

Resource Number: 5BL 8000

Temporary Resource Number: 157508405005

925 La Farge is consistent with these patterns and blends well with the scale and character of the neighborhood. This property is located on a narrow, mid-block lot. The house is set close to the sidewalk along La Farge, with a shallow grassy front yard and a brick raised planter in front of the house. A concrete sidewalk on the south side of the house leads to a fenced back yard. There are two sheds and a garage behind the house. The back yard is grassy, with planters along the south fence.

9. Changes in Condition: None.

10. Changes to Location or Size Information: None.

11. Changes in Ownership: Owner is now Mark Lloyd Brunner, 913 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville CO

12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:

Further research has yielded new information about the history of 925 La Farge. The history of this house is very closely connected with the histories of 917 La Farge (5BL7996) and 928 La Farge (5BL918) across the street, as all three were the residences of Porta family members for several decades. In fact, 917 and 925 La Farge are so closely connected with one another that the available records about these properties do not always clearly distinguish between the two.

Boulder County gives 1897 as the year of construction for this house, and the information on this house from the 2000 survey that was done states that the original house was located on the east side of the street and was moved across the street to 925 La Farge in 1897. However, the house appears on the 1893 Sanborn map (and on the 1900 and 1908 Sanborn maps, and on the 1909 Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville). Thus, the exact origin of this house is still unclear.

"Tony" Porta purchased 925 La Farge by 1896. Antonio Porta was the owner of 928 La Farge and resident of that house with his wife, Libra. The Portas were among Louisville's earliest Italian residents. More can be read about them in the report on 928 La Farge.

Antonio and Libra Porta had four sons, and evidence suggests that Porta purchased both 917 La Farge and 925 La Farge for one of his sons and his son's descendants. At least two other sons would also live nearby, but not in Jefferson Place and not as close as across the street from where the parents lived.

Many current area residents of the Louisville area are descended from the Antonio and Libra Porta family and in particular from the Henry Sr. and Edith Porta family that was associated with 917 and 925 La Farge.

The history of 917 La Farge is connected with the history of 925 La Farge. 917 La Farge was inherited by Antonio and Libra Porta's son, Henry Porta Sr. This Henry Porta (1873-1954), married Edith (Ida) Zarini (1878-1960) in 1897. Both had been born in Italy. Like his father, Henry worked as a coal miner. Edith Zarini grew up just down the street at 824 La Farge (5BL7992) in Jefferson Place as the daughter of Joseph and Virginia Zarini. At the time of the 1900 census, Henry Jr. and Edith Zarini and their first two children were living with her family at 824 La Farge. An obituary from 1937 shows that Henry's mother, Libra Porta, and Edith's mother, Virginia Zarini, died close in time to one another, and there was a double funeral for them at the St. Louis Church, which at the time was located close to their homes, at 833 La Farge (5BL7994). The obituary goes on to state: "Both the Zarini and Porta families are very popular in the Louisville district where they had been residents for years."

The following photo from the Louisville Historical Museum shows Henry Porta Sr. on the left in the back row with his brother, John Porta, next to him and Santino Biella (owner of 825 La Farge, 5BL) on the right in the back row (the two seated men are Nick DiFrancia and Celeste Romano):



Listings in the 1900 census indicate that the Henry and Edith Porta family was living at 925 La Farge, next to the Damiana family at 917 La Farge. It is believed that later, however, this branch of the Porta family also lived at 917 La Farge. By 1920, Henry and Edith had a number of children, but it cannot be determined which of the two houses they were living in; they could have lived in both.

Based on available records, the nine children of Henry Sr. and Edith Porta were known to be William, Della, Henry Jr., Lillian, Arthur, Charles, Albert, Virginia, Elaine, and Evelyn.

An address indicated in several directories as being that of the residence of the Porta family, and the only one on the west side of the 900 block of La Farge, was 426 La Farge (under Louisville's old address system). However, it appears that there may have been just one address used for both 917 La Farge and 925 La Farge. It is possible that this was because Porta family members may have resided in both houses that were right next to each other. Other addresses for the Portas on the west side of the 900 block of La Farge were 410 (in 1936) and 915 (starting in 1943). It was not until 1946 that two different addresses for 917 and 925 La Farge were given in the directories (and to add to the confusion, these two addresses were 915 and 917).

In 1942, Albert (1910-2002) and Helen Porta became the owners of 925 La Farge. Albert, whose nickname was "Boots," was the son of Henry Sr. and Edith Porta, and the brother of Henry Porta Jr. who by the 1940s settled next door at 917 La Farge. Information about the life and career of Albert Porta can be found in the report on 925 La Farge from the 2000 survey. He was also a World War II veteran, having served in the Navy.

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.

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

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

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

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

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Lafayette Leader, January 22, 1937, acquired at the Lafayette, Colorado Public Library.

