

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

(Page 1 of 5)

I. IDENTIFICATION

- 1. Resource number: **5BL8036**
- 2. Temporary number: **N/A**
- 3. County: **Boulder**
- 4. City: **Louisville**
- 5. Historic building name: **DiFrancia's Saloon; Colorado Cafe & Bar**
- 6. Current building name: **Old Louisville Inn**
- 7. Building address: **740 Front Street**
- 8. Owner name: **Clover Clan Limited Liability**
Owner address: **280 S. Madison Avenue**
Louisville, CO 80027

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**
NE¼ of **SW¼** of **NE¼** of **SE¼** of section **8**
- 10. UTM reference
Zone **13**
Easting: **488900**
Northing: **4425080**
- 11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994) 7.5'**
- 12. Lot(s): **1** Block: **B**
Addition: **Original Town of Louisville** Year of Addition **1878**
- 13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This legally defined parcel encompasses but does not exceed the land historically associated with this property.**

22. Architectural style / building type:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements / Commercial Style



Official Eligibility Determination

(OAHP use only)

- Date _____ Initials _____
- Determined Eligible - National Register
 - Determined Not Eligible - National Register
 - Determined Eligible - State Register
 - Determined Not Eligible - State Register
 - Needs Data
 - Contributes to eligible National Register District
 - Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

- 14. Building plan (footprint, shape):
L-Shaped Plan
- 15. Dimensions in feet: **2160 square feet**
- 16. Number of stories: **1½**
- 17. Primary external wall material
Wood / Horizontal Siding
Wood / Shingle
- 18. Roof configuration (enter one):
Hipped Roof
- 19. Primary external roof material (enter one):
Asphalt Roof
- 20. Special features (enter all that apply):
Flared Eaves
Dormers

Survey completed April 2000

21. General Architectural Description

The Old Louisville Inn is an L-shaped wood-frame structure, supported by a low concrete foundation. Two 3-light hopper windows penetrate the foundation near the east end of the north elevation. The exterior walls are painted blue horizontal wood siding, with painted white 1" by 4" corner boards. The building is covered by a hipped roof with flared eaves, with an intersecting gable roof to the east. The roof is covered with black asphalt shingles, and features painted bright green boxed eaves, with an extended overhang. Two red brick chimneys are located respectively on the north and south facing roof slopes. Small gabled dormers, with painted blue fishscale shingles, are located on the north and west elevations. The building features a distinctive entry at the northwest corner. Here, a stained brown wood-paneled door, with three rounded leaded-glass lights, is set below an intersecting gable with a painted bright green dentil course. A neon sign above the entry door advertises the "Old Louisville Inn." Another entrance, located on the north elevation, features a single-light glass-in-wood-frame door, with a leaded glass transom light, topped by a painted bright green wood cornice, with a dentil course. Two single-light fixed-pane windows penetrate the wall on the building's west elevation. These windows are decorated with flower boxes, and are covered by bright green canvas awnings. Above these two windows, a band of six leaded glass transom lights are topped by a painted bright green wood cornice with a dentil course. Windows on the north elevation include one set of paired 1/1 double-hung sash, one set of paired 1/1 double-hung sash with transom lights, one 2/1 single-light fixed-pane window, with two transom lights, and two small 1/1 double-hung sash windows. All windows on the north elevation have painted white wood frames and surrounds, and they are predominantly covered with painted bright green dentil courses. Windows on the secondary elevations - to the east and south - are 1/1 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames and surrounds and wood cornices. Two service entrances are located on the east elevation. The first of these is a painted white solid wood door, with a painted white wood screen door, which opens onto seven non-original wood steps. Above this door, a painted blue vertical wood plank door, side hinged with metal strap hinges, is no longer in use. The other service entrance, located near the south end of the east elevation, is comprised of a painted blue solid wood door.

