

Resource Number: 5BL919
Temporary Resource Number: 157508425003

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form

OAHP1405
Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL919 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508425003

2A. Address: 728 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, CO 80027

Previous address prior to 1939: 231 LaFarge Louisville addresses were changed in 1939.
LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge, so other addresses might be 728 La Farge and 231 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: Gutfelder House

Current Name: Scriggins & Irving 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. 1985 Colorado Historical Society Historic Building Inventory Record by Mehls and Mehls.

8. Changes or Additions to Previous Descriptions:

Architectural description: The 2000 survey does not note that the building has flared eaves. Painted bead board soffits appear to be original. Since the 2000 survey, the following changes have been made. The house has been painted white with beige and sage green trim. The storm door on the main (west) entry has been replaced with a white aluminum storm door. A 22' x 28' garage was constructed in 2005 at the northeast corner of the lot. This structure has vertical composition siding painted gold and tan, a front-gabled roof with gray asphalt shingles, white aluminum slider windows and a metal panel overhead garage door at the alley.

Construction History:

Although the Boulder County Assessor lists 1930 as the date of construction for this house, evidence suggests that it was built by 1909. It appears on the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, and its architectural style is more consistent with an earlier date of construction.

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In 1976, the Louisville Urban Renewal Authority, as part of its Program for Neighborhood Improvement, accomplished several work items on this house. These included removal of a brick planter along the south side, new roofing, window repairs, replacement of window screens, new gutters and downspouts, painting, correction of code violations in electrical, heating and plumbing categories, and replacement of bathroom fixtures. Structural modifications at the same time included installation of additional floor joists at the second floor framing, new wood beams, wood posts and concrete pads to support the first floor, and new concrete foundation along the south and west exterior walls. The Louisville Urban Renewal Authority focused on redevelopment of existing neighborhoods and properties rather than demolition of substandard housing. Funds derived in part from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program established by the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The CDBG program was a response to widespread opposition to sweeping large-scale inner-city demolition "urban renewal" projects that took place in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1979, a permit was issued to owners Bob and Rolene Hinsberger to expand the kitchen and remodel the exterior. The extent of the exterior remodeling was not described on the permit. An 80-square-foot addition was constructed at the rear (east side) of the house at that time. The 1985 inventory states that there were no outbuildings, but the 1950 County Assessor card identifies a garage, so the date of construction of the small garage southeast of the house is unclear. The 2000 inventory incorrectly states that the east addition predates the 1960s.

The front porch was rebuilt in 1982. Compared to the 1950 Assessor photograph, the new porch roof is steeper and the design of the columns and railings was modified. The 1950s porch configuration may not have been original. An undated, ca. 1930s photograph appears to show a railing at the second floor, indicating that there was a second-floor porch. The middle window on the second floor may have been a door at that time. The central brick chimney also appears to be taller in the 1930s photograph.

The garage at the northeast corner of the lot was built in 2005. A deck along the east side of the house was added in 2006. In 2010, the first floor framing was replaced and structural helical piers installed.

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

728 LaFarge is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood. This house is one of a few full two-story residences in the neighborhood.

9. Changes in Condition: None.
10. Changes to Location or Size Information: Size of residence is approximately 1500 square feet.
11. Changes in Ownership: Current owners are Scriggins & Irving, 728 LaFarge, Louisville, CO 80027
12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:
Further research has yielded new information about the history of 728 La Farge.

This property relates to Louisville's early Austrian settlers, as the Gutfelder family owned the property for fifty-six years, from 1891 to 1947, and lived in the house for many years after it was built. Property records suggest that the lots to the north, which are the location of 800/804 Spruce (5BL925) and 810 Spruce (5BL8026), were also originally part of this parcel owned by Louis Gutfelder. There is evidence that the house at 728 La Farge is older than previously believed.

The house was also owned by the Merciez family, whose members were of French heritage, for twenty-seven years.

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Louis (also referred to as "Alois") and Josephine (also referred to as "Josepha") Gutfelder came to the United States in 1880. The 1880 federal census appears to show the two of them and one child living in Nederland under the name "Godfeldter." By 1885, according to the Colorado State census, they were living in Louisville and they had been joined by Louis/Alois' father, also named Alois (1819-1895).

Louis was born in 1849 and Josephine in 1858. They were Austrian by birth. Louis acquired this property from Charles Welch in 1891, according to the online Boulder County property records.

