



724 / 728 Main Street History

Legal Description: Lot 10, Block 3, Original Louisville

Year of Construction: circa 1880-1890 (see discussion below)

Architect/Builder: unknown

Previous addresses used to refer to this property (under Louisville's old address system):

For 724 Main: 217 Main; 219 Main; 221 Main; 225 Main; also 714 Main (on the 1948 County Assessor card)

For 728 Main: 221 Main; 223 Main; 225 Main; 229 Main; also 718 Main (on the 1948 County Assessor card)

The two buildings did not both have the address of 221 or 225 Main at the same time.

Summary:

Evidence shows that the buildings were constructed in circa 1880-1890.

There is evidence for one to come to the conclusion either that this is one building or that it is two buildings. The two structures, which have coexisted since the late 1800s, have never been owned separately, but have always had the same owner. Although this property has two addresses, the Boulder County Assessor's Office views this as one property with one address (724 Main) and one improvement on it, as shown in the County's online property records (but the County Assessor did prepare an Assessor card separately for each building in 1948). The two buildings have always had two different addresses starting with the 1916 directory in which numerical addresses first appear for Louisville. The historical survey done in 2000 treated it as one property, with one architectural form for both buildings, but described it as being "historically comprised of two separate buildings."

For about thirty-five years of Louisville history, the building at 728 Main was the site of the Twin Light Tavern, an extremely popular Main Street bar with food, a dance floor, a juke box, and sometimes live music that had its heyday during World War II and the period afterwards, while the building at 724 Main served as a men's barbershop for sixty-eight years. The barbershop was a place where men talked

business and politics, and sometimes got elected to public office – including when barbershop owner Herm Fauson himself was elected mayor of Louisville.

The buildings, being located just steps from Louisville’s major intersections of Main & Pine and Main & Spruce, were in a prime location and historically have had a number of prominent Louisville residents associated with them as owners or as business operators, including (among others) Charles A. Clark, Roy Austin, Lawrence J. Mossoni, Paul Domenico and Guy Domenico (these last three being members of some of Louisville’s Italian families), and Herman Fauson. Many of the men associated with this property also worked as coal miners in the Louisville area at some point in their lives.

Earliest Ownership; Date of Construction

Louis Nawatny founded and platted the original downtown part of Louisville in 1878. Nawatny worked for Charles C. Welch, the prominent Coloradan who started the first coal mine in the area and is believed to have played an even larger role in the establishment of Louisville than Nawatny.

In 1880, Nawatny sold Lot 10, Block 3 to Van Darrow, who was the brother-in-law of Charles Welch and who was a Louisville businessman. Darrow sold the property later in 1880 to Jennie Brett. (The 2000 inventory record for this property, which indicated that William and Robert Austin were the original owners, is strongly believed to be in error.)

A map of Louisville made in 1880-81 shows “N. Brett” living at this location, with the name handwritten in. Jennie’s Brett’s husband, Newton Brett, was a carpenter. The 1880 federal census also shows them to be living in Louisville in this vicinity of Main Street (based on who is listed near them on the census page).

Due to this evidence, it is believed that the buildings, or at least one of them, could have been constructed by around 1880, and possibly were constructed by Newton Brett himself, as he was a carpenter. The 2000 survey record for this property noted the evidence from the 1893 Sanborn map and concluded that the buildings were constructed in circa 1890 (not in 1900, which is the date given by the County that is considered to be a ball park estimate arrived at in 1948). The evidence of the Brett ownership and the Brett residence at this location in 1880 has not been previously considered and would suggest that the buildings, or one of them, may have been built as early as circa 1880. For the foregoing reasons, the date of construction for these buildings is believed to be circa 1880-1890. Based on the available evidence, it is not possible to determine which building was constructed first. (Both definitely existed by 1893.)

In 1882, Jennie Brett sold the property to George Carpenter, and Lizzie Carpenter also became an owner.

In 1885, the Carpenters sold this lot to William Cowdrey. At this point, probably due to different spellings of names in the online County records, the identities of the owners for the years of 1885 to 1890 are unclear with respect to this property.