29. Construction History (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions:

Sanborn insurance maps indicate that this lot was first developed in the years prior to 1893. The 1893 and 1900 Sanborn maps both depict a wood frame dwelling at this location. The 1908 Sanborn map provides evidence that the extant building was constructed between 1900 and 1908. Boulder County Assessor records list 1906 as the building's date of construction. There have been no subsequent additions.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

The Old Louisville Inn is located at the southeast corner of Front and Spruce Streets, at the east end of downtown Louisville. The building fronts directly onto a wide concrete sidewalk paralleling Front Street to the west. A nicely landscaped planted grass lawn, with a brick paved public sidewalk and seating area, is located to the north of the building. A paved alley, and the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks are behind the building to the east.

24. Associated buildings, features, or objects n/a

IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

25. Date of Construction:

Estimate

Actual 1906

Source of information:

Boulder County Assessor; Sanborn maps

26. Architect:

n/a

Source of information:

n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:

unknown

Source of information:

n/a

28. Original owner:

E.J. "Nick" DiFrancia

Source of information:

Mehls, Steven. Colorado Historical Society, Historic Building Inventory Record, 7/28/1985.

30. Original location: **yes**

Moved **no**

Date of move(s) **n/a**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Bar**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Restaurant, Bar**
33. Current use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Restaurant, Bar**
34. Site type(s): **Commercial Building**

35. Historical Background

A previous cultural resource survey, conducted by Western Historical Studies in 1985, and Carolyn Conarroe in *The Louisville Story*, both relate that this building was built in 1906, and that it was owned and operated by Nick DiFrancia as a saloon. The 1908 Sanborn map corroborates that the building was indeed a saloon, however, the saloon's original name has not been absolutely documented. Conarroe indicates that it was called the (Old) Louisville Inn, while Western Historical Studies lists "DiFrancia's Saloon" as the building's historic name. The saloon, however, is not listed under either name (or under any other name) in Boulder County directories during the 1910s. In the 1940s and 1950s, the establishment was known as the Colorado Cafe and Bar, which specialized in Mexican food. For a time in the 1960s the establishment was called the Primrose Bar. In the early 1970's the business was called Grosso's Bar, but by 1975, it had been renamed the Old Louisville Inn. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Old Louisville Inn was owned and operated by Hugh McKenzie, who also specialized in Mexican food. In the early 1990s, McKenzie sold the business to Tina and Enzo Torelli. The Old Louisville Inn is perhaps best known for its intricately carved Victorian-era bar, renowned as the second oldest bar in Colorado.

36. Sources of Information

(Boulder County) "Real Estate Appraisal Card - Urban Master", on file at the Boulder Carnegie Library.

Conarroe, Carolyn. *The Louisville Story*, Louisville: Louisville Times Inc., 1978.

Mehls, Steven F., Mehls, Carol Drake, and Fell, James E. Jr. "Colorado Historical Society, Historic Building Inventory Record [740 Front Street]", July 28, 1985. On file at the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO.

"Old Becomes New Again." *Louisville Times*, March 3, 1999, p. 1.

"Old Louisville Inn Contains Interesting Past and Future." *Boulder Daily Camera*. (date unknown, from clipping file at the Louisville Historical Museum).

Polk's Boulder County Directory [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company Publishers.

Polk's Longmont City Directory, [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1966 - 1997.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dated August 1893, November 1900, and August 1908.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:

Yes

No

Date of Designation: n/a

38. Applicable National Register Criteria

A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory;

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

39. Area(s) of Significance:

Commerce; Ethnic Heritage / European

40. Period of Significance: 1906 - 1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local:

42. Statement of Significance

The Old Louisville Inn is historically significant relative to National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for its association with Louisville's socioeconomic development during the first half of the twentieth century. One of a number of saloons built on Front Street in the 1890s and very early 1900s, this building was an important part of Louisville's social and commercial fabric for many years. Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of a wood frame commercial building dating from the early twentieth century. For this reason it may also be regarded as eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

Although this building has undergone several facade changes over the years, there have been no additions to the original structure. Overall it displays a high degree of historical integrity, relative to National Park Service and Colorado Historical Society guidelines.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible: **xx**

Not Eligible:

Need Data:

