

Resource Number: 5BL7980  
Temporary Resource Number: 157508426008

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
OAHP1405  
**Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form**

Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL7980 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508426008

2A. Address: 721 La Farge Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027  
Previous address prior to 1939: 210 LaFarge, 230 LaFarge, 246 LaFarge Louisville addresses were changed in 1939. LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge, so other addresses could be 721 La Farge, 210 La Farge, 230 La Farge, and 246 La Farge. Previous addresses identified in the 2000 survey are incorrect.

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:  
English/Atkin/Winkler/Dionigi House  
Current Name: Colacci & Green 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: Since the 2000 inventory, the house has been painted light tan with white trim. Asbestos shingles replaced wood siding at some time after 1948. Since 2000, the front entrance door has been changed to a new clear-finish, light-colored wood door with elaborate paneling and scrollwork, and an oval glass light. An attached patio cover was permitted and constructed in 1973. The porch roof columns and balusters have been modified at least twice. In the 1948 Boulder County Assessor’s card photo, these are constructed of turned wood. By the 1960s, they had been replaced with metal scrollwork. By the time of the 2000 inventory, they had been replaced once again with turned wood, more similar in appearance to the original.

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

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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, most of the historic character-defining features have been preserved.

721 LaFarge is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood.

9. Changes in Condition: None.
10. Changes to Location or Size Information: None.
11. Changes in Ownership: Same ownership as 2000 inventory form.
12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:

Further research has yielded new information about the history of 721 La Farge. It has also been found that the Anthony and Filomena Ross family did not live at 721 La Farge, as was suggested in the 2000 survey.

721 La Farge was owned by the related Winkler/Dionigi family for seventy-two years, from 1918 to 1990. John "Ring" Dionigi was a prominent citizen, running the town as its primary administrator for many years. Also, Ring Dionigi's marriage to Lizzie Winkler represented a combining of two cultures, Italian and Austrian, an occurrence that, while not unheard of, was also not common at the time. Both families were Catholic. Prior to ownership by the Winkler/Dionigi family, this house was the residence of William and Margaret Atkin, who were early Louisville pioneers from England.

The first owner of the property, after developer Charles Welch, was Ralph English. The 1885 Colorado State Census shows Ralph and his wife, Annie, living in Louisville, apparently in the vicinity of La Farge. They are listed as being from England and having two young children, John W. and Dorothy. Ralph English was a coal miner. The deed, though not recorded until 1895, would have to have been signed between 1880 and 1887.

In 1887, according to the online Boulder County property records, English conveyed the property at 721 La Farge to Lyman E. Andrews, John S. Chambers, and their partnership, Andrews & Chambers. The two men operated a general merchandise store in downtown Louisville in the 1880s. Additionally, Andrews was the Louisville postmaster from 1883 to at least 1889. Both Andrews and Chambers also engaged in real estate transactions in Louisville. The brick Miners Trading Co. building that was constructed on the northwest corner of Pine and Main (a short distance away from this address) is believed to have been owned and operated by Andrews and Chambers and their wives. It is not known whether either of the men and their families resided at this location.

The 2000 historical survey completed on this property correctly concluded that this house was constructed in circa 1890, and certainly prior to 1893, as it appears in the correct location on the 1893 Sanborn map for Louisville (and also appears on the 1900 and 1908 Sanborn maps, and on the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville). It is possible that it was constructed even before 1890, as owner Ralph English and his family appear from the 1885 Colorado State Census records to be residing in the vicinity of what is now 721 La Farge.

In 1891, Andrews and Chambers conveyed the property to William Atkin. Atkin was one of Louisville's early settlers from England, and he was a coal miner. The house would be in his family for twenty-six years.

William Atkin was born in 1854 and was 37 in 1891. His wife, Margaret, was two years younger. According to the 1900 federal census, which shows them living in Louisville in this vicinity, William emigrated to the United States in 1879 and Margaret in 1881. As with many other Louisville families who came from England, the Atkin family is believed to have come from Durham, which was a coal mining area. By the time of the 1885 Colorado State Census, they were residing in Louisville.