Louis Gutfelder worked as a coal miner in the Louisville area, as did his sons. The Manuscript Collections for the archives of the University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries lists among its holdings a United Mine Workers badge from 1898 that belonged to Alois Gutfelder of Louisville, Colorado.

The Gutfelder children who survived to adulthood were Annie, Louis Jr., Frank, Tony, Katherine, Theresa, and Bertha. The family is listed in directories as living in Louisville in the 1890s when families (as opposed to just businesses) were first listed in the directories.

The Sanborn maps for 1893, 1900, and 1908 show that the first buildings on this parcel were actually along Spruce, and 728 La Farge had not yet been constructed. The 1904 Louisville directory shows members of the "Goodfellow" family living at "Lafarge & Spruce," which could be the location of 800 Spruce (5BL925), owned by Louis Gutfelder as part of this property. Louis Gutfelder sold the parcel at 800/804 Spruce in 1934.

Boulder County gives 1930 as the date of construction for 728 La Farge. The report on this property from the 2000 historical survey states: "Boulder County Assessor records list 1930 as this house's date of construction. The house's American Foursquare style is more indicative of houses built in the 1910s ..."

The 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville shows that although the house doesn't appear on the Sanborn maps of 1893, 1900, or 1908, it does appear on the 1909 map as a square building in the approximately correct location on the relevant lots. This also explains the house's architectural style more strongly being connected with the 1910s era as opposed to 1930.

The usage of an older address for 728 La Farge also indicates that this house predates 1930. In the 1916 directory, the Gutfelder family is listed as living at 231 La Farge. This is the same address as what is listed for the Gutfelder family in directories from the 1920s and 1930s, suggesting that they were living in the same house the entire time and that the house was not first built in 1930.

The 1910 directory lists the family as living on "Spruce," but the residents across the street at 729 La Farge (5BL7981), listed immediately next to the Gutfelder family, are also listed as living on "Spruce." The 1920 and 1930 census records both list the Gutfelder family as living on La Farge.

With respect to the Gutfelder children, some information is known. The 1911 directory lists son Frank Gutfelder as city clerk. Son Louis Jr. is listed in the 1932 and 1936 directories as being a city councilman (who by then was living with his family on Lincoln). Anna Gutfelder married into the Hocheder family of the Louisville area, while Teresa married into the Kuenstler family. Bertha Gutfelder did not marry.

Josephine Gutfelder died in 1926. Daughter Bertha (1896-1970) continued to live in the house with her father and with her brother Frank for several years. Louis Gutfelder died in 1937. The 1943 directory shows that Bertha continued to live in the house, but apparently also rented out part of it, as Desire and Sarah Coet and Robert Coet (likely Desire's brother) are listed as also residing in the house that year. It can be speculated that as a two story house, it perhaps was divided into upstairs and downstairs apartments. Desire Coet (1895-1969) had come to Louisville from Illinois with other members of the French Coet family and worked as a constable in Louisville.

Bertha Gutfelder sold 728 La Farge in 1947 to Alex and Naomi Merciez. Alex was the brother of Edith Merciez Chiolino who lived across the street at 729 La Farge (5BL7981). The Merciez family, while originally French, came to Louisville from Kansas.

Alex Merciez worked as a coal miner for 49 years and retired in 1959. He was a veteran of World War I and a member of the American Legion in Louisville and the Louisville Rod and Gun Club. Alex and Naomi's children were Alex Jr. and Richard. The 1956 directory lists Naomi Merciez as a cook at the Hacienda Restaurant, which was

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located at 808 Main St (5BL8040). Alex Merciez died in 1971. Naomi Merciez sold the house in 1975 to Robert and Rolene Hinsberger. Naomi died in 1994.

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.

Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909.

Louisville Building Permit files

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

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Sacred Heart of Mary cemetery records, accessed at www.findagrave.com.

A Guide to Manuscript Collections, Seventh Edition, Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries, 2008, accessed at www.ucblibraries.colorado.edu.

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 significance and integrity to be individually eligible to the National Register. The garages are non-contributing resources. The house has integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. The design of the front porch has been modified at least twice. The east addition is on the rear, so it does not severely compromise integrity. Overall this property has good integrity.

Although the property's significance and integrity do not qualify it for individual listing on the National Register, it is locally significant for its association with residential development in Louisville; its long ownership (56 years) by an Austrian coal mining family; and as a locally notable example of an American Foursquare style house.

13A. Colorado State Register: Not Eligible

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible due to its local significance as stated above, and high level of integrity.

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 main house would be contributing. The garages are 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.

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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.

