

Resource Number: 5BL7988

Temporary Resource Number: 157508414010

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.

815 La Farge Avenue is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood. This narrow, mid-block lot has a shallow grassy front yard and narrow grassy side yards. The rear yard contains the garage with adjacent concrete drive, wood deck and stone patio.

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 815 La Farge.

This house was associated with members of an early Slovak family in Louisville, the Litavec/Balent family, who owned this property and lived here, as well as with the Jasko family, also Slovak, and the Italian Perna family.

John Jasko, was an early owner of Lots 1 through 5 of Block 5 of Jefferson Place, which translate to the addresses of 801 (5BL852), 805 (5BL7984), 809 (5BL7986), 815, and 817 La Farge (5BL7989). John Jasko's twin, Joseph Jasko, later in time owned this house (815 La Farge) and also 817 La Farge.

Andrew Litavec purchased this lot (Lot 4) from John Jasko in 1893 and it became the Litavec family residence. As noted in the 2000 historical survey written about this house, the Boulder County Assessor records indicate that it was built in 1905, but the 1893 Sanborn map for Louisville shows that the original part of the house was constructed prior to 1893. The 2000 historical survey therefore concluded that the date of construction was circa 1885. The house also appears on the Sanborn maps for 1900 and 1908, and on the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville.

Andrew Litavec (born 1851) emigrated from Slovakia in 1878 and Susie Litavec (born 1858) emigrated in 1883, according to the 1900 federal census. The surname "Litavec" is spelled in several different ways in the historical records, including as "Latavec" and "Letavec" (but, according to the family, was always pronounced with the emphasis on the second syllable).

In 1897, Annie Litavec (1881-1970) married John Novak Balent (1867-1949), another Slovak who had settled in Louisville. The 1900 federal census shows this family apparently living at 815 La Farge, with other known La Farge neighbors listed as living nearby. The 815 La Farge household consisted of John and Annie Balent and their son, Johnnie, and Annie's parents, Andrew and Susie "Latavec." At the time, both John Balent and his father-in-law worked as coal miners.

The 1904 directory for Louisville similarly shows John and Annie Balent, and Andrew and Susie Litavec, living on La Farge between Spruce and Walnut, which is an accurate description of the location of 815 La Farge.

John Balent (pronounced with the emphasis on the second syllable), who had immigrated to the US in the 1880s and came to Louisville in the 1890s, became a prominent local saloon owner. His saloon was on Front Street at what is today the site of the corner of the Louisville Public Library. In 1906, Balent purchased Louisville's baseball park located at the intersection of South Street and Courtesy Road (Highway 42). Today, it is at the same location and is called Miners Field. Balent became very involved as a sponsor and supporter of baseball teams, and the park was even referred to in the minutes of the Louisville Town Board as "Balent's Base Ball Park."

In 1906, Andrew Litavec sold 815 La Farge to Joseph Jasko and moved with his family to Weld County, where he began to farm. In Louisville, John and Annie Balent moved to 829 Lincoln. It is believed that when Prohibition began in Colorado in 1916, the Balents left their saloon and baseball park businesses in Louisville and followed Annie's parents to the Greeley, Colorado area.

Joseph Jasko, also from Slovakia along with his wife, Mary, was the twin of the John Jasko who owned Lots 1 through 5 along this block. Just as the Litavec and Balent families became farmers, so did John Jasko when he sold

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his home at 809 La Farge. Joseph Jasko acquired 817 La Farge in 1901 and acquired 815 La Farge (this home) in 1906.

Due to the fact that Joseph Jasko owned both of these houses, and because of shifting addresses over the years for the houses along this block of La Farge, it could not be determined exactly when the Jasko family may have lived in each house. However, evidence suggests that the Joseph and Mary Jasko family was living at 815 La Farge in 1916, when the address was 316 La Farge (and 809 La Farge was likely 312, 817 La Farge was likely 320, 821 La Farge was likely 324, and 825 La Farge was likely 332, at least for that particular year).