The 1904 directory for Louisville lists William and Margaret Atkin as living on La Farge between Spruce and Pine, which is the location of 721 La Farge. Also, William is listed there as the mine foreman at the Rex No. 1 Mine in Louisville. In 1916, he was called the "superintendent" of the Rex Mine.

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William and Margaret Atkin had four children: Mary J., Margaret, Isabella, and Samuel, the first three of whom had been born in England. All four children were to live as adults in Louisville. Mary J. married Charles W. Taylor (who served as mayor of Louisville in the late 1890s and early 1900s) in 1891; Margaret "Maggie" married Charles Taylor's brother, B. Frank Taylor, in 1898; Isabella married John Clark; and Samuel married Olive (last name unknown). All of the men in the family worked as coal miners.

William Atkin passed away in 1916. His wife, Margaret, then sold the house at 721 La Farge in 1918 and went to live with one of her daughters in Louisville. She died in 1925.

The purchaser of this house in 1918 was Louis (Alois) Winkler. He had a wife, Mary, and five children: David, Louis Jr., Frank, Otto, and Lizzie (of the four boys, at least Louis Jr., Frank, and Otto are believed to have served in World War I). It seems very likely that he was related to the Winkler family that owned and resided at 737 La Farge (two doors to the north).

Louis and Mary Winkler were both born in about 1863 in Austria and came to the United States in the 1880s, living for several years in Cable, Mercer County, Illinois before coming to Louisville in late 1908 or early 1909. Louis and Mary's granddaughter, Marion Dionigi Junior, has stated that in Austria, Louis was a wood carver who made furniture. A passenger list for December 1908 shows that the family had returned to Europe after residing in Cable, Illinois. The passenger list, which shows that they left Bremen, Germany and arrived in New York City, gives Louisville, Colorado as their final destination. In Louisville, Louis is remembered as having worked as a miner at the Monarch Mine.

In 1932, Louis Winkler conveyed 721 La Farge to his daughter, Lizzie Winkler Dionigi. Lizzie had been born in 1899 and she had married John "Ring" Dionigi in 1920. Ring had been born in Louisville in 1897 of Italian parents and he grew up at 1009 La Farge. He served in World War I as a member of the Marine Corps. Their first home was at 1132 La Farge and Ring worked as a meat cutter at a Louisville store.

Following their daughter's move with her family to 721 La Farge, Louis and Mary Winkler continued to reside there (their dates of death are not known). Ring Dionigi worked as a coal miner in the 1930s. Lizzie and Ring's children were Glen, Jack, Rudy, Rosemarie (Steinbaugh), Yvonne (Sutherland), and Marion (Junior).

In addition to taking care of her six children, Lizzie also took care of her parents and her nephew, Gilbert Winkler, who lived with the family. According to daughter Marion Dionigi Junior, she herself slept with her two sisters on a fold-out couch; the three boys slept in one bed in a bedroom; and her grandmother and grandfather Winkler and cousin slept in what was described as a kitchen area (likely a summer kitchen building). Presumably, Ring and Lizzie Dionigi had their own bedroom.

A Dionigi nephew, David Ferguson, recalled his Aunt Lizzie making spaghetti in a washtub in order to accommodate all of the relatives who would eat dinner at the house. Ring and Lizzie both prepared Italian food, and Ring made wine in the basement of the house using a chute to dump what his daughter described as "truckloads" of grapes in it. Being of Austrian heritage, Lizzie is also remembered for preparing Austrian dishes such as filled dumplings called krapfen.

By 1940, Ring was listed in the directory for Louisville as "justice of the peace." It was around this time that he started his career as (in effect) the administrator for the town of Louisville for many years. During this time, he had a very short walk from 721 La Farge one block away to the Town Hall in the 700 block of Main Street. His positions were likely appointed by the Louisville City Council. In 1943, he was listed as clerk and water commissioner. According to a 1952 article from the Rocky Mountain News, he was city clerk, deputy town marshal, water commissioner, and street and alley commissioner all rolled into one. His daughter, Marion Dionigi Junior, has stated that he was Chief of Police from the 1930s until 1962. He also oversaw the following during his tenure with the town: first paving of Louisville streets; curbs and gutters put in; the transition from coal heating to natural gas supplied by Public Service; and the 1950s installation of Louisville's first sewer system and the laying of sewer lines.