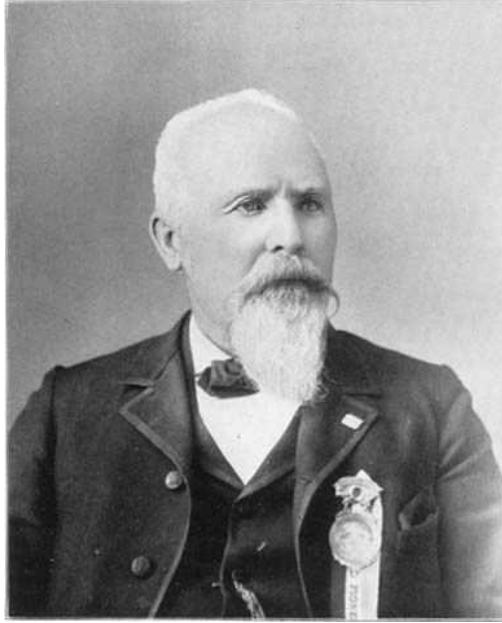
By 1890, A.M. Campbell had become the owner, and this person sold it that year to Abner C. Goodhue; Abner's wife, Clara Waynick Goodhue, also became a legal owner of it. Abner Goodhue (1832-1912) was a prominent Louisville area pioneer and farmer just south of Louisville. His wife, Clara Goodhue (1867-1940), whom he married in 1887, was the niece of the next owner, Charles A. Clark, and it is possible that the Goodhues purchased it for Charles A. Clark, who was coming to Louisville to live. Clara Goodhue's obituary from 1940 states that "After coming to Louisville, Mrs. Goodhue lived with an uncle, Charley Clark, who owned a grocery where the Twin Light now stands. They had one of the first telephone exchanges here."

In 1892, Charles A. Clark purchased this property, and it was owned and occupied by him until his death in 1902 (and by his family until 1903). Today, the name of Charles A. Clark is mostly forgotten in Louisville history, but for ten years from 1892 to 1902, he was a very experienced and prominent town leader in Louisville as well as being an "enterprising merchant," as he was described in the 1898 book "Portrait & Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity Colorado."

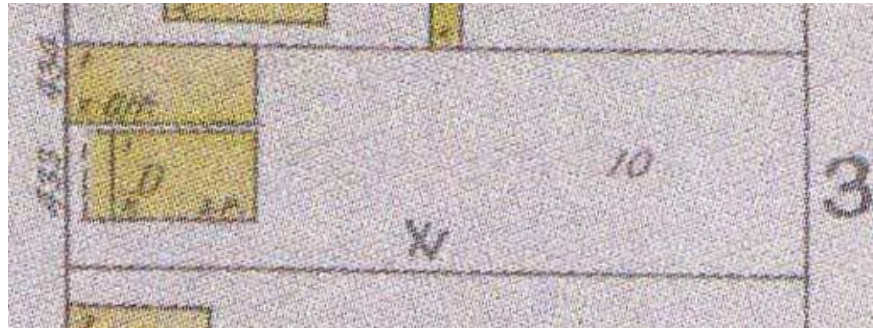
Born in Kentucky in 1834, Clark came to Colorado in 1859 at the time of the Colorado Rush. One history of Jefferson County describes him as having arrived from Kentucky as one of the twelve founders of Golden, Colorado in 1859. He had a cattle ranch of 360 acres in Jefferson County starting in the 1860s and was elected sheriff of Jefferson County. He served in the Colorado state legislature in the 1880s. His wife, Sabrina, passed away before he came to Louisville. They had two sons, Harry and Frank. The 1898 biography stated that "The success that has met his efforts is the result of his energy, business judgment and determination of will, qualities that almost invariably bring their possessor a large share of financial success." The biography further stated that he conducted business "upon an honest and reliable basis that has won him many patrons and friends."