Joseph Jasko (1868-1942) and Mary Jasko (1868-1969) married in 1892 in Pueblo after Joseph had immigrated to the US in about 1886 and Mary came in about 1890. In 1900, they were living in Globeville, a community north of Denver in which many Eastern Europeans resided, and Joseph was working as a brick maker there. They moved to Louisville in the early 1900s. He worked as a coal miner. The 1910 census, which lists them as living on La Farge, shows that they had a son, Joe, who was born in 1902, and also had a Slovak boarder named John Sakaly who worked as a coal miner. The 1920 census shows the couple still living on La Farge and Joseph Sr. still working as a coal miner.

Guy and Rose Perna purchased 815 La Farge from Joseph Jasko Sr. in 1920. Guy Perna (1883-1979) had been born in Italy and is believed to have come to the US in the early 1900s. Rose Perna (birth and death dates not found) was his wife. This home was owned by the Perna family for 61 years, until 1981. However, in only one record from the 1920s to the 1960s were they listed as living in the 800 block of La Farge. In the 1921 directory, they were listed as living at 310 La Farge. (They were also listed in the 1920 census as living on Main Street in Louisville, before they purchased 815 La Farge, with young children William, Peter, and Albert.) It is possible that the house was rented out during part of their ownership, or that it was the residence of family members with a different last name.

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

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>

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

Bacon, Bridget. "The Story Behind Louisville's Miners Field." The Louisville Historian. Louisville Historical Museum and Commission, Louisville, Colorado, Fall 2009.

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Correspondence of September and October 2009 between Museum Coordinator Bridget Bacon and Ella Marie Hayes (granddaughter of John Balent and Annie Litavec Balent).

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible ____ Not eligible X Need data ____

Explain: The property is not individually eligible to the National Register due to the large 1980 – 1990's addition.

13A. Colorado State Register: Eligible Not Eligible

Explain: This property is eligible for the State Register under Criterion C for architecture as a good example of a Shotgun style house (period of significance 1885-1908 and 1980-1990 to include the additions). The property has a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Although the siding has been replaced, it was replaced with wood siding of a profile similar to the original. Integrity of materials is thus somewhat compromised. The addition on the east side is not visible from the street with less effect on integrity of design.

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible Not Eligible

Explain: This property is significant for Architecture as a good example of a Shotgun style house. The house is associated with the historic development of Louisville as one of the early homes in Louisville's first residential subdivision, Jefferson Place. Although Jefferson Place was platted in 1880, little housing construction occurred until the early 1900s. This property is significant for its association with immigrant Slovak coal mining families who flocked to Colorado's coal mining communities in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in search of economic opportunities they could not find in their own countries. The property is significant for its association with Louisville's immigrant Slovak coal mining families, the Balent and Jasko families. John Balent in particular is locally significant as a prominent saloon owner and sponsor of baseball teams. He purchased Louisville's baseball park, now called Miner's Field. The property has a high degree of integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling and association. Although the siding has been replaced, it was replaced with wood siding of a profile similar to the original. Integrity of materials is thus somewhat compromised. The addition on the east side is not visible from the street with less effect on integrity of design.