Ring Dionigi's role in the daily operations of the town reflects a time when Louisville was much smaller, and when job descriptions were less formal and delineated. Although he attended school only through the eighth grade (due to having to work in the mines to help support his family), he had a talent with languages that served him well, as he was able to communicate with members of different ethnic groups in Louisville.

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During World War II, Ring Dionigi acted as an unofficial Navy recruiter, encouraging many young men to enlist in the Navy. His own sons also served in the military. Glen served in the Coast Guard, Jack in the Army (stationed in the Aleutians during World War II), and Rudy in the Navy.

According to his daughter, Marion, and his son, Jack, "Ring" got his nickname from his love of boxing; the nickname "Ring" is a reference to a boxing ring. But he is also remembered for going to pawn shops to buy inexpensive wedding rings and giving them to young couples about to marry if they couldn't afford them (as justice of the peace, he married many couples). According to Marion Dionigi Junior, Ring "was a jack-of-all-trades and a master of none ... that's the way he put it. ... he lived and died for Louisville. And he knew everybody, everybody knew him." In 1989, the Louisville Historical Commission awarded him its annual Pioneer Award, posthumously, for his contributions.

According to a family member, Dionigi sons Jack and Rudy put in the bathroom in the house (likely in the early 1950s) and remodeled the kitchen.

Ring Dionigi died in 1966 and Lizzie Winkler Dionigi died in 1989. In 1990, Dionigi daughter Rosemarie Steinbaugh, in whose name the house was put in 1970, conveyed 721 La Farge to Mary Ann Colacci and Nancy Lee Green. In 1916, this property had the address of 210 La Farge. For the years 1921 and 1923, the address is given as 246 La Farge. For 1926 and 1928, it went back to 210 La Farge. In 1930, it was stated to be 222 La Farge. In 1932 and 1935, it was given as 230 La Farge. Starting in 1940, the address was given as the current address of 721 La Farge.

### 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>.

Census records and other records accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

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

Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909

*Green Mountain Cemetery Index to Interment Books, 1904-1925*, Boulder Genealogical Society, 2006.

Louisville, Colorado building permit files

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

Sacred Heart of Mary (Boulder County, Colorado) cemetery records, accessed at <http://www.findagrave.com>

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

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum, including newspaper clippings, "Miner for 43 Years Reviews Early Days," *Louisville Times*, April 4, 1990, reprinted from *Louisville Times*, 1932; Zuckerman, Leo, "Old Coal Mining Town Making Comeback." *Rocky Mountain News*, Feb. 10, 1952.

Bacon, Bridget, "La Farge! A Closer Look at One of Louisville's Oldest Streets." *The Louisville Historian*, Fall 2008, Issue #80.

Interviews with conducted by Museum Coordinator Bridget Bacon: Interview with Marion Dionigi Junior conducted June 5, 1995; Interview with Grace Dryer Dionigi and Jack Dionigi conducted on October 25, 2007; Interview with Grace Dryer Dionigi conducted November 17, 2010; Interview with Dionigi family member David Ferguson conducted January 19, 2011.

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible \_\_\_\_\_ Not eligible  X  Need data \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: While the property has sufficient integrity and significance to be a contributing resource to a potential historic district, it lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register. The house has integrity of location, setting, design workmanship, feeling and association. Integrity of materials and design are somewhat compromised by the replacement asbestos siding and replacement porch balustrade and porch columns.

13A. Colorado State Register: Not Eligible  X

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible  X

The property is worthy of nomination as a Louisville local landmark due to its long association with prominent local citizen John Dionigi, who was at various times the justice of the peace, de facto town administrator, city clerk, deputy town marshal, chief of police, water commissioner, and street and alley commissioner. Mr. Dionigi oversaw the first paving of Louisville streets, installation of curbs and gutters, transition from coal heating to natural gas, and the installation of Louisville's first sewer system.

13C. Historic District Potential: Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register and local historic district. There is potential for a National Register historic district. The house would be contributing. The garage is non-contributing.

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. Jefferson Place 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.

