes a historic photo of the Louisville Grain Elevator in the top center because of its strong connection to Boulder County history. Color was added to the photo to reflect the building's original color, which is believed to have been a deep red color.

In 2011, the City of Louisville awarded a contract to Anderson Hallas Architects, PC to complete a structural assessment of the Louisville Grain Elevator. The contract was for $38,000, which was funded by the City of Louisville through its Historic Preservation Fund. The report by Anderson Hallas Architects, PC, dated May 2, 2011, concluded that the building is structurally sound, barring a few areas of deterioration. The report contains recommendations for a work plan for the Elevator with several different phases and cost estimates.

Sources

The preceding research is based on a review of relevant and available online County property records, census records, and oral history interviews, and Louisville directories, newspaper articles, maps, files, obituary records, survey records, and historical photographs from the collection of the Louisville Historical Museum, as well as the following specific sources:

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