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

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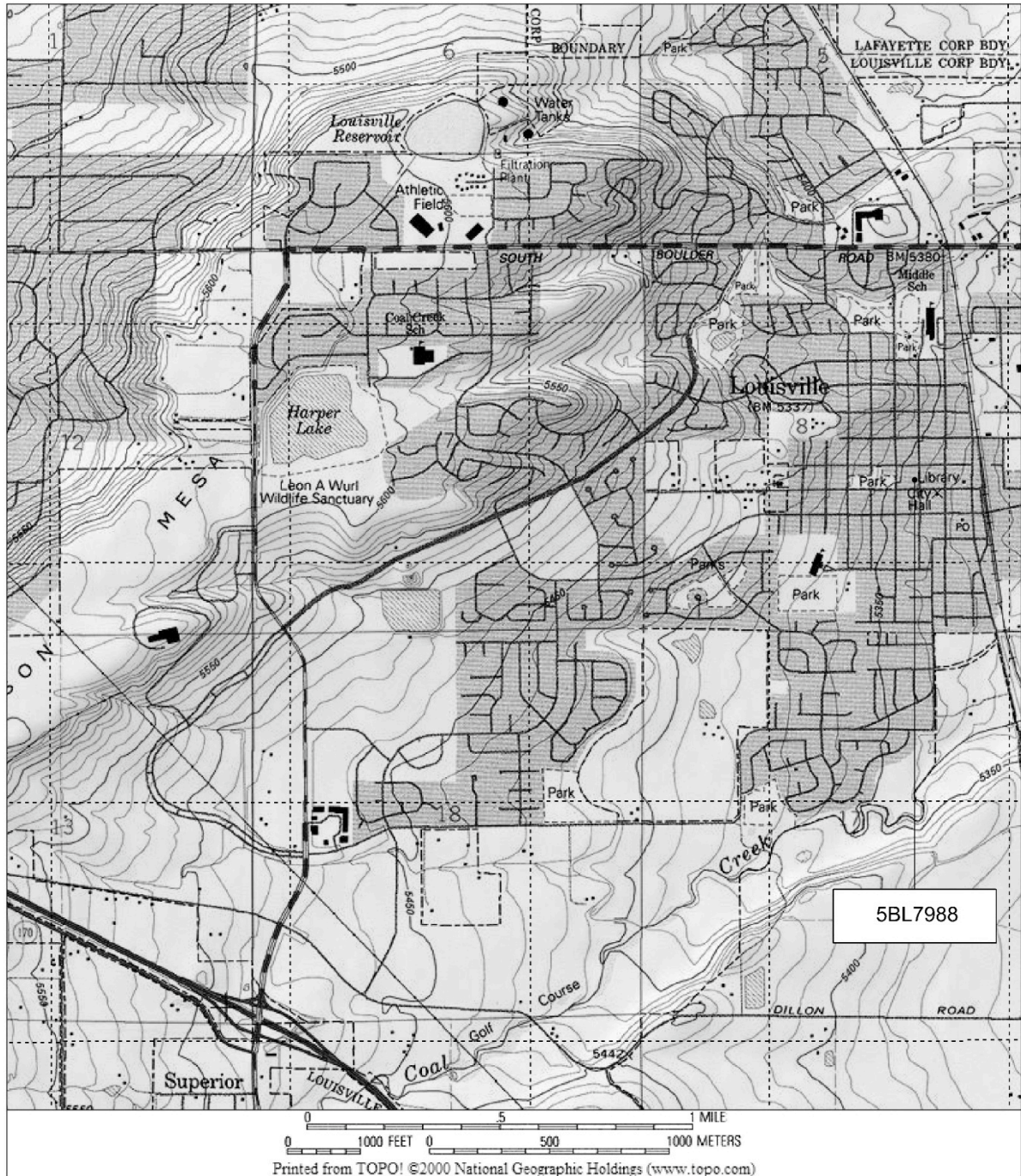
14. Management Recommendations: The property is worthy of individual nomination to the State Register as well as nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL7988_815LaFarge_01 through 5BL7988_815LaFarge_04.
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic 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