Upon coming to Louisville by 1892, Charles A. Clark opened a real estate office at what is today 728 Main and was appointed justice of the peace. Boulder County newspaper articles from the 1890s made reference to his role as justice of the peace, particularly when people accused of crimes were brought before him. Directories show that he also made loans and sold insurance from this office. All evidence points to Clark living next door to his office, at what is today 724 Main.

The following photo of the Honorable Charles A. Clark appeared in the 1898 "Portrait & Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity Colorado":



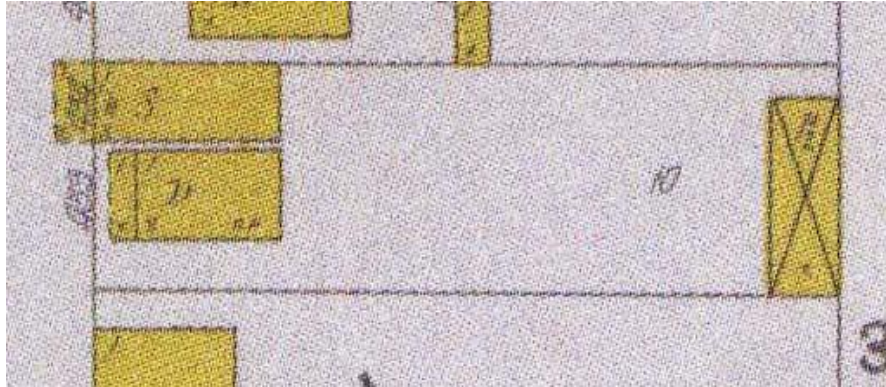
This small excerpt from the 1893 Sanborn fire insurance map shows that at that time, the building on the south side of Lot 10 (724 Main) was a dwelling (as indicated by the “D”), and the building on the north side of Lot 10 (728 Main) was an office (as indicated by “Off”):



The use of the property shown on the 1893 Sanborn map is consistent with what is known of Charles A. Clark and his usage of the property as the owner.

Charles A. Clark also owned property on the site of Clarkson (believed to have been located east of Louisville and south of Lafayette), where he had a creamery and cheese factory. Directories show that in the late 1890s, he began to operate a grocery store in the building at 728 Main in addition to his real estate and insurance business.

This small excerpt from the 1900 Sanborn map shows that at that time, the building on the south side of Lot 10 (724 Main) was still a dwelling, and the building on the north side of Lot 10 (728 Main) was a store (as indicated by the “S”):



This use of the property shown on the 1900 Sanborn map is also consistent with owner Charles A. Clark's business activities of the time. It is believed that he was continuing to use the south building as his home, since the map shows that it was still a dwelling, and that he was using the north building as a store.

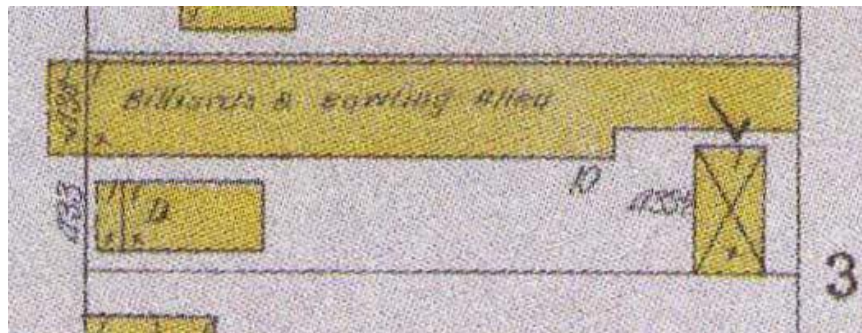
In 1903, Thomas Thompson purchased Lot 10 (Charles A. Clark having died in 1902), and his wife, Ann, soon joined him as an owner. During their ownership, Thomas Thompson and Ann Thompson made the building on the north side of Lot 10 (728 Main) into a billiard hall. It was they who in 1919 sold the parcel to Lawrence J. Mossoni.