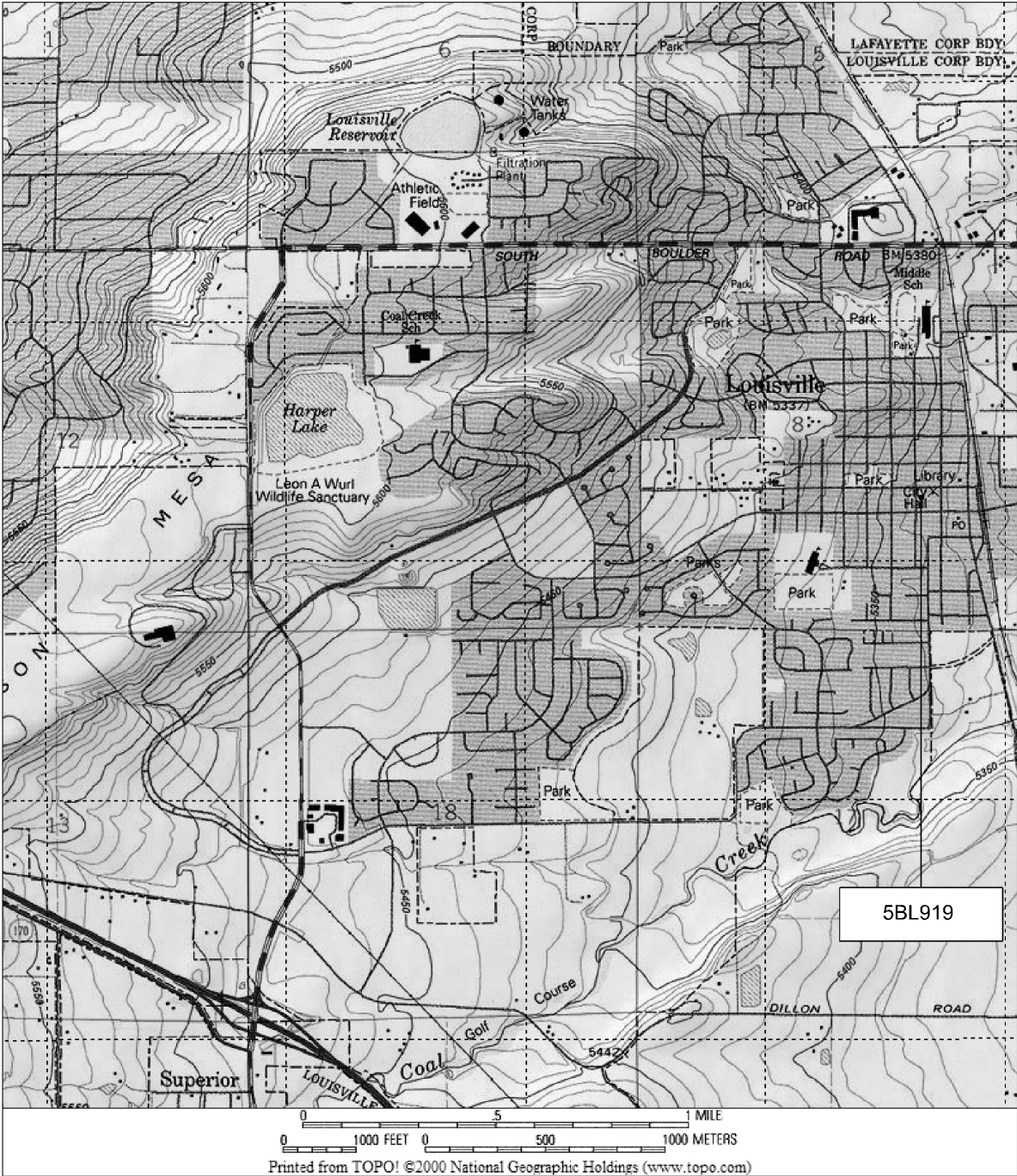
14. Management Recommendations: The property is worthy of individual nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL919_728LaFarge_01 through 5BL919_728LaFarge_06
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and 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, 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

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Architectural Inventory Form
USGS Location Map