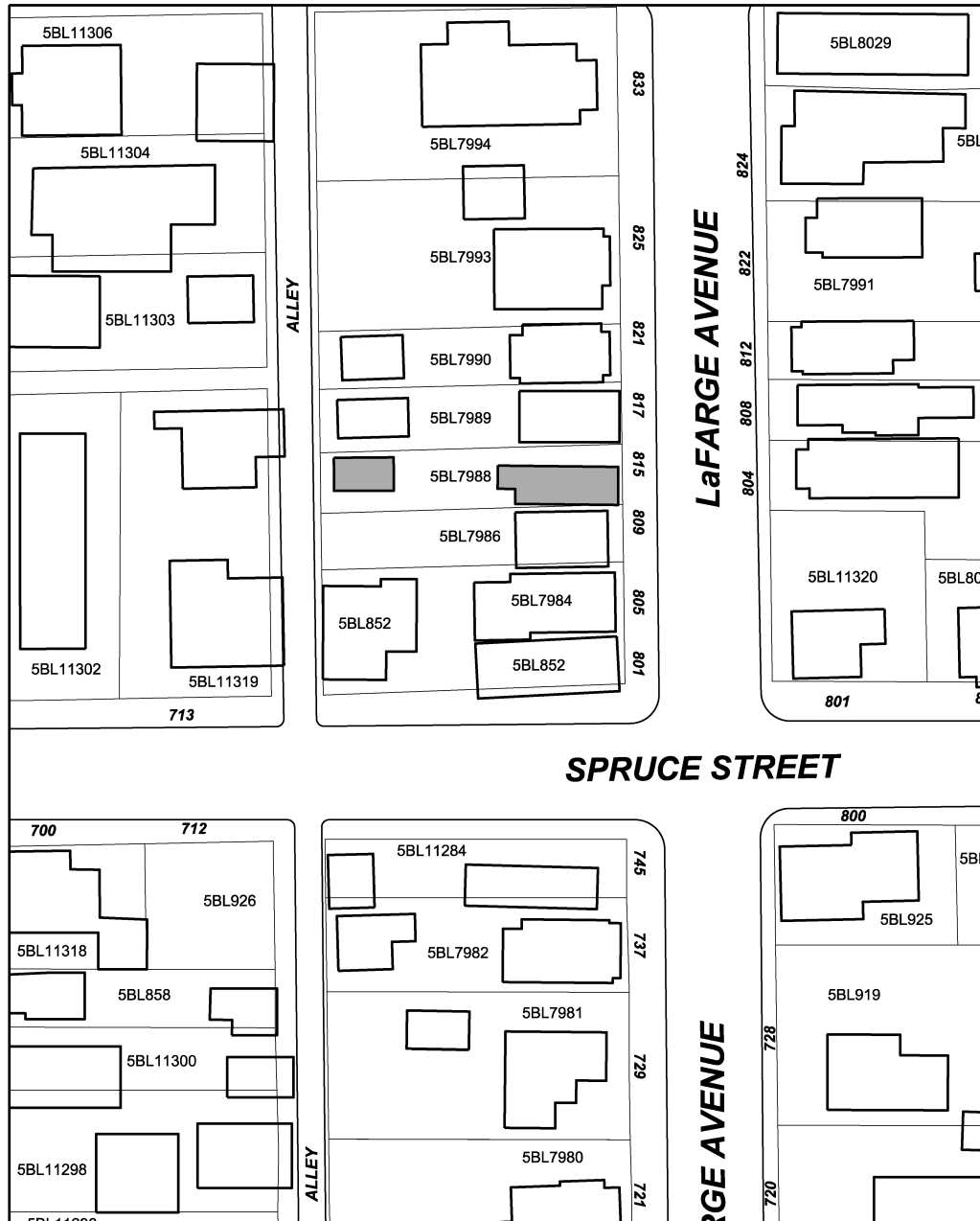
815 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

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



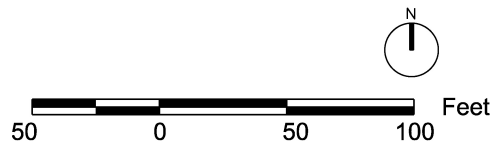
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Architectural Inventory Form
 Site Location Map



815 Lafarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado
 GIS Files.



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5BL7988_815LaFarge_01 southeast



5BL7988_815LaFarge_02 northeast

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5BL7988_815LaFarge_03 west



5BL7988_815LaFarge_04 southwest

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815 La Farge ca 1960's-1970's. Louisville Historical Museum, 2008.008.055.



815 La Farge ca 1960's. Louisville Historical Museum, 2008.008.056.



Balent's Saloon. Louisville Historical Museum, 2009.063.001.



Baseball Team, Balent Bandstand. Louisville Historical Museum, 2009.063.002.

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Anna Flora LeTavec (Baba)
and
John Novak Balent (Grandpa)
Wedding Day - June 21, 1897
Louisville, Colorado

John Balent, Anna LeTavec wedding, 1897. Louisville Historical Museum, 2009.063.019.



LaTavec family. Louisville Historical Museum, 2009.063.020.

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815 La Farge Avenue. Boulder County Real Estate appraisal card. 1948.



815 La Farge Avenue. Boulder County Real Estate Appraisal card. 1956.