

Resource Number: 5BL7976
Temporary Resource Number: 157508436005

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form

OAHP1405
Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL7976 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508436005
2A. Address: 608 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027
(Previous address prior to 1939: 117 LaFarge. Louisville addresses were changed in 1939.
LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge. Alternate addresses may be 608 La Farge and 117 La Farge.)

3. Attachments
(check as many as apply)
 Photographs
 Site sketch map
 U.S.G.S. map photocopy
 Other _____
 Other _____
4. Official determination
(OAHP USE ONLY)
 Determined Eligible
 Determined Not Eligible
 Need Data
 Nominated
 Listed
 Contributing to N.R. District
 Not Contributing to N.R. Dist

5. Resource Name: Historic Name: D Amato/Willis House
Current Name: Passarelli House

6. Purpose of this current site visit (check as many as apply)

- Site is within a current project area
 Resurvey
 Update of previous site form(s)
 Surface collection
 Testing to determine eligibility
 Excavation
 Other

Describe This property is within the Jefferson Place Subdivision in Louisville, which is being evaluated for historic district potential in 2010 – 2011. This resurvey is part of the historic district evaluation process.



7. Previous Recordings: Architectural Inventory Form 2000, as part of "Old Town" Louisville Historical Building Survey by Carl McWilliams of Cultural Resource Historians.
8. Changes or Additions to Previous Descriptions:

Construction History: Boulder County gives 1900 as the year of construction of this house. However, it is the 1908 Sanborn map, as well as the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, that show this house in the correct location and not the 1900 Sanborn map. The house appears to have been constructed between the time of the 1900 Sanborn map and the time of the 1908 Sanborn map.

The house was extensively modified in 2005. At this time yellow horizontal steel siding replaced the original wood siding; windows were replaced with aluminum casement and awning windows; and a 2-story addition was constructed on the east side. The architect was Andrew Kelsey and the contractor was Zen Construction & Design. By 2010, the house had blue painted trim and gray asphalt shingles.

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Change to General Architectural Description:

The 2-story addition has complex hip roofs and is sided with the same yellow steel siding as the rest of the house. On the north side of the addition, there is a projecting bay with a hip roof at the first floor. The bay features one window and a wood panel door with one glass light, providing access to a brick and railroad tie stoop. On the east side, the first floor of the addition extends beyond the second floor. At the north end, it has a 45-degree clipped bay with a hipped roof and fixed or casement aluminum windows, plus a wood door flanked by two sidelights. The door opens to a large brick patio with three railroad tie steps down to the yard.

The second floor of the addition has an outdoor deck at the south end, with a square wire railing. The second floor has slider windows, and a glass-in-wood door providing access to the deck. The south side of the addition is not visible.

Landscape or special setting description: Jefferson Place Subdivision is a historic residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Louisville. The subdivision is laid out on a standard urban grid of narrow, deep lots with rear alleys. Houses are built to a fairly consistent setback line along the streets with small front lawns, deep rear yards and mature landscaping. Small, carefully maintained single-family residences predominate. Most of the houses are wood framed, one or one and one-half stories in height, featuring white or light-colored horizontal wood or steel siding, gabled or hipped asphalt shingled roofs and front porches. While many of the houses have been modified over the years, many character-defining features have been retained.

Although 608 LaFarge was extensively modified both in the 1950s and in 2005, the house is consistent with these patterns and blends relatively well with the scale and character of the neighborhood. The large 2005 addition is in the rear, retaining the scale of the original one-story cottage along LaFarge.

9. Changes in Condition: None.
10. Changes to Location or Size Information: Addition of 450 square feet = total 1304 square feet.
11. Changes in Ownership: Same ownership as 2000 inventory form.
12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:
Further research has yielded more information about the ownership and use of the building.

The following history gives additional information about the chain of ownership for 608 La Farge Ave., including specific information about families that owned it. It has been found that the Willis family of Louisville was the primary family associated with this property, having owned it for 33 years.

Raffaele D Amato ownership, 1902-1926

Lots 10 and 11, which make up this property, were initially sold separately by the developer, Charles C. Welch. In 1898, Welch conveyed twenty-nine different lots in Jefferson Place to a Denver lawyer, Harper Orahood, apparently for Orahood to resell. Lot 10 was one of these lots. Orahood resold it to "Raffaele D Amato" in 1902.

