

# COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

## Architectural Inventory Form

(Page 1 of 5)

### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL7974**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Louisville**
5. Historic building name: **Schoolhouse; Community Center**
6. Current building name: **Louisville Arts Center**
7. Building address: **801 Grant Avenue**
8. Owner name: **City of Louisville**  
Owner address: **749 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027**

### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**  
**NE**% of **SW**% of **NW**% of **SE**% of section **8**
10. UTM reference  
Zone **13**  
Easting: **488450**  
Northing: **4425120**
11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**  
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994)**
12. Lot(s): **5-11** Block **1**  
Addition: **Pleasant Hill** Year of Addition **1900**
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:

**Other Style**  
**(Brick Masonry**  
**Hipped Roof School)**

### 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):  
**Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **2000 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material  
**Brick**
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**  
**Chimney**  
**Dormers**  
**Segmental Arches**



Survey completed April 2000  
Cupola rebuilt 2004  
Locally Landmarked 2005

## 21. General Architectural Description

This masonry building features red brick walls laid in common bond (headers every eighth course), and a hipped roof with flared eaves. Two projecting brick courses form a continuous belt course at window sill level. The roof has painted white boxed eaves, and is covered with black asphalt shingles. A large red brick chimney, with a corbelled cap, is located on the exterior of the west elevation. Two hipped-roof dormers, each with a 4-light window, are located on the east elevation. Another hipped-roof dormer, with a 4-light window, is located on the south elevation. A projecting brick foyer on the facade (east elevation) is covered by a bell-cast roof. The foyer is approached by five stone steps, flanked by black pipe railings, and a handicapped ramp approaches from the south. Paired wood-paneled entry doors, each with two upper sash lights, and topped by two transom lights, lead into the foyer from the stone steps. The entry doors are flanked by fixed-pane sidelights, with stone lugsills, and segmental brick arch headers. Distinctive decorative brick panels are a notable architectural element, located on either side of the entry on the facade. Windows on all elevations are primarily 2/2 double-hung sash with painted white wood frames and surrounds, and with stone lugsills, and segmental brick arch headers. Two secondary entrances are located on the west (rear) elevation. A stained natural brown wood-paneled door, with a transom light, and with a segmental brick arch header, is located at the south end of the west elevation. Fifteen concrete steps descend to a basement-level door, also on the west elevation.

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

This building was constructed in 1905, and was originally used as a school. The swimming pool building was constructed adjacent to the north elevation following the establishment of Memory Square Park in 1973.

## 23. Landscape or setting special features:

The Louisville Arts Center Building is located at the southwest end of Memory Square Park, north of the intersection of Grant Avenue and Spruce Street. The city's swimming pool is adjacent to this building to the north. Nicely landscaped planted grass lawns, with fir or pine trees, are located to the east and west of the building.

## 24. Associated buildings, features, or objects **Swimming Pool building**

## IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

### 25. Date of Construction:

Estimate

Actual 1905

Source of information:

**"The Little Red Schoolhouse" (manuscript on file at the Louisville Historical Museum)**

### 26. Architect:

**unknown**

Source of information:

**n/a**

### 27. Builder/ Contractor:

**Herman H. Fischer (probably)**

Source of information:

**"Memory Square Park" (manuscript on file at the Louisville Historical Museum).**

### 28. Original owner:

**School District #29**

Source of information:

**Dyni, Anne Quinby. Back to the Basics The Frontier Schools of Boulder County, Colorado, 1860 1960.**

### 30. Original location: **yes**

Moved **no**

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

---

## V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Education / School**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Recreation and Culture / Museum**
33. Current use(s): **Recreation and Culture / Museum**
34. Site type(s): **Municipal Building**

### 35. Historical Background

This building was constructed as a school in 1905, to relieve crowding at the Louisville School, located just to the east at the northwest corner of Spruce Street and Jefferson Avenue. Built in 1880-1881, the Louisville School was the community's first truly permanent school. It served as a community school until 1962 when it was razed, after the new elementary school was built on Hutchinson Street. Following this building's construction, the first and second grade classrooms were located here, and later, the building was also used for the high school's industrial arts classes. After the new high school was built on North Main Street in 1939, this building gradually changed use from a school to a community building. Even earlier, though, the building had been briefly utilized as a hospital, by the Red Cross during the influenza epidemic in 1918.