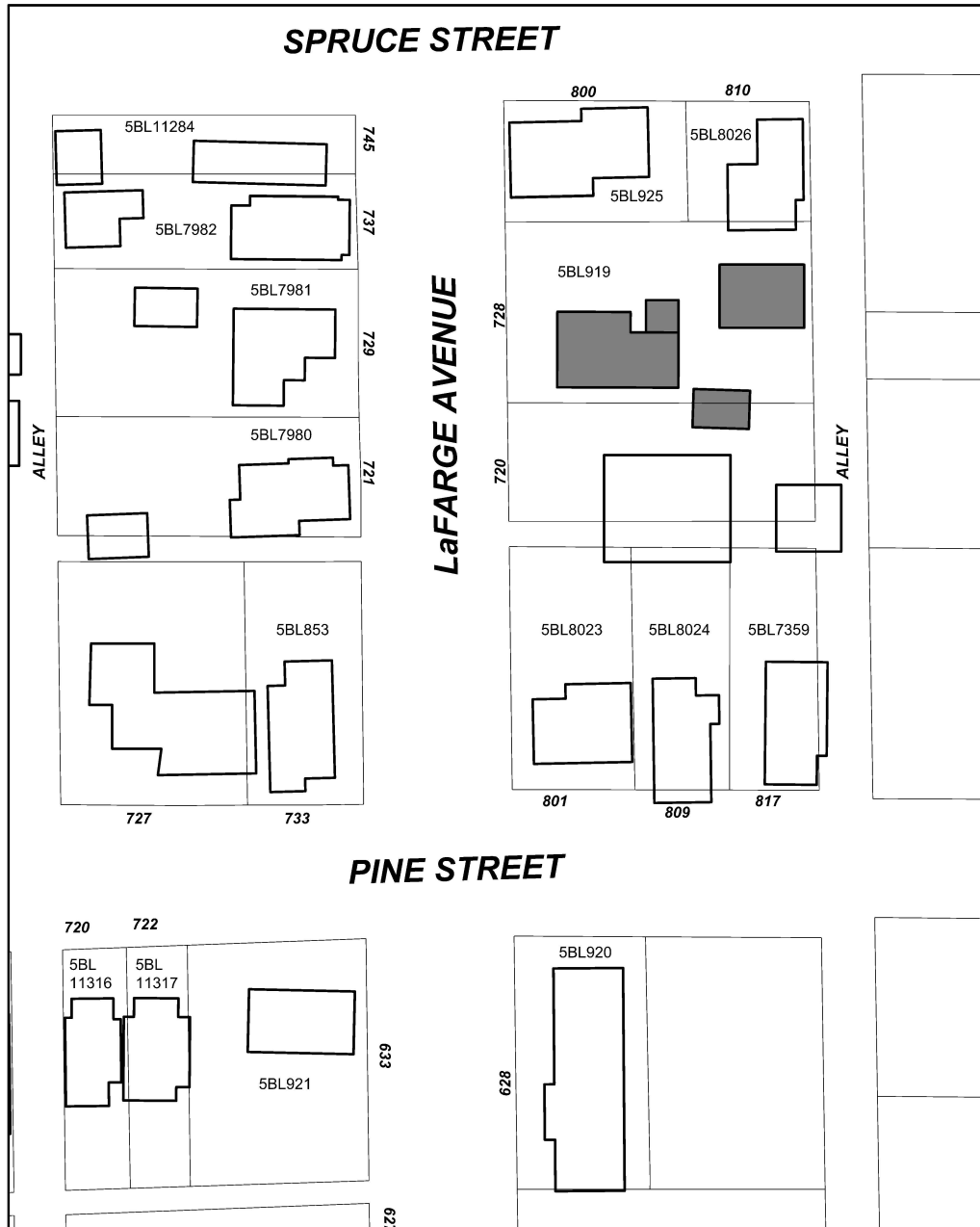
728 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

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



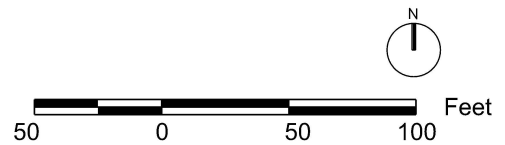
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Architectural Inventory Form
Site Location Map



728 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado
GIS Files.



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5BL919_728LaFarge_01 West



5BL919_728LaFarge_02 Southwest

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5BL919_728LaFarge_03 Northwest



5BL919_728LaFarge_04 East

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5BL919_728LaFarge_05 Garage Northeast



5BL919_728LaFarge_06 Garage East

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1950 photo from Boulder County Assessor Card



Undated photo ca. 1930s in Louisville Historical Museum archives, 2000.005.001
728 LaFarge is visible in the rear.

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Ca. 1930s Aerial photo in Louisville Historical Museum 99-09-01. Looking southeast, with Spruce Street in the center of the picture. 728 LaFarge is at the lower right corner.