



641 Main Street History

Legal Description: E 87 1/2 FT OF S1/2 Lot 21 & E 87 1/2 FT Lot 22, Block 5, Original Louisville

Year of Construction: circa 1880

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Previous addresses used to refer to this property: 142 2nd Street, 140 2nd Street, 132 Main, 136 Main, 130 Main (under Louisville's old address system that ended in the late 1930s). Today, different parts of the building bear the addresses of 637 Main, 639 Main, and 641 Main, but the County's official address for the entire building is 641 Main.

Summary: This is one of the oldest structures in Louisville. The original sections appear on the 1893 Sanborn fire insurance map for Louisville. It was the home of Thomas and Rebecca Thirlaway and their family for over thirty years, beginning in 1884. Beginning in 1917, it was then the home and office for four consecutive Louisville doctors at this important intersection that many would consider to be the main intersection, or center, of Louisville.

The building has three obvious sections, which will be referred to as the north, middle, and south sections.

Earliest Ownership

This property is part of Original Louisville that was platted and recorded with the County in 1878. Records show that George Steuble purchased the property in 1879. An early map for Louisville from 1880-81 shows George Steuble (1827-1915) to be living on this exact corner. Also, George Steuble and his wife, Elizabeth, and children are shown on the 1880 census for Louisville as living in the general vicinity of what is now 641 Main Street, although the census did not give exact locations. According to a Steuble relative, the very oldest part of the house was the middle section, first floor, and it was

constructed by George Steuble. George Steuble was a native of the German- speaking part of Switzerland.

The chain of ownership could not be connected from Steuble to the person known to have been the owner in 1883, Christopher Rosenbaum. (This is a common occurrence with early Boulder County records due to variations in spelling of names and problems with interpreting handwriting from that time.)

By 1883, Christopher Rosenbaum was the owner of this parcel, and he transferred his ownership in it to Anton Rosenbaum that year. The Rosenbaum family was a German family that settled in Louisville very early in its history.

Thirlaway Ownership, 1884 – 1917

According to a deed recorded in 1884, Anton Rosenbaum sold this property to Thomas Thirlaway. By 1908, both Thomas Thirlaway and his wife, Rebecca, were owners.

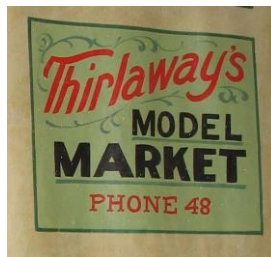
Thomas Thirlaway (1855-1925) and Rebecca Smith Thirlaway (1860-1935) were some of Louisville's earliest settlers from England. They were among a number of English families who came to Louisville from coal mining areas of England. The Thirlaways were from Durham, England, and were related to the Smith, Barker, Dixon, and Wardle families, who were other English families who settled in Louisville in the 1800s who came from the vicinity of the villages of Trimdon Colliery and Wingate in County Durham.

Records indicate that Thomas Thirlaway came to Louisville in 1881 and that Rebecca Thirlaway followed with their son, John Robert, a year later. The 1885 state census for Colorado shows the family to be living in the right location for it to be the corner of Pine and Main (which is where 641 Main is located). The federal census records for 1900 and 1910 similarly show them to be in this location. In 1910, the residents were Thomas and Rebecca, plus their daughter, Lizzie, and son-in-law, Martin Black. Records indicate that Martin Black was the bookkeeper for the United Mine Workers district.

Thomas and Rebecca Thirlaway had six children: John Robert, Owen, George Victor, Lizzie (Black), Evelyn (Ryall), and Inez (Knill). The following undated photo shows the family. In the rear are George Victor, John Robert, and Owen; in the front are Rebecca, Evelyn, Thomas, Inez, and Lizzie.



The Thirlaway sons for many years had a grocery store/meat market in Louisville, located in the area where City Hall is now situated at 749 Main Street. Their father, Thomas Thirlaway, although his main occupation was coal mining, was identified in the 1916 Louisville directory as working as a meat cutter at this business. The following images are a photo of the interior of the Thirlaway market on Main Street and an advertisement for this business that appears on the 1920s era Rex Theatre movie curtain:



In 1917, Thomas and Rebecca Thirlaway sold this property and moved to another home in Louisville.