In the 1960s, the building's interior was remodeled by the Louisville Lions Club. The Lions Club, and other groups, began holding meetings here, and the building soon became known as the Community Center. Among other activities that took place here, were boy scout meetings, teen dances, and senior center activities. At different times, the building also housed the Louisville Public Library and the Louisville Senior Center. Continuing in this tradition, the building is presently home to the Louisville Arts Center.

### 36. Sources of Information

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

Dyni, Anne Quinby. *Back to the Basics The Frontier Schools of Boulder County, Colorado 1860 - 1960*. Boulder: The Book Lode, 1991.

"Memory Square Park" (manuscript on file at the Louisville Historical Museum)

"The Little Red Schoolhouse" (manuscript on 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.

---

**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:

**Community Planning and Development**

40. Period of Significance: 1905 - 1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local:

**42. Statement of Significance**

This building is historically significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the theme of education in Louisville. This building, built in 1905, and the old Louisville High School on North Main Street, built during the 1930s, are the community's only two remaining historic schools. In its later years, the building became notable as an important community center. This building is also architecturally significant because it exemplifies brick school house construction from the early years of the twentieth century.

**43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:**

This property exhibits a particularly high degree of historical integrity when evaluated in comparison with other historic schools throughout Boulder County. The original belltower has been removed, and the 1970s swimming pool building, located to the north, detracts minimally from the integrity of setting. The creation of Memory Square Park, however, helped preserve the integrity of setting, and the sense of feeling and association with an early community school.

---

**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: xx

No:

Discuss: **Historic buildings in this neighborhood may have the potential to form a National Register Historic District.**

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

Contributing: xx

Noncontributing:

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-2**

Frame(s): **11-13**

Negatives filed at: **City of Louisville, Administration**

**749 Main Street**

**Louisville, Colorado 80027**

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

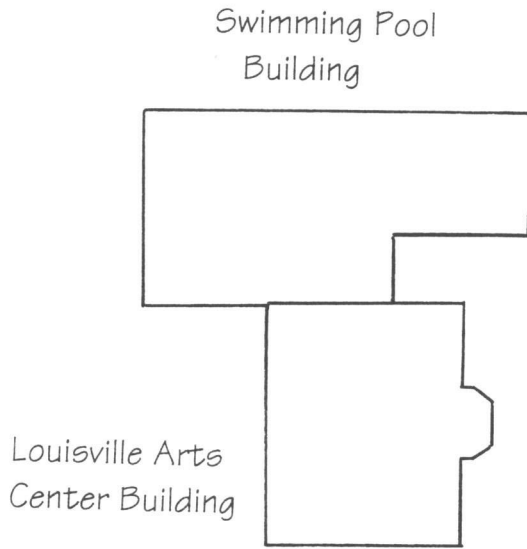
49. Date: **February 1, 2000**

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**



Memory Square  
Park

---

Spruce Street

Approximate Scale



40 Feet

Grant Avenue

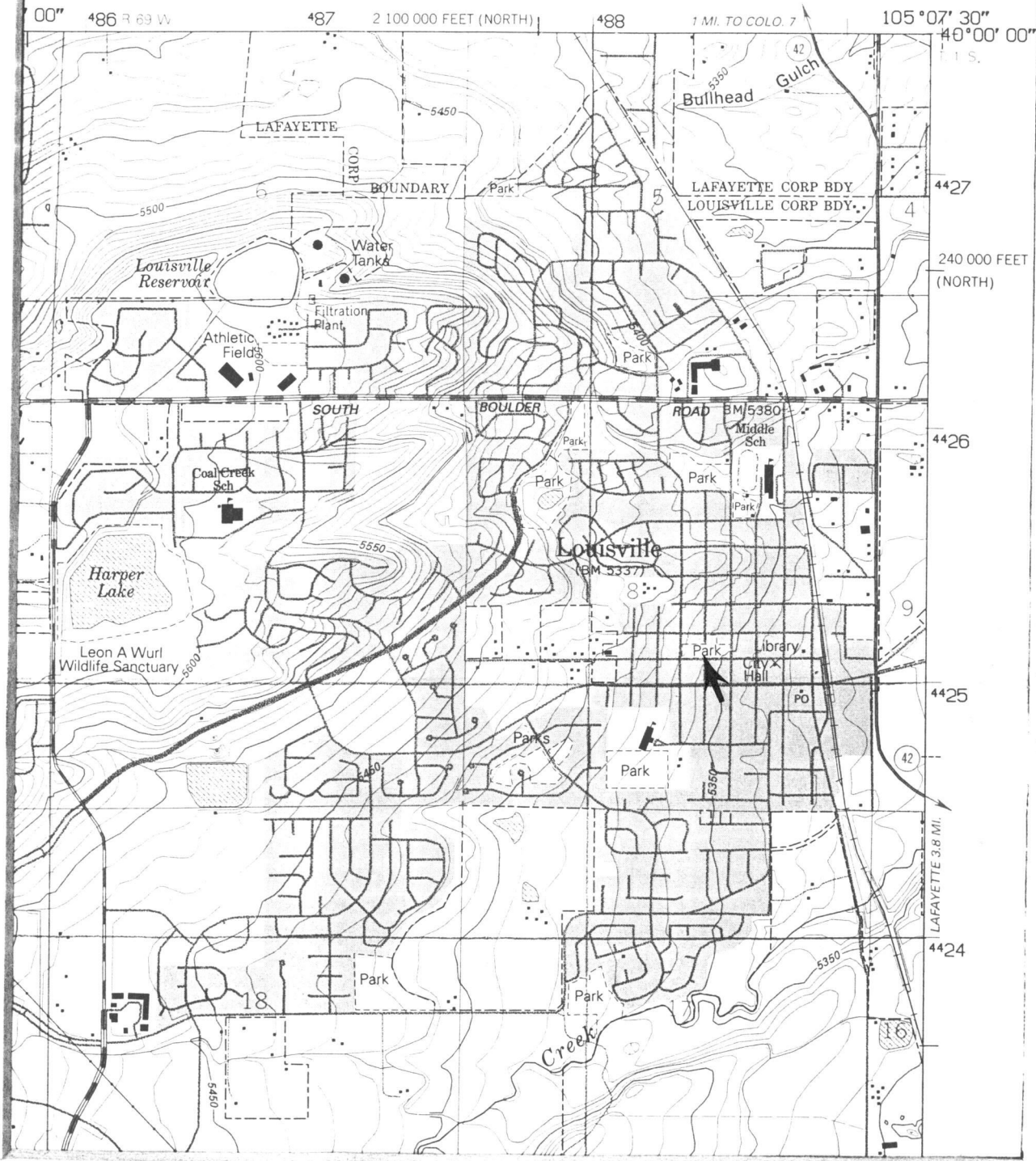
• • • LOCATION MAP • • •

---

801 Grant Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

LOUISVILLE QUADRANGLE  
 COLORADO  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4964 11 SE  
 (ERIE)



. . . LOCATION MAP . . .

801 Grant Avenue, Louisville, Colorado







—PHOTO BY CAROLE LINDSEY-MARTIN

THE SOUTH SIDE (l.) of the Community Building has been rebricked and mortared.

## Community building gets facelift

By LINDSEY MARTIN

Louisville's Community Building is receiving a facelift: currently contractor Gene Jicinsky is replacing the old brick mortar. The exterior woodwork is being renovated also, said Louisville community services director August Hioco. The City is funding the restoration at present, but Hioco has applied to the State Historical Commission for a grant to replace the old cupola and to continue interior restoration.

"Not too many funds are available right now," said Hioco, "but the State has given me a hearing." That hearing is set for the latter part of February. No cost

estimate for this project is currently available, but \$900 is currently earmarked in a Louisville Historical Commission escrow account. This money was left over from the Bicentennial Committee's fund drive for the Miner Statute, plus accrued interest.

Hioco said he would like to take out the false ceiling to reveal the Community Building's original one. First, he added, the City would have to see if it was feasible to do this. "I am intrigued by the idea," said Hioco. "I know the old lights were in chandeliers, but I have never seen the old ceiling."

The building was last remodelled in 1979 when its

foundation was sinking badly. Hioco said "an excellent job" was done of saving the building then.