European immigrant families flocked to Colorado coal mining communities, including Louisville, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in search of economic opportunities they could not find in their own countries. Louisville's Welch Coal Mine, along with other mines in the area, recruited skilled workers from western Europe. In the early years before 1900, most of the miners who lived in Jefferson Place came from English-speaking countries.

Immigrants from England brought a strong tradition and expertise in coal mining. The English are widely credited with developing the techniques of coal mining that were used locally, and they taught these techniques to other miners. The British mining culture was instilled in the early Colorado coal mines. English immigrants also brought expertise in other necessary skills such as blacksmithing and chain forging.

Later Jefferson Place residents arrived from Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia, among other places. The Italians eventually became the largest single ethnic group in Jefferson Place and in Louisville as a whole. About one-third of the houses in Jefferson Place were owned and occupied by Italian immigrants. Italian immigrants left their mark on Louisville in the food and beverage industries. To the present day, downtown Louisville is known throughout the Front Range for its tradition of Italian restaurants. The impacts of the heritage and customs of the other European ethnic groups could be significant, but are not well documented and need further investigation.

14. Management Recommendations: The property is worthy of individual nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark.

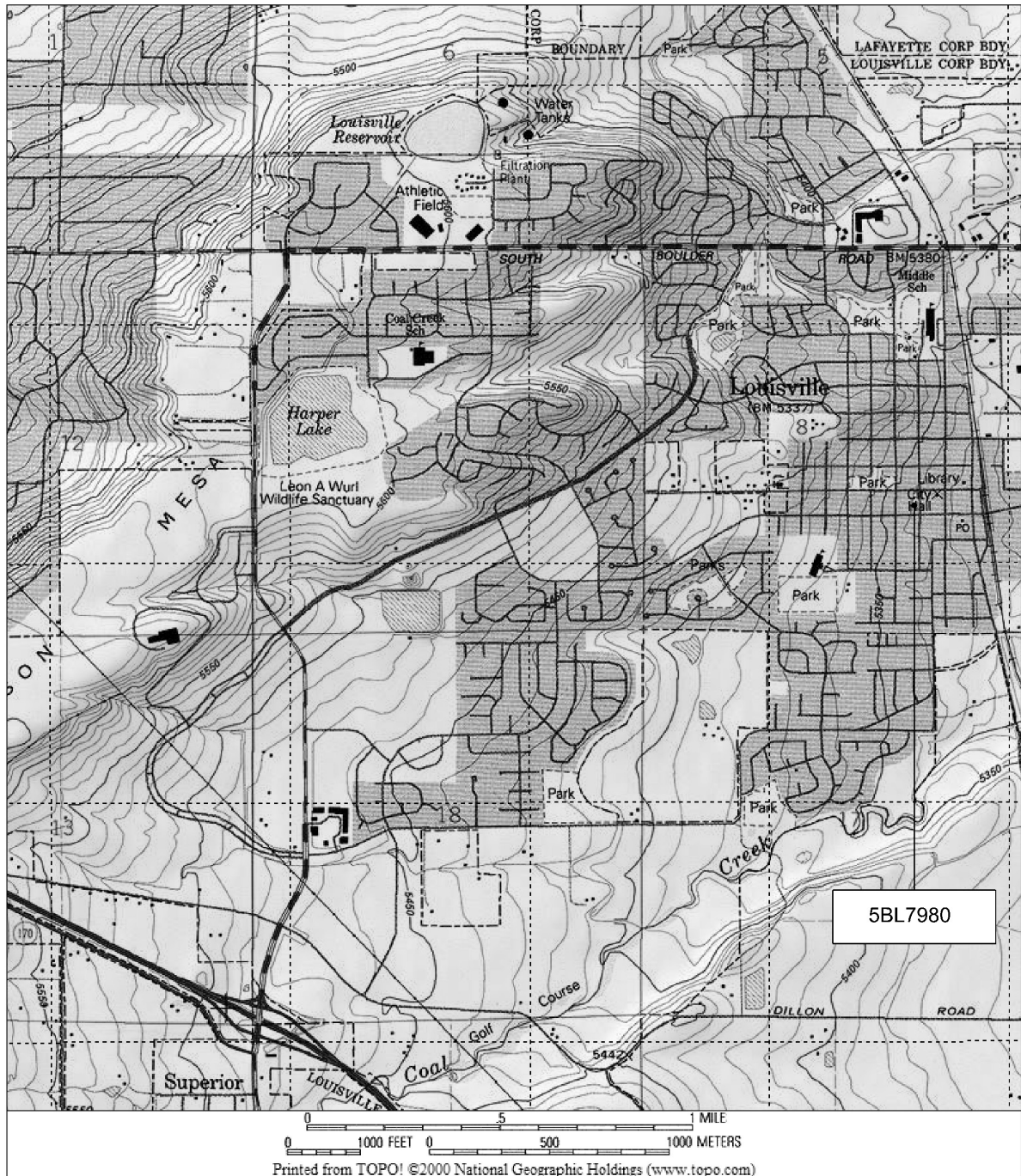
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_01 through 5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_07.