Thomas Thompson was born in England in 1856, while Ann was born in England in 1843. The 1900 census records show Thomas Thompson to have been the proprietor of a "Temperance Hall Pool Room", and the 1904 directory refers to Thompson's business as a "Temperance Hall." This relates to the fact that Main Street businesses were not allowed to serve alcohol at that time, and in fact, it was not the only "temperance hall" on Main Street. Records indicate that by 1911, they had added at least one bowling alley; there would eventually be twin bowling alleys that extended all the way to the alley to the east of the building. Records indicate that the operation side was taken over by Walter Dugan later in the 1910s. The 1916 directory shows Walter Dugan to have been operating a billiard hall at what is today 728 Main, while the Thompsons continued to reside at what is now 724 Main, and perhaps help oversee the property, which they owned, from their residency there.

The following photo, while it doesn't offer a good view of the buildings in question located farther up the street on the right, does give a good impression of what this block of Main Street looked like in circa 1905-1910:



This small excerpt from the 1908 Sanborn map shows that at that time, the building on the south side of Lot 10 (724 Main) was still a dwelling, and the building on the north side of Lot 10 (728 Main) was for “Billiards & Bowling Alley,” which is consistent with the usage of the property indicated in other records:



As this map excerpt shows, the bowling alley extended the building all the way to the alley to the east.

(The 1909 Drumm’s Wall Map of Louisville, which was completed just one year after the 1908 Sanborn map, for unknown reasons shows only the building on the south side of the lot. Faint erasures on the map where the north building would have been indicated suggest that perhaps the map is incomplete with respect to this property. Other evidence satisfactorily shows that the long bowling alley existed at this location both immediately before 1909 and immediately after 1909, so it would most certainly have also been there in 1909.)

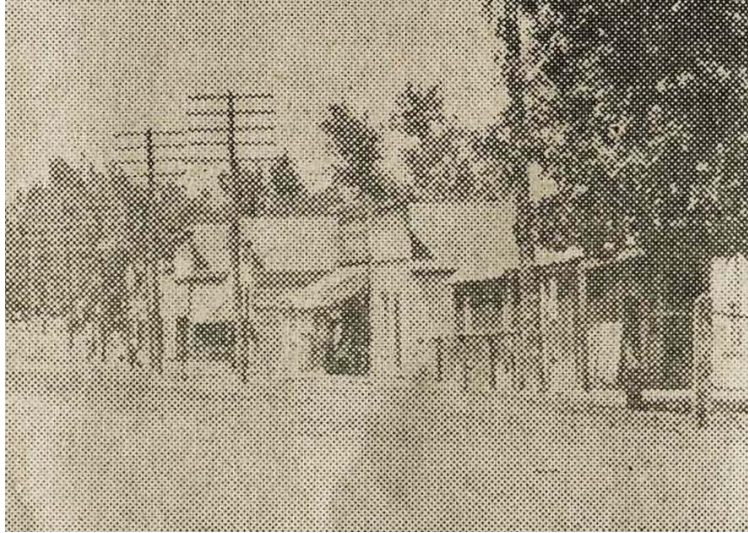
The following photo shows the property in about 1915, at the time when it was likely owned by the Thompsons. It appears that the building on the north says “Pool Hall & Bowling Alley” on the front. The building at 724 Main has always been slightly shorter in height than the building at 728 Main.



The following photo is also from 1915 and shows the buildings in the center of this cropped picture showing the funeral procession for the slain town marshal, Victor Helburg.



This photo from around 1912 was printed in a local newspaper in 1942:

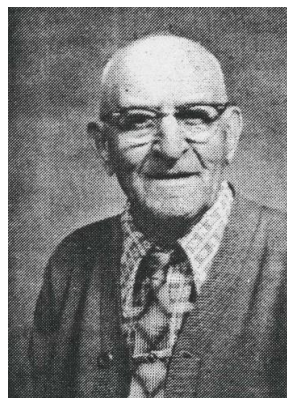


Ownership by Lawrence J. Mossoni and Family, 1919-1970

Lawrence J. Mossoni purchased this property in 1919, and he and members of his family would end up owning it for over fifty years, until 1970. (The records indicate that his wife, Marie, may have become a co-owner at some point, also.)