"Rafaele Di Amata" acquired Lot 11 in 1902 as well, but this lot was acquired from previous owners J.H. Gilfillan and, before him, Joseph Davis (the identity of the owner between Davis and Gilfillan could not be located). Davis had acquired it from Welch in 1894.

Thus, Raffaele D Amato was the owner of both lots starting in 1902. The available Boulder County property records indicate that he was the owner until 1926. The 1904 Boulder County Directory for Louisville shows "Raffiel Dammatt" and his wife, Lizzie, living on "Lafarge btw. Pine & Hutchinson," which describes the location of 608 La Farge. His occupation is given as "miner." Unfortunately, no other information about this owner could be located.

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In 1926, Nettie Wilson purchased the property from “Raffaele D Amato.” She was the wife of Louisville miner Robert Wilson, and owned it just one year.

Willis Family ownership, 1927-1960

In 1927, the Willis family acquired this property. Members of this family were to own it for 33 years.

According to a 1933 clipping describing the golden wedding anniversary of Margaret and William H. Willis, the two were married in Middlesboro, Yorkshire, England, in 1883 and came to the United States in 1886. They then came to Louisville in 1907. William Willis had been a miner in England and he continued to mine in the Louisville area. They had four daughters and a son, including Elizabeth Willis (sometimes referred to as Mary Elizabeth) and Robert Willis, both of who became residents of 608 La Farge. According to Louisville Cemetery records, William Willis lived 1860 to 1944 and Margaret lived 1864 to 1935.

In 1927, Margaret Willis acquired the property at what is now 608 La Farge. In 1934, she conveyed it by quit claim deed to her daughter, Elizabeth Willis. Directories show that Margaret and William Willis made their home elsewhere in Louisville.

Louisville directories show that the Willis’s son, Robert Willis, and his wife, Nelle Wolfer Willis, were residents of this house in 1928 and 1930. Robert was a coal miner. The address for this property at that time was 117 La Farge. Robert and Nelle Willis are also shown as living on La Farge in 1940, and they are shown as specifically living at 608 La Farge in 1943. They had one child, Mary Kathryn.

The 2000 Cultural Resource Survey is correct that according to the 1951 directory, 608 La Farge was the residence of Gregory and Helen James, but they were not significant to the history of this house. Because they were not the legal owners, it is believed that they were renters. Also, this was the only directory in which they are listed as living at this address.

Next, the legal owner, Elizabeth Willis, did make this property her home. Her listed address is 608 La Farge in the directories for 1952-53, 1953, 1956, and 1958. Her occupation is given in directories as both “waiter” and “cafeteria worker.”

Elizabeth Willis lived 1883 to 1959. The property left the ownership of the Willis family in 1960.

Sources of Information

Boulder County “Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master” on file at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder’s Office and Assessor’s Office public records, accessed through <http://recorder.bouldercounty.org>.

Directories of Louisville residents and businesses on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Census records and other records accessed through www.ancestry.com.

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Drumm’s Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909, at Louisville Historical Museum.

Sanborn Insurance Maps for Louisville, Colorado, 1893, 1900 and 1908.

Louisville, Colorado cemetery records, accessed at <http://files.usgwarchives.org/co/boulder/cemeteries/louisville.txt>

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum, including Dec. 28, 1933 newspaper article entitled “Celebrate Golden Wedding.” The article is unidentified, but believed to be from the *Louisville Times*.

Louisville, Colorado building permit files

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13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible _____ Not eligible X Need data _____

Explain: The property lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register.

13A. Colorado State Register and Louisville Local Landmark: Not Eligible X

13B. Historic District Potential: This building is outside the boundaries of a State Register historic district, local historic district, and a potential National Register historic district. Due to loss of integrity, the southeast portion of the Jefferson Place Subdivision, in which this building is located, is not included within the boundaries.