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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.
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17. Report Title: Historical and Architectural Survey of Jefferson Place Subdivision, Louisville, Colorado
18. Recorder(s): Kathy and Leonard Lingo, and Bridget Bacon, 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



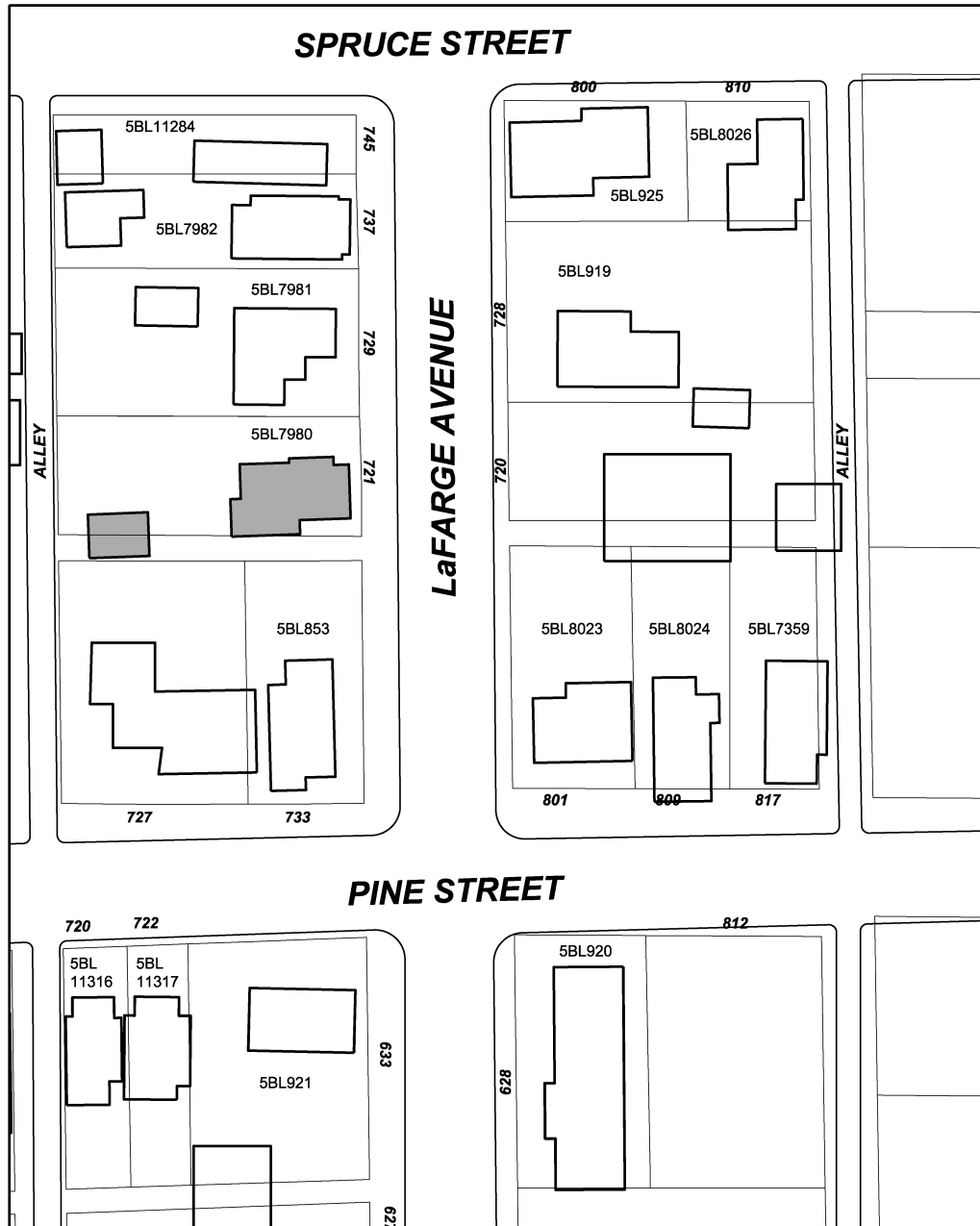
721 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

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



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Architectural Inventory Form  
Site Location Map



721 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado  
GIS Files.





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5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_01 East



5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_02 South

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5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_03 North



5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_04 West

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5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_05 Garage southwest



5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_06 Garage southeast

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5BL7980\_721LaFarge\_07 Garage northwest

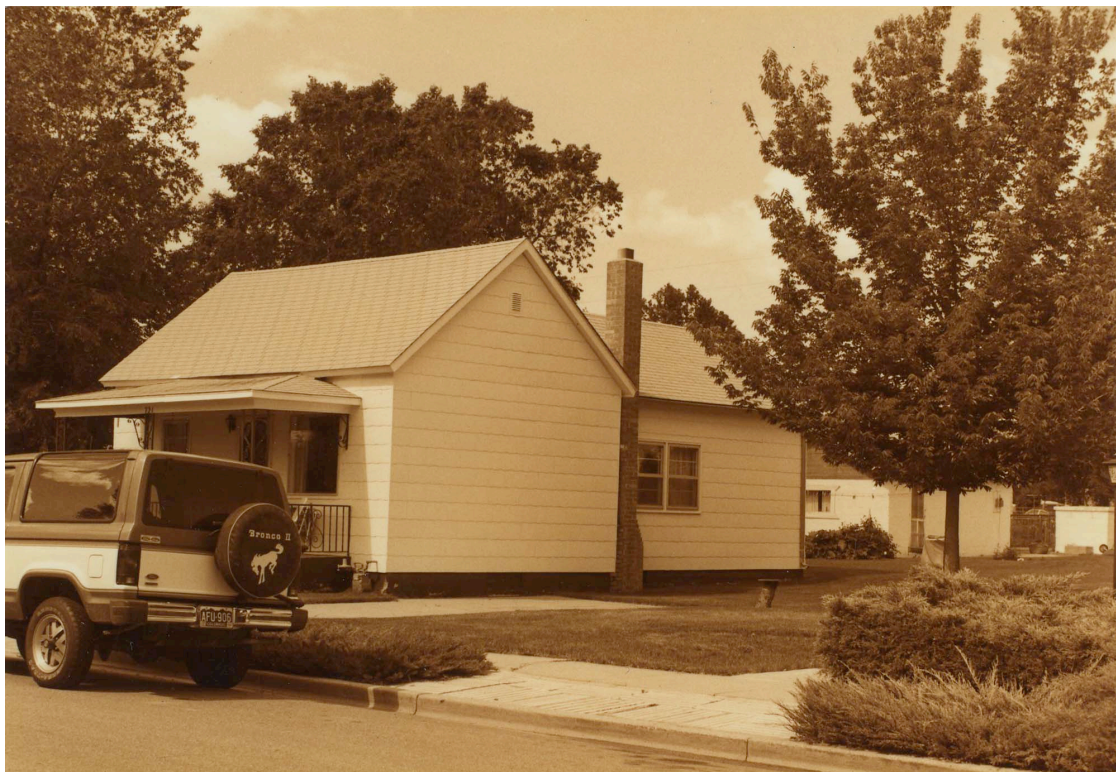


Photo c. 1960s, Louisville Historical Museum 2008.008.047

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1948 photo from Boulder County Real Estate Appraisal card



John Dionigi, 1927. Louisville Historical Museum 88-13-13