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible Not eligible Need data

Explain: While the property has sufficient integrity and significance to be a local historic landmark, it lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register. The property has integrity of location; if it actually was moved from across the street, this was done during the district period of significance. Integrity of setting, workmanship, feeling and association are intact. Integrity of materials is compromised by partial siding replacement. Integrity of design is compromised by replacement windows and porch columns and by a series of additions to the rear of the house.

13A. Colorado State Register: Eligible Not Eligible

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible Not Eligible

The house is significant for its association with the locally prominent Porta family, an Italian immigrant coal mining family. While its integrity compromised to the extent that it would not be eligible to the National or State Registers, it is worthy of nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark.

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. Since the date of the most recent siding replacement is unknown, the property's status as a contributing resource is classified as "Needs Data" for both a State Register historic district and for a potential National Register historic district.

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.

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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.

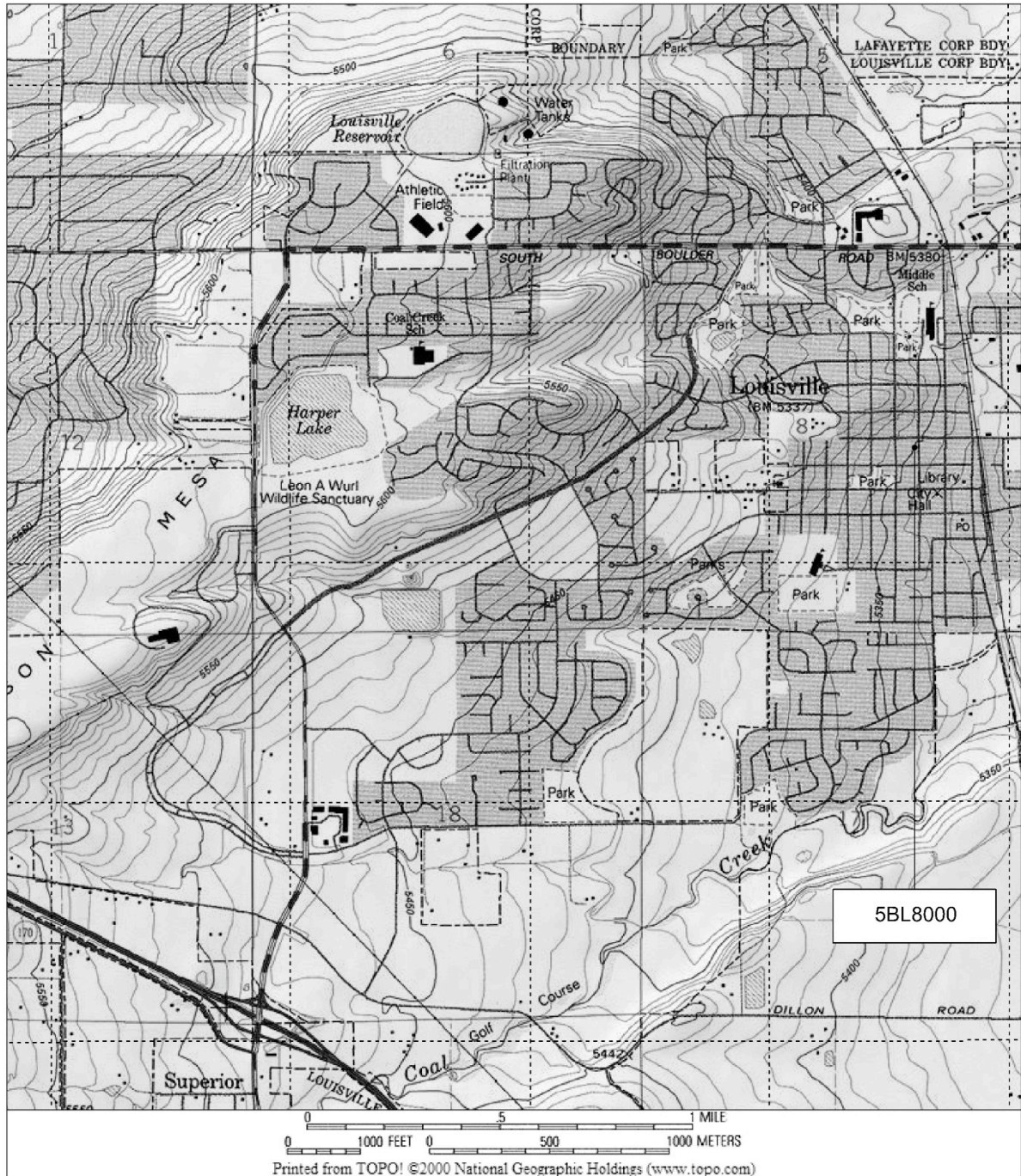
14. Management Recommendations: The property is worthy of nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL8000_925LaFarge_01 through 5BL8000_925LaFarge_08.
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and maps at 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