Discuss: This building is being recorded as part of a 2010-2011 intensive-level historical and architectural survey of Jefferson Place, Louisville's first residential subdivision, platted in 1880. The purpose of the survey is to determine if there is potential for National Register, State Register or local historic districts. Most of the Jefferson Place subdivision, but not this portion, is eligible as a State Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European, for its association with European immigrants who first lived here and whose descendants continued to live here for over fifty years. The period of significance for the State Register historic district is 1881 – 1980. Jefferson Place is potentially eligible as a National Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European. However it needs data to determine dates of some modifications, and to more definitely establish the significant impacts of various European ethnic groups on the local culture of Louisville. The period of significance of a National Register district is 1881 – 1963. Jefferson Place is eligible as a local Louisville historic district under local Criterion B, Social, as it exemplifies the cultural and social heritage of the community.

14. Management Recommendations: NA

15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL7976_608LaFarge_01 through 5BL7976_608LaFarge_09

16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and maps at Colorado Historical Society. Electronic files of forms, and electronic files of photographs at City of Louisville, Colorado, Planning Department.

17. Report Title: Historical and Architectural Survey of Jefferson Place Subdivision, Louisville, Colorado

18. Recorder(s): Kathy and Leonard Lingo of Avenue L Architects and Bridget Bacon of City of Louisville

19. Date(s): 2013

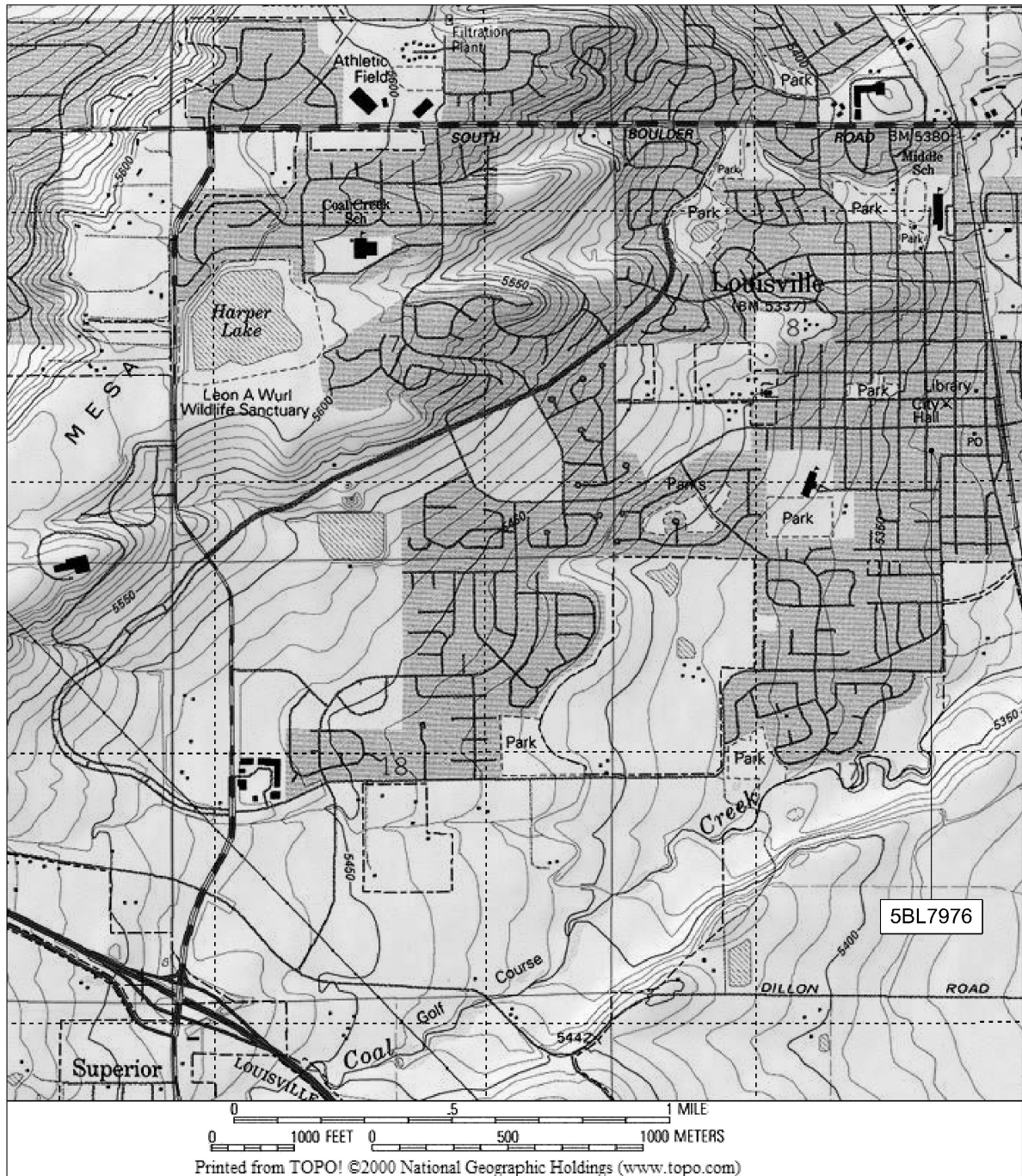
20. Recorder Affiliation: Avenue L Architects, 3457 Ringsby Court Suite 317, Denver CO 80216 (303) 290-9930

Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3395

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Architectural Inventory Form
USGS Location Map



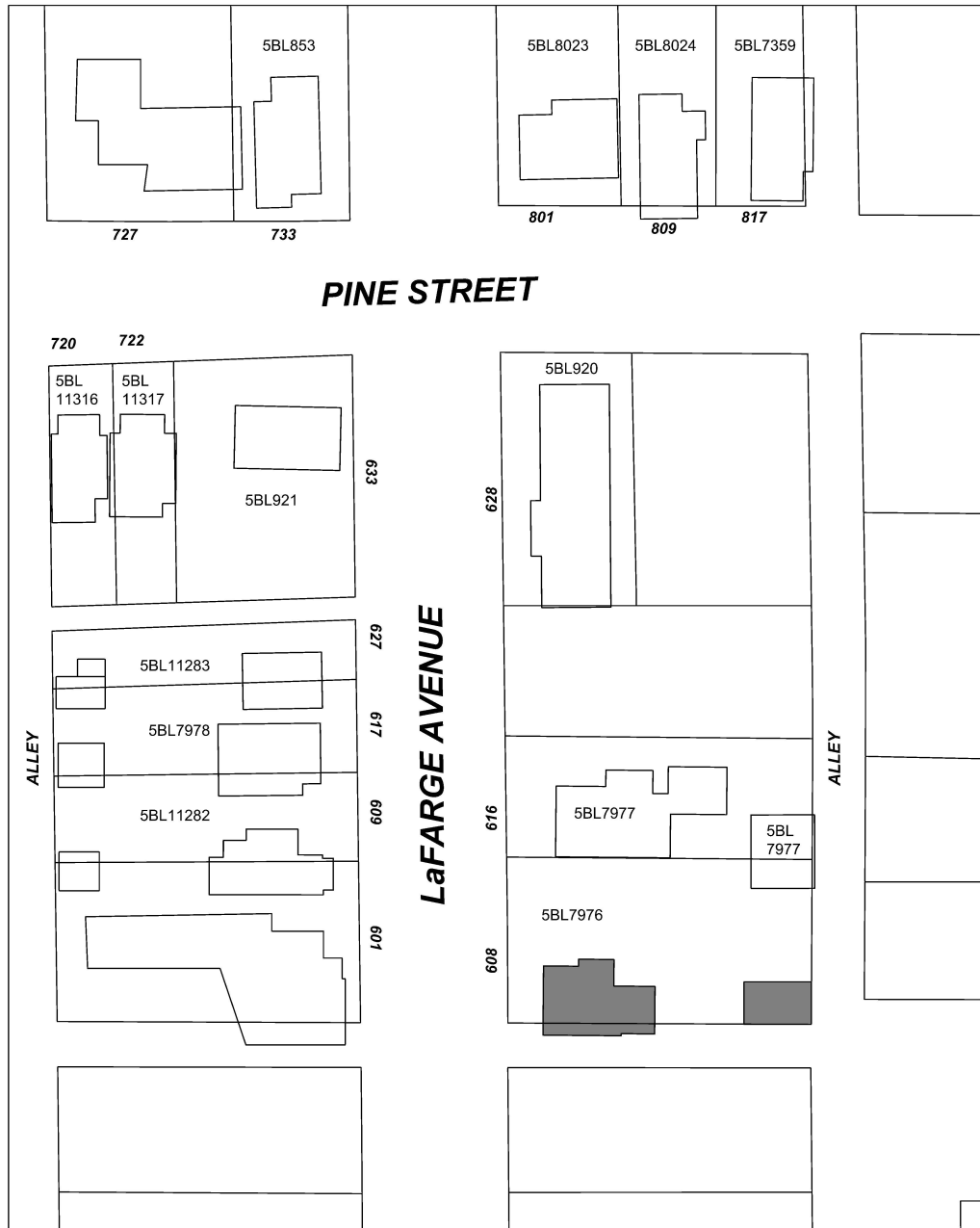
608 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: Extract of Louisville, Colorado
USGS map, 1994.