45. Is there National Register district potential?

Yes:

No: **xx**

Discuss: **Too many historic buildings in this area along Front Street have been lost over the years. Those that remain do not collectively possess sufficient historical integrity to comprise a National Register historic district.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building:

Contributing: **n/a**

Noncontributing: **n/a**

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district, is it:

Contributing: **n/a**

Noncontributing: **n/a**

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers:

Roll: **CM-12**

Frame(s): **13-16**

Negatives filed at: **City of Louisville, Administration
749 Main Street
Louisville, Colorado 80027**

48. Report title: **"Old Town" Louisville Historical Building Survey**

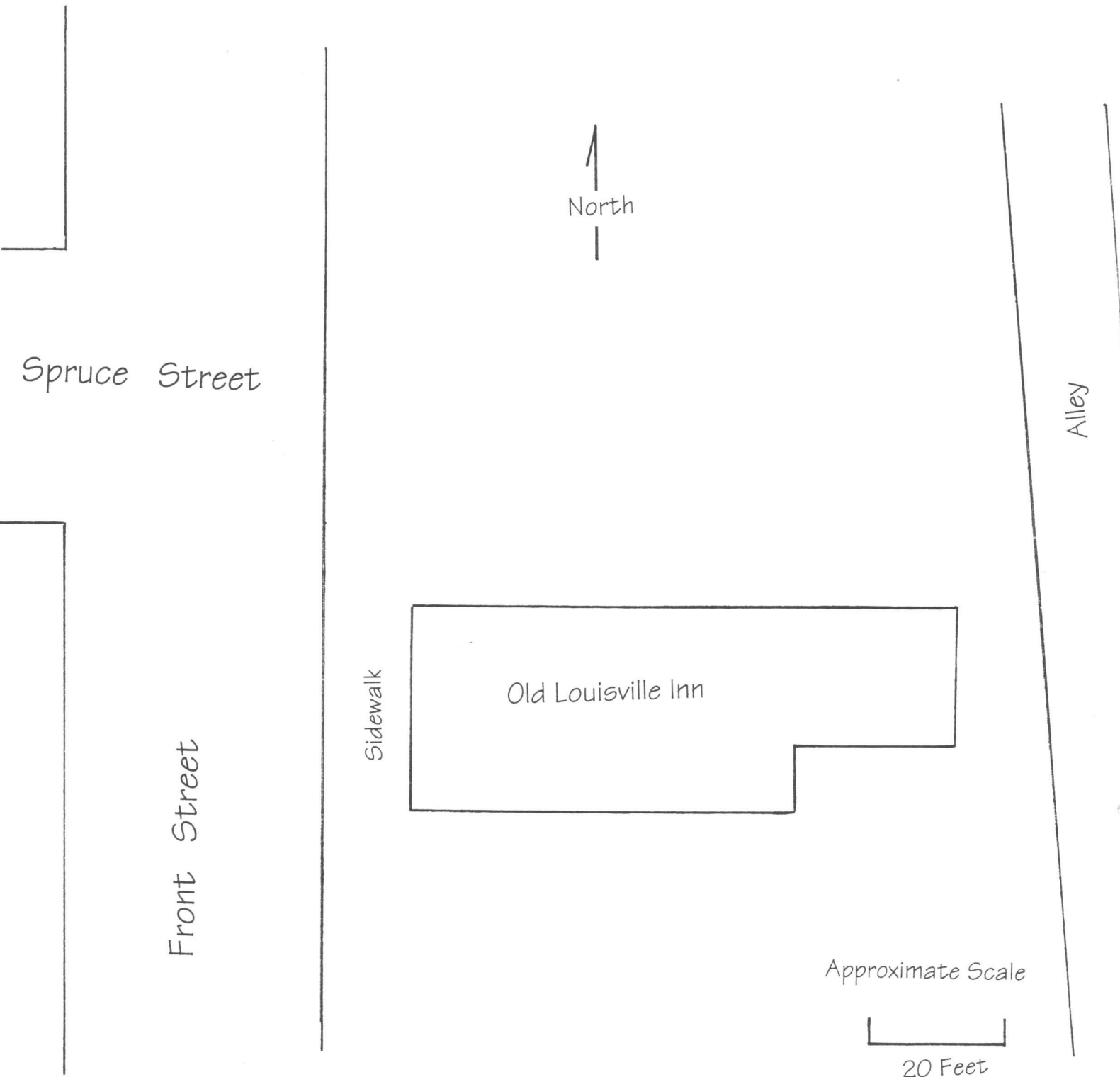
49. Date: **February 1, 2000**

50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525**

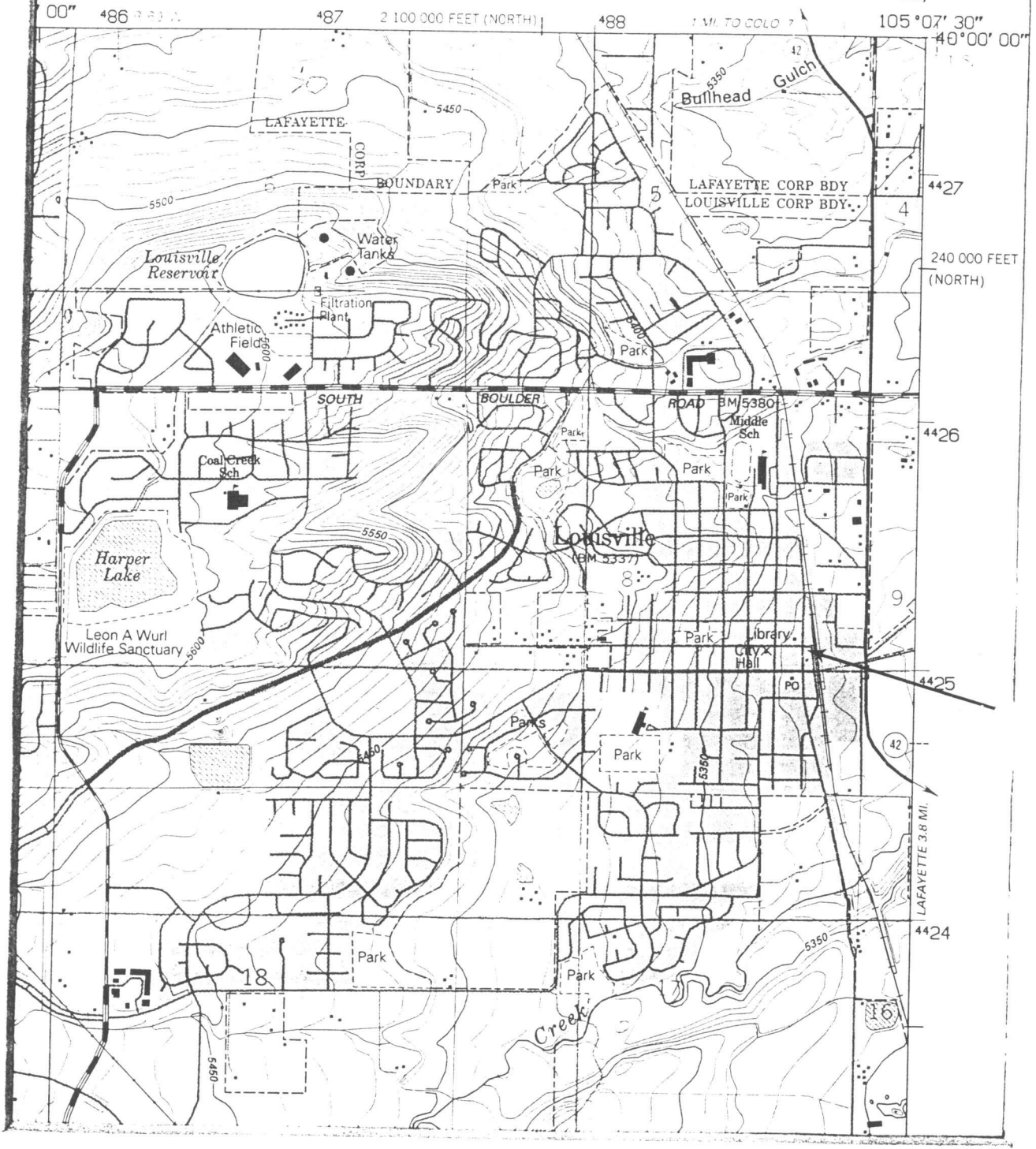
53. Phone number: **970/493-5270**



. . . SKETCH MAP . . .