925 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

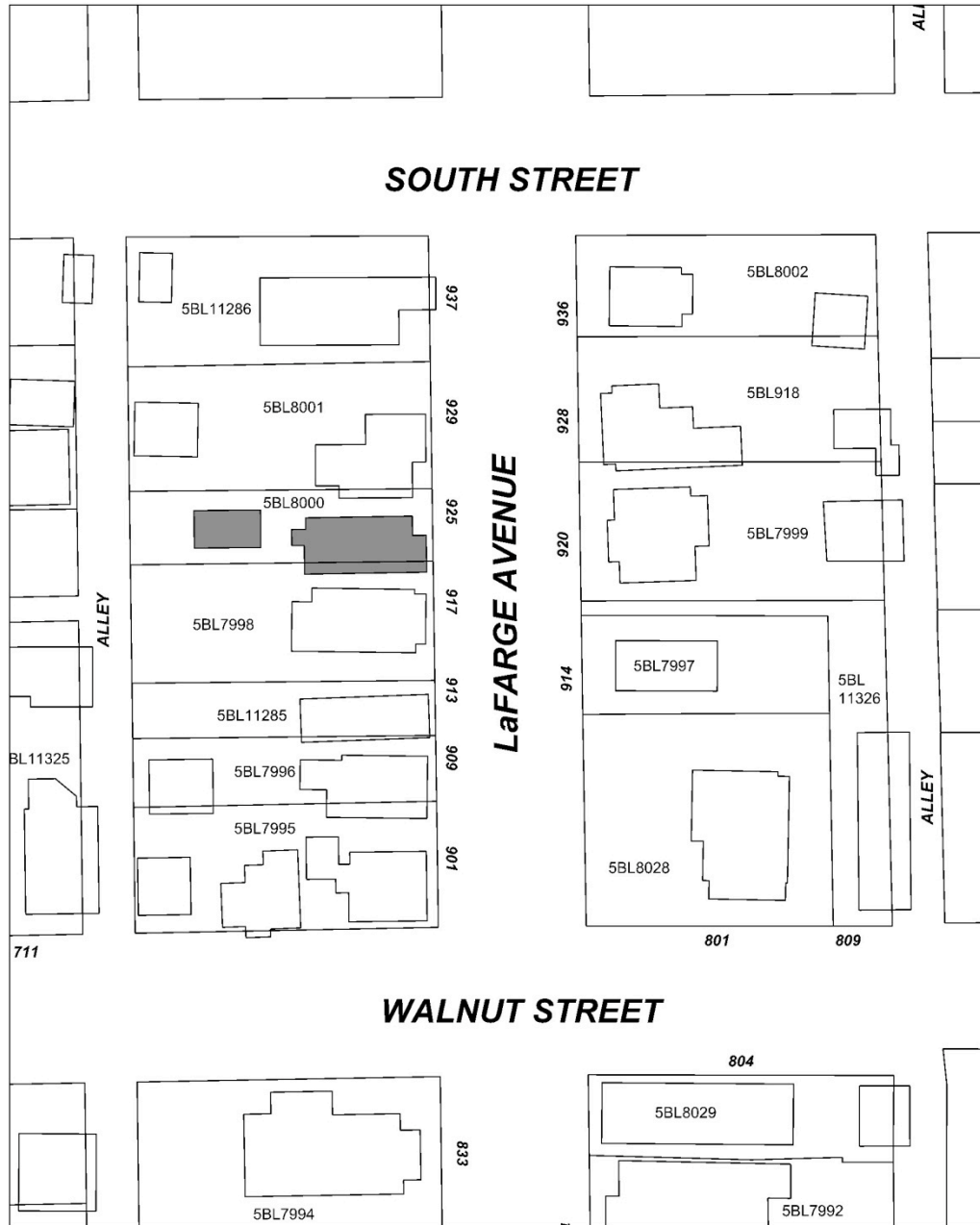
SOURCE: Extract of Louisville, Colorado
USGS map, 1994.



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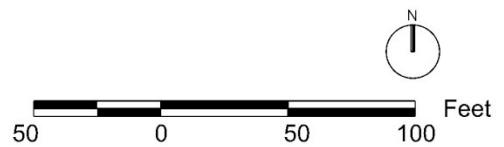
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Architectural Inventory Form
Site Location Map



925 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado
GIS Files.



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5BL8000_925LaFarge_01 east



5BL8000_925LaFarge_02 southeast

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5BL8000_925LaFarge_03 northeast



5BL8000_925LaFarge_04 west

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5BL8000_925LaFarge_05 garage west



5BL8000_925LaFarge_06 garage north

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5BL8000_925LaFarge_07 garage south



5BL8000_925LaFarge_08 shed

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Boulder County Assessor card, 1948