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Architectural Inventory Form
Site Location Map



608 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado
GIS Files.



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5BL7976_608LaFarge_01 West



5BL7976_608LaFarge_02 North

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5BL7976_608LaFarge_03 South

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5BL7976_608LaFarge_04 East



5BL7976_608LaFarge_05 shed north

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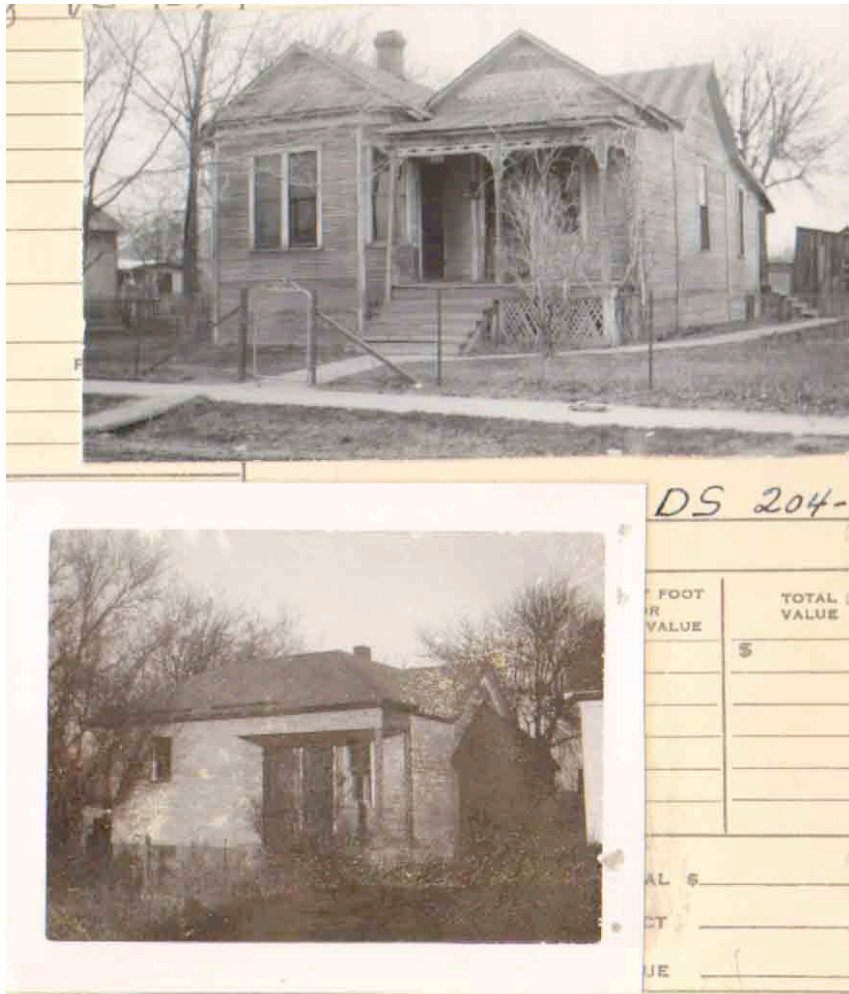


5BL7976_608LaFarge_06 shed east



5BL7976_608LaFarge_07 garage northeast

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Boulder County Appraisal Card photos for 608 LaFarge. Upper photo is from 1948. Lower photo is from 1956.