In September 1973, the swimming pool was added next to the building. (The official opening occurred the summer of 1974.) At about the same time the pool was completed, the Army Reserve Corps sandblasted the paint from the brick, which resulted in brick damage and loss of much of the mortar. The pool addition kept the building from qualifying for the National Register of Historic Buildings, according to Louisville Historical Commission member Carolyn Conar-

Continued on Page 19

## Building gets facelift . . .

Continued from Page 1

roe. "But it was still worthwhile," she added. "Many persons have found enjoyment using the pool."

The Louisville Historical Commission will organize the interior remodeling at the Community Building. Its next project will be replacing the cupola.

Even in its early years, the Community Building witnessed a number of changes.

Conarroe believes the building was originally erected in 1895 to house the first- and second-graders overflowing from the school house (built in 1880) at Memory Square Park. Although the Fischer Carpenter Shop worked on the earlier school house, it did not participate in the red brick building's construction, as stated in a previous feature by this reporter.

By 1914, however, the Community Building became too crowded so some classes used the United Methodist Church building. A new high school was built on Garfield Street in 1920 to take the pressure off the Memory Square Park building. (This Garfield Street

construction now contains apartments.) Consequently, the first- and second-graders were returned from the Community Building to the Memory Square Park building.

For two years the red brick building lay idle until 1922, when manual training classes were begun to be held there.

During the 1918 nationwide influenza epidemic, the Community Building was used to house a hospital set up by the Red Cross in November. Approximately 19 patients paying \$1.50 each, received care at the building between November 14 and December 14. By January, 1919, the hospital was disbanded after twenty-four Louisville deaths had resulted from the epidemic.

Because the Louisville School District became a part of the Boulder Valley School District and thereupon received a new school in 1962-63, the wooden Memory Square Park building was demolished. The red brick building became the Community Building and still remains to house activities for Louisville persons.



THE COMMUNITY BUILDING at 801 Grant will be undergoing structural repairs in the next months as a step in the restoration project. When the cupola is rebuilt, several

years hence, the building will be restored to its original appearance, as in this early photo.

Photo from collection of Louisville Public Library.

# Community building repairs set

By CAROLYN CONARROE

Louisville's Community Building at 801 Grant Avenue will soon undergo structural repairs in the first step in restoring the building as a local landmark.

Parks Director Dave Stahl expects bids for the repair contracts will be opened on April 24. The repairs will require at least a month but the structural repairs should be completed by mid-June.

The Parks Department budget for 1979 included \$18,000 for the repairs and cost of completing an engineering study to determine the extent of required re-construction.

Representatives from Rocky Mountain Consultants examined the foundation, interior and exterior walls and the roof structure. The

consultants' report states "it is recommended that the entire floor of the Community Building be adequately supported by installation of new concrete walls in the basement area and by the installation of new steel beams and pipe supports in the crawl spaces."

The Parks Department budget for 1980 will include a budget item to continue the restoration project. The exterior brick walls will be repaired, either through cleaning out loose mortar and re-pointing the bricks, as the Rocky Mountain Consultants report suggests, or by some process of rebricking the structure, as one councilman has proposed. City council will make the final decisions.

Once the structural and brick-work repairs have been completed then the final steps in the restoration process will be undertaken. These include replacing the windows in the building and re-constructing a cupola which originally was in place on the roof at the entrance to the building.

A fund was established in 1977 with monies remaining following the campaign to erect the Miners Memorial Statue. A \$700 savings account was established for the Parks Department and specified to be used for replacing the cupola. The account has a balance of \$800 and will be released to the Parks Department as the cupola restoration project begins.

The Community Building was constructed in about 1905 to house the primary

grades which had been crowded out of the nearby school building. For several decades Louisville's children went off to school for the first time in the "red brick schoolhouse."

Stahl proposed that the Community Building will eventually become a Senior Citizens' social center. He suggests that the city will have a new recreation center, which could be the

Parks Department offices, in the area near Centennial Shopping Mall. The building at 801 Grant Avenue will then be available, comfortable and centrally located for senior citizen activities.

Stahl feels it would be appropriate that Louisville residents could enjoy an afternoon social or card game in the same room where they began the study of the three R's.