Snair Ownership, 1917 – c. 1939

Dr. Walter Snair was a longtime Louisville doctor whose home and medical office were located in this building. He was the first of four consecutive doctors to have their residences and medical practices

located in this building. Dr. Snair's wife, Lulu, purchased the property in 1917. Newspaper reports indicate that the Snairs had already been living in the Louisville area for several years when they moved into 641 Main. They were to play a large role in Louisville's life of the 1920s. Dr. Snair was not only a doctor serving Louisville, but was a mine doctor for coal miners and their families and even went to Marshall to deliver babies. Lulu Snair played an active role in women's organizations of Louisville and is shown in the middle, rear, in the following photo of members of an unidentified Louisville women's club:



Walter Snair (1873-1938) and Lulu Clarke Snair (1880-1929) had four children who were raised in this house: Betty, Walter, Berta, and Ann.

The 1920 and 1930 federal census records show them to be living at this location. In 1930, the household consisted of Walter and Lulu Snair, their four children, and a servant, Mary McCullough, who was a widow.

In the 1930s, the Snairs' son, Walter, lived at 641 Main with his wife, Audrey.

Dr. Jack D. Bartholomew Ownership, c. 1939 – 1940

Although Dr. Jack Bartholomew didn't take ownership of this building until around 1939 (1939 being the year that the deed was recorded), he was already living in it and working in it as a Louisville doctor at the time of the 1936 Louisville directory. (He was also listed in the 1939 directory along with Dr. Walter Boyd.) It appears likely that he started renting it from the Snair family (Lulu Snair having died in 1929, and Dr. Walter Snair having moved away to California), or possibly the deed was signed earlier but not recorded until 1939.

The Louisville Historical Museum has in its collection a painted wooden sign from Dr. Bartholomew's office that hung by chains on the exterior of 641 Main Street.

Jack Bartholomew and his wife, Dorothy, lived at 641 Main and he had his medical practice there. Dr. Bartholomew later had a medical practice in Boulder.

Dr. Walter Boyd Ownership, 1940-1943

Dr. Bartholomew and Dr. Boyd were business partners for a time in the 1930s. Similar to Dr. Bartholomew's situation, Dr. Walter Boyd's years of ownership do not exactly coincide with when he was known to have worked as a doctor out of 641 Main.

Walter Boyd was born in North Dakota in 1908 and received his medical degree from the Colorado School of Medicine in 1925. He and his wife, Kathleen Towne, who was born in 1909, married in 1935 and came to Louisville by 1937. They resided at 641 Main, where he also had his medical office. In a sad accident remembered by many current Louisville residents, Kathleen Boyd drowned in an accident during a storm and flood of Coal Creek just east of downtown Louisville as the couple was driving home from Denver after dark. The flood waters in Coal Creek apparently cut a new channel and there was little warning. This occurred on September 2, 1938. Walter Boyd was thrown from the car and dived in to try to save his wife, but was unsuccessful. Newspaper reports state that he walked to town for help, while suffering from a skull fracture, and was hospitalized in critical condition. The terrible flooding caused extensive damage in Boulder County.

The following photo from an undated newspaper clipping shows Dr. Walter Boyd:



The 1940 census shows that Dr. Boyd, between the time of the death of his first wife in 1938 and the time of his remarriage in 1941, was living at 641 Main Street. Living with him were his mother, Winneogene Boyd, age 71, and a housekeeper, Mabel Walsh, age 46.

Walter Boyd remarried in 1941 to Marion Lippert. The following photo from the Boyd family shows her sitting in the front living area at 641 Main. The window behind her faces Pine Street and the front door is out of sight, but would be to the right. This photo is believed to have been taken in 1941-42.