Lawrence Mossoni was born in Italy in 1889 and came to Marshall, Colorado in 1901. His 1983 obituary stated that he worked as a coal miner in Boulder County for twenty years. In 1913, he married Marie Zarini of Louisville. He “also owned and operated a variety of Louisville businesses for nearly 50 years until his retirement in 1973.” As one long-time Louisville resident has said, “L.J. owned a little bit of everything in Louisville.” Besides owning this particular property for decades, he was in business with Michael Colacci, the founder of the Blue Parrot, at 701 Main; he had a hardware store at 813 Main; he was involved with Front Street properties; and he was on the board of directors of the Louisville-Lafayette Coal Co. that was incorporated in 1930. His family home was also in the core downtown, at 836 Main Street. An Italian immigrant with little formal education, he certainly achieved success in business in Louisville.

The following photo from 1978 shows Lawrence J. Mossoni when he was in his late 80s (an earlier photo could not be located):



With respect to his ownership of this parcel in particular, Mossoni was primarily the owner and not the operator of the businesses occupying the building, except for some years when he ran the business at 728 Main. When he purchased the property in 1919, 728 Main was already a billiard hall and bowling alley. An article in the October 7, 1920 *Louisville Times* stated that “Lawrence Mossoni has been working on his bowling alleys and put them in excellent condition for the fall and winter season, and offers a prize of \$1 for any man bowling the score of 200 for the first time. . . . Jimmie (Shorty) James has accepted a position with Lawrence Mossoni in the pool hall as a soda slinger.” Historical records show that at the beginning, Mossoni operated the pool hall with John L. Porta.

An unofficial transcript of an oral history interview that Lawrence Mossoni gave in 1975 gives insight into the early years of his ownership of the billiard hall and bowling alleys. Discussing the fact that Louisville’s economy and the mining conditions and pay began to improve in about 1920, he said that by that time, he was already a business man and “had bought the only pool hall and bowling alley in town that was doing good, where the Twin Light Tavern is now.” He told of how before there were automatic pin setters, setting the pins for men to bowl was hard work. He added a soda fountain and four tables. Then he decided to sell the bowling alleys, the hard wood of which were taken up piece by piece and removed to Fort Lupton. Mossoni referred to there being a lot of smoke in the pool hall and suffering from a possible ulcer, so he arranged for Roy Austin to take over the pool hall business, which happened between 1923 and 1926. Mossoni moved on to other business ventures in Louisville, while retaining ownership of Lot 10.

Roy Austin had been born just across the street at 717 Main in Louisville in 1896 and lived there until he died in 1985. Along the way, he was involved in local affairs in many ways, including working at banks in both Louisville and Lafayette and operating the pool hall at 728 Main. He also served for over twenty years as treasurer for the Town of Louisville. He was a veteran of World War I.

The following photo of Roy Austin shows him in the 1930s in front of his house at 717 Main:



Roy Austin’s pool hall business was included as one of twenty-two Louisville businesses on the movie curtain made for the Rex Theatre in circa 1927-28:



With respect to 724 Main during this period, Lawrence Mossoni brought in his wife's brother, Peter Zarina, to have a barber shop in the building starting in 1920. Peter Zarina (1896-1992) grew up at 824 La Farge and stated in a 1988 oral history interview (available for listening online through Boulder's Carnegie Branch Library for Local History) that he started working towards being a barber while he was still in high school. His barber shop at 724 Main was called "Pete's Place." He stated that there was a door through to the pool hall next door at 728 Main, so that he got business from "all the gamblers" as well as from "all the athletes." He also cut women's hair and stated in the oral history interview that he cut the hair of all nineteen teachers in Louisville at the time. Pete Zarina stopped being a barber in this location in about 1928.

Next, barber Bob Woody started Woody's Barber Shop, at 724 Main in about 1928. His business continued to 1962, a period of thirty-four years. Bob Woody was from Georgia and attended barber college in Denver. By 1917, he was in Louisville, where he married a local girl, Helen Sirokman that year.