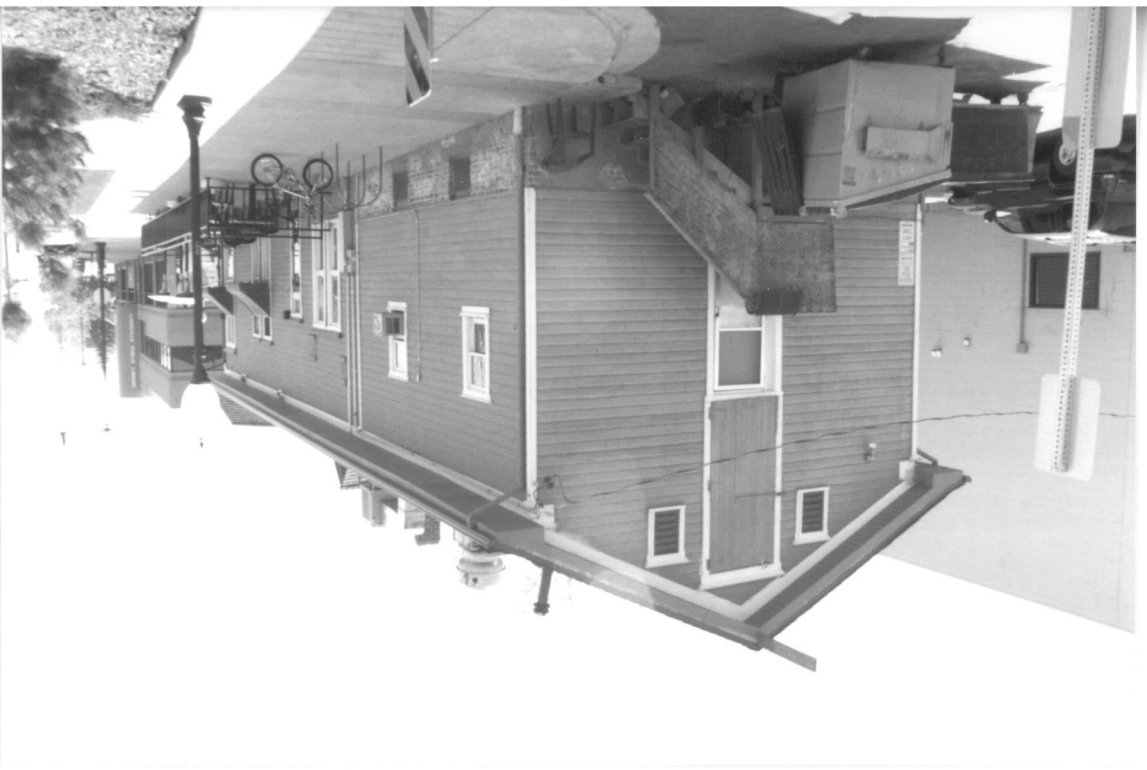
LOUISVILLE QUADRANGLE
COLORADO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4964 11 SE
(ERIE)



LOCATION MAP

740 Front Street Pine Street, Louisville, Colorado



5BL8036
Old Louisville Inn
27 April 2000
Negative located at: City of Louisville
749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027
Photographed by Carl McWilliams
Roll CM-12
Frame 14
View to SE

5BL8036
Old Louisville Inn
27 April 2000
Negative located at: City of Louisville
749 Main Street, Louisville, CO 80027
Photographed by Carl McWilliams
Roll CM-12
Frame 15
View to SW