Dr. Boyd delivered many babies in Louisville and is particularly remembered for having suggested names for them. One former resident has stated that his parents told him that Dr. Boyd named him "Robert Louis" after one of the doctor's favorite authors, Robert Louis Stevenson.

Dr. Walter Boyd joined the US Army Medical Corps during World War II, and he and Marion Boyd left Louisville. He served with the 10th Mountain Division and then in the South Pacific theatre with the 58th Evacuation Hospital.

Dr. Walter Boyd died in 1974 in Greeley. Marion Boyd, who was born in 1911, died in 1975 in Greeley.

Dr. Leonard Becker Ownership, 1943 -1946

The fourth and last doctor to live at 641 Main and have a medical practice there was Dr. Leonard Becker. He and his wife, Lucille, are shown with the address of 641 Main in the 1945 and 1946 directories.

Ralph and Martha Irish also briefly owned the property in 1946.

George and Mildred Thompson Ownership, 1946 – 1955

George and Mildred Thompson next purchased this property, the deed being recorded in 1946. George Thompson (1915-1998) grew up in Louisville as the son of George and Hilda Thompson. He married Mildred Carlson (1918-2002) in 1941. Directories show that they lived here during the period of 1948 to at least 1953. George Thompson worked as a machinist, while Mildred was a bookkeeper at Toney La Salle Furniture Store on Main Street.

During the Thompson ownership of this building, they rented out part of the building. Tom and Mary Cable and their family rented an apartment in the building in the late 1940s.

Zinda/Camps Family Ownership, 1955 – 1995

In 1955, Anna Zinda (1887-1971) purchased 641 Main Street and it became the home for herself and her daughter, Rosanna Zinda Camps (1915-1984), as well as Rosanna's three sons when they moved from

Wisconsin in 1955. (In 1960, Anna Zinda transferred ownership to her daughter and herself.) Rosanna Camps worked for J.C Penney in Denver and later worked as an accountant for the National Center for Atmospheric Research. She is believed to have been NCAR's first female executive. Rosanna's sons (Joe Camps, Greg Camps, and Tim Camps) all graduated from Louisville High School in the period of 1963-66 and all three served in the Vietnam War. Directories confirm that the family lived at 641 Main.

The Camps family came to Louisville at a time, in 1955, when both Pine Street and Main Street were still unpaved. Directly across from them was a very busy restaurant, the Blue Parrot, which drew diners from the Denver area and beyond.

According to Tim Camps, this house had several amenities not typically seen in Louisville homes from the time. These amenities are believed to have added when it was a doctor's office and residence. It had a laundry chute, dumbwaiter, two coal chutes, an auger used to keep coal going into the furnace, a full bath, a half bath with a shower, and flush toilets.

In 1995, the Camps family sold 641 Main to the current owner, Sheri Levine. For many years, A Grande Finale Patisserie, a pastry business, operated from the building. Currently, it is the location of The Porch Deli & Market.

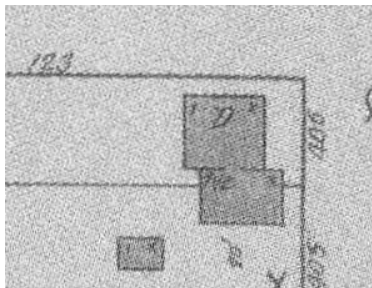
Date of Construction and Chronology of Additions

At least the middle section of this building, first floor, is believed to date from circa 1880 (see discussion on page 1). The name of George Steuble, who constructed this section of the building, is shown on an 1880-81 map as living on this corner.

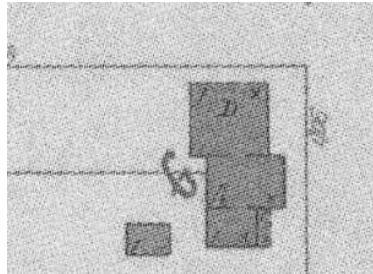
The Boulder County Assessor card from 1948 put the estimated date of construction as 1883.

The Boulder County Assessor card from 1966 gives 1917 as the date of construction, but with a question mark handwritten next to it. It is believed that 1917 represents when the building was remodeled to be Dr. Snair's office and residence for his family. The County Assessor has been documented as frequently giving a date that a Louisville building was remodeled as its original year of construction. Although the date of 1917 appears on the County website as the date of construction for 641 Main, possibly due to the reference to 1917 on the 1966 County Assessor card with a question mark, it is clearly not the accurate date of construction for this building.

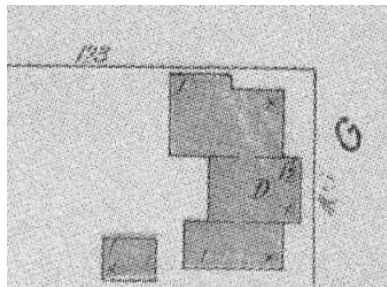
By the time of the 1893 Sanborn fire insurance map, a small excerpt of which is shown below, a one-story addition had been added to the north side of the original Steuble house.



The 1900 Sanborn fire insurance map of this property, shown below, shows that the south section had been added to the building by 1900.



The 1908 Sanborn fire insurance map of this corner shows that between 1900 and 1908, the building was further expanded. Most notably, the north section now had an expansion to the north that is to this day a characteristic part of the building on the Pine Street side. Also, this north section was expanded to the west. According to Tim Camps, the evidence of the change to the roof from this time can be seen inside the attic of the north section.



Photos of 641 Main

This photo from the Carnegie Library in Boulder is a view looking south on Main Street. It shows 641 Main on the right and the Acme Mine dump in the middle of Main Street, farther south. This undated photo was taken by Boulder photographer J.B. Sturtevant prior to 1910 (the year that he passed away).



This undated photo shows a joke scene in front of 641 Main in which the cart is literally being put before the horse. The brick Miners Trading Co. building at what is today 701 Main is in the background.



This undated photo also shows 641 Main (the middle and north sections):



This 1909 photo from the Carnegie Library was taken by photographer Louis Meile and shows the Miners Trading Co. at what is today 701 Main; part of 641 Main is seen on the left of the photo:



Here is a detail from the above 1909 photo:



The following three photos are from a family album of the Moffitt family that lived in the house to the south of 641 Main. The photos likely date from the 1920s or 1930s. The photos particularly show the exterior of the middle and south sections of 641 Main.



In this Moffitt family photo, 641 Main is on the left of the photo and the original Blue Parrot building and what is today the Huckleberry building at 700 Main can be seen in the background.

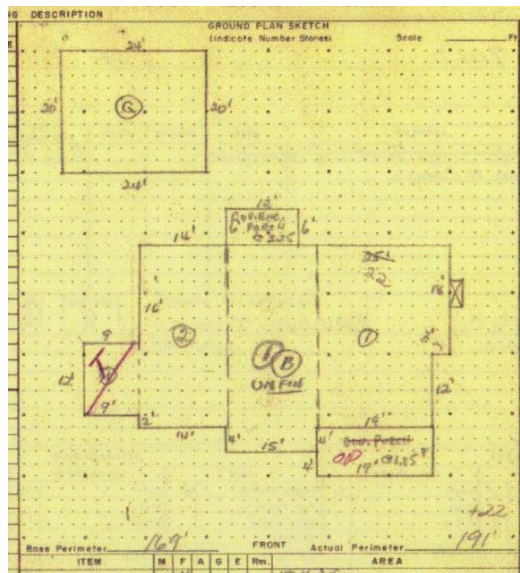
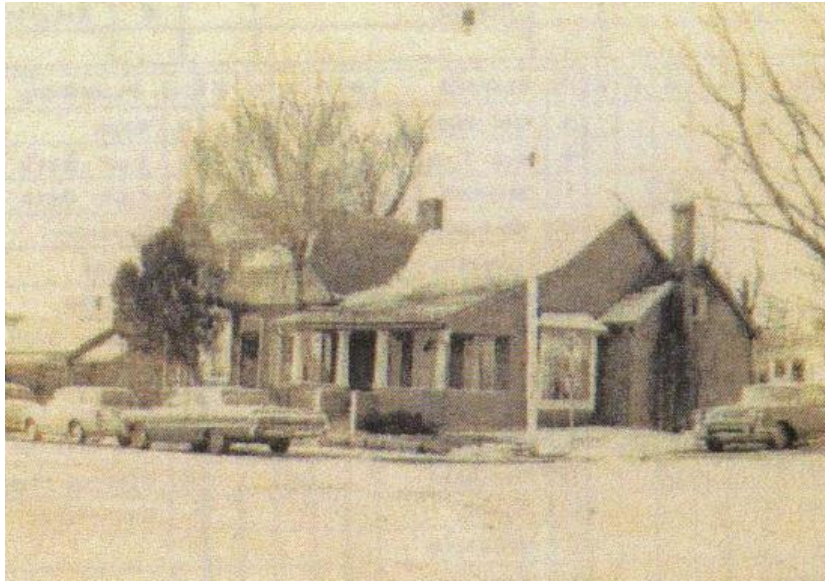


This Moffitt photo is believed to show, on the left, the rear of the south part of 641 Main.

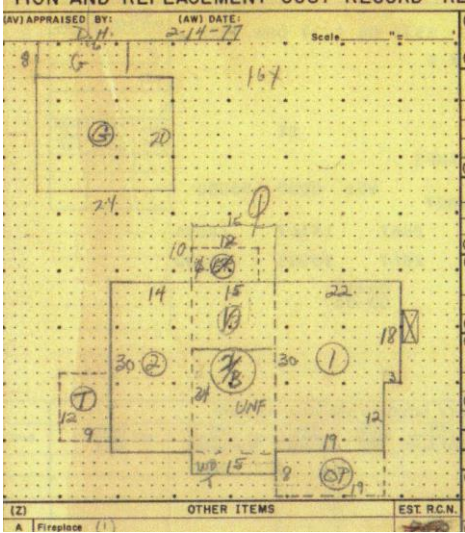
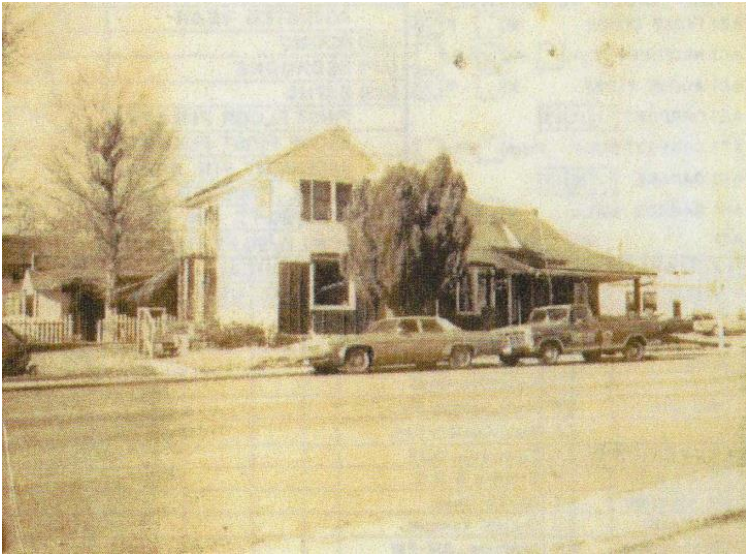


This photo and layout are from the County Assessor card for 641 Main that is dated 1948. (This characteristic view of the Pine Street side of the building also appears in a scene from the Louisville

The following photo and layout are from the County Assessor card dated 1966.



This photo and layout are from the County Assessor card dated 1977.



The following photo, from the 1980s, shows the building with the middle and south sections after they were remodeled following an occasion when the middle section was struck by lightning and damaged in 1980. According to Tim Camps, the Camps family simplified and modernized the façade of these sections at that time.



The preceding research is based on a review of relevant and available County property records, census records, oral history interviews, Louisville directories, historic photos, maps, files, and obituary records.