In Woody's Barber Shop, there were two barber chairs, both located on the right side as one walked in. Bob Woody's clientele included miners and, starting in the 1950s, men who worked at Rocky Flats. Woody gave both haircuts and shaves. A shower in the back was sometimes used by miners. By the time he retired in 1962, he was cutting the hair of third and fourth generation customers. It is remembered that the shop was a local gathering place for men where a number of people got elected to public office.

The other barber shop operated during this period was Tesone's. Fiori Tesone and Bob Woody, the only barbers in town, would regularly give haircuts to each other, though they were business competitors.

Records show that Lawrence J. Mossoni took over the business at 728 Main from Roy Austin in the period of 1933-1935. It is believed that it was by then that the façades of the buildings were changed to the current façades. However, as no photos showing the buildings in the 1920s could be located, it is possible that the facades were changed as early as the 1920s. Until more photos and relevant information can be found, the estimate for the current façades is circa 1920-1935.

It was also in 1933-1935 that Lawrence J. Mossoni started the Twin Light Tavern at 728 Main. This development may have come about due to the end of Prohibition and the apparent fact that alcohol could now be sold on Main Street, not just on Front Street. The last listing for Roy Austin's operation of

the pool hall was 1933. The name Twin Light first appears in 1935 in connection with Mossoni (though it could have existed earlier, but there is no directory for 1934). By 1936, Mossoni had again stepped back from the management of the business, and it was taken over by Henry J. Rusher.

The following aerial photo was taken in the 1930s and shows these buildings with their current façades:



Stories about the Twin Light Tavern told by Louisville residents point towards its heyday having been during World War II and the period afterwards. More than one resident has said that it was “the place to be.” During the 1940s, its clientele included locals (both men and women), servicemen home on leave, University of Colorado male students enrolled in a World War II Navy training program, regular CU students, and others. It should also be remembered that this was a time when it was legal to buy and sell alcohol in Louisville, but not in many of the communities around Louisville. With regularity, fights broke out at the Twin Light, which for some people made for even more entertainment.

Bob Enrietto, who was in the service in the 1940s, has recalled a type of drink that was popular at the Twin Light Tavern, a “depth charge.” A depth charge was a kind of boilemaker that involved dropping a shot glass of whiskey into a glass of beer. Its name is a World War II reference.

Another Louisville resident has recalled that when rationing was initiated during World War II and beer was in short supply, the bars and taverns in Louisville (such as the Twin Light and the Blue Parrot) would cooperatively take turns at having beer available.

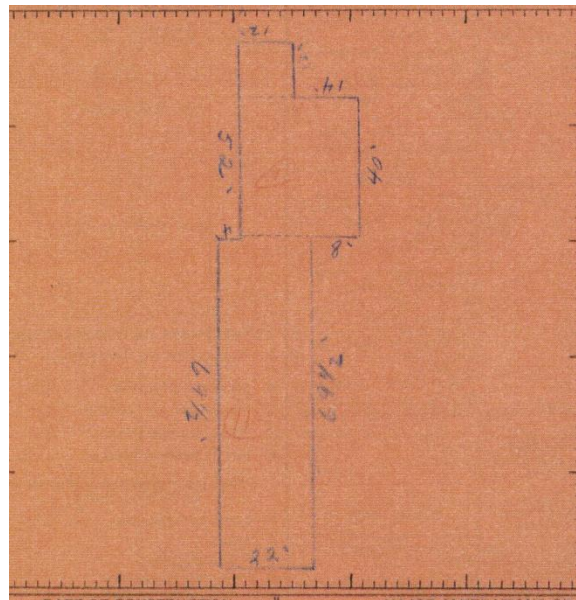
The following photos show this stretch of the 700 block of Main Street with the Twin Light Tavern in the background during the World War II era:



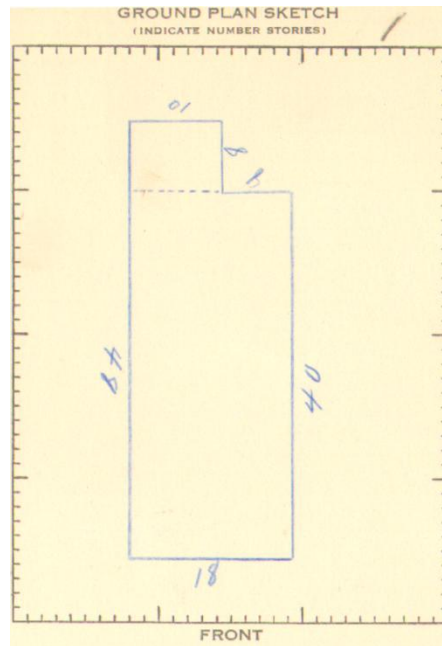
The following advertisement for the Twin Light Tavern is from a 1945 Louisville directory and shows the food that was served there at the time. Similarly, the 1946 directory shows that the tavern served "Mixed Drinks, Spaghetti and Meat Balls and Tobacco of All Kinds."

LOUISVILLE		GEO-MOU 79
	<h1>TWIN LIGHT TAVERN</h1>	
CHICKEN and SPAGHETTI DINNERS ON SUNDAYS 728 MAIN	SANDWICHES -- SPECIAL ORDERS -- STEAKS	BEER - WINE - MIXED DRINKS
		Phone 135

In 1948, the following photo and ground layout image were supplied on the County Assessor card for "718" Main Street, which is a reference to 728 Main:



Similarly, in 1948, the following photo and ground layout image were supplied on the County Assessor card for "714" Main Street, which is a reference to 724 Main:



Beginning in the early to mid 1940s, the operators of the Twin Light were brothers Guy Domenico (1909-1948) and Paul Domenico (1902-1973). Paul Domenico continued to operate the tavern after Guy's death until about 1969. To most residents, the Twin Light is synonymous with the management of the business by the Domenicos.

A number of Louisville residents worked at the Twin Light Tavern in one capacity or another. Emilio "Millie" and Edith Fiorelli worked there as bartender and waitress in 1940. David D. French managed it in 1940, and Clifford Thompson was involved in running it in the early 1940s. During the management by Paul and Guy Domenico, it was Frances Beranek Domenico (the wife of Paul Domenico) who ran the kitchen. Her sisters, Rose Beranek (Martella) and Rose Beranek (Schoser) also worked in the kitchen. A relative remembers hearing that a lot of soups were made at the Twin Light, and that many bachelor miners would come there to eat after work or would take soup home in their miners' lunch pails, in an early version of take-out. Louisville resident Nellie Lombardi Inama has also been remembered as having

worked at the Twin Light. Owner Lawrence Mossoni's son, Norman Mossoni, worked at the Twin Light in the late 1940s.

The Twin Light Tavern had an exterior light on each side of the façade of the building, which tied in with the name "Twin Light."

Locals recall that upon entering the Twin Light, one would see the bar with several bar stools on the right side and booths on the left side. Going towards the back, one would encounter a kitchen and pool table, and the dance floor toward the rear, where the bowling alley used to be. More booths lined one side of the dance floor. A small stage at the back was for live bands to perform on. John Negri, now over ninety years old, is one who remembers playing clarinet in a band at the Twin Light when he was a young man.

The dance floor suffered a fire in 1976 that was attributed to arson, and it is believed that for that reason, the far rear of the building is now gone.

Some Louisville residents recall that there was a mural in the Twin Light Tavern on the interior north wall that had been painted in the early 1950s. It has been described as showing a large rainbow trout with a rainbow around it. There is a difference of opinion as to who painted it, with the names Sydney Jaramillo and the itinerant painter, Cheyenne, both mentioned as being the possible artist.

Ray Domenico, the son of Guy Domenico and the nephew and stepson of Paul Domenico, today has a motorcycle business in Broomfield, Colorado called Twin Light Performance, so named after the Twin Light Tavern. He also has the old Twin Light Tavern sign, which he keeps on the premises of his current business.

Later Ownership

In 1970, Lawrence and Marie Mossoni's daughter and son, Virginia Carnival and Norman Mossoni, sold this property to Ernesto and Domenica Sozio. They owned it for two years, selling it in 1972 to Umberto and Vera Toscano. Marcia Peacock acquired it in 1974 and owned it briefly before the Toscanos became the owners again.

In 1976, the Toscanos sold it to Herman Fauson. Fauson operated a barbershop, Herm's Barber Shop, on the property at 724 Main, starting in 1962. Records show that he owned 724 and 728 Main for twelve years, until 1988, and had his barbershop there for twenty-six years in all. Herman Fauson, born in 1929, came to Louisville from southern Illinois with his family in 1934. He was mayor of Louisville from 1986 to 1992.

Records indicate that in or around 1977, while Herm Fauson continued to have his barber shop at 724 Main, the Twin Light Tavern closed and was replaced at 728 Main by Rae's New & Near New Shop, which became Lou's Near New & Oldies, according to directories.

The following photo (actually, two photos that were connected together) shows the property in 1978:



From 1982 to 1987, 728 Main was occupied by such businesses as Rautenstrauss & Joss, attorneys (later Rautenstrauss, Joss & Midgley, attorneys); Gardner & Co., Inc.; Varra Insurance Agency operated by Wayne Varra; TriCity Insurance; and Drafting Specialty. It appears from directories that these businesses left the premises when Herm Fauson sold the property in 1988.

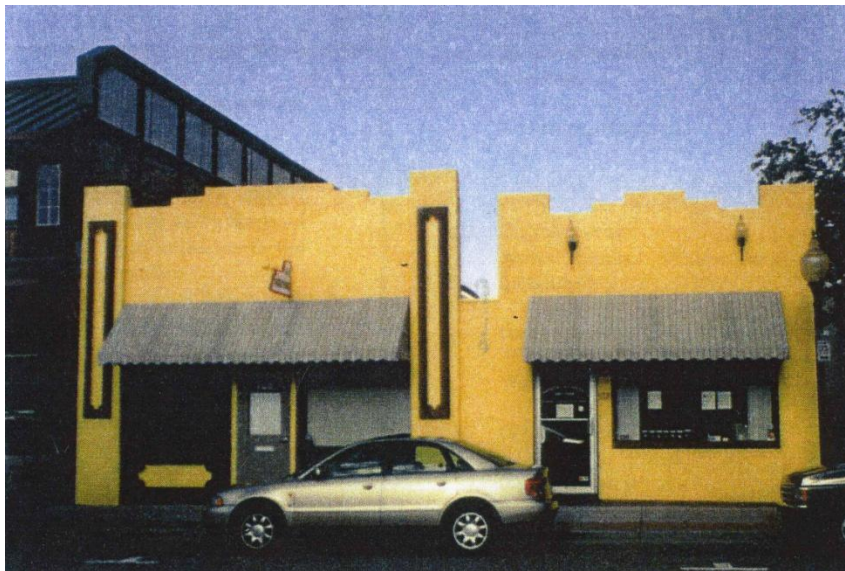
In 1988, Edward and Cheri Ruskus purchased the property. They owned 724 and 728 Main for eleven years, until 1999. During their ownership, many small businesses were located on the property. The business of Cheri Ruskus that was located on the property was Business Answers, Inc. Its purpose was to provide supporting services for small businesses that included an answering service, including on 800 lines; fax services; small office space; private meeting rooms; photocopiers; and desktop publishing. Specific businesses listed in Louisville directories as being located on the property during the ownership by Edward and Cheri Ruskus were: Business Answers; Thermo Automation; McKinley Market Service, Indentatronics, later Inside Edge Marketing; Colorado Hosts, a travel service; JPC Financial; Nashua Corp (labeling equipment); Source Products Group; and Sunbelt Realty.

In 1999, Henry and Carol Argue purchased this parcel, and the property was the location for the business of Hank's Model Trains. Available information shows that in 2000, 728 Main was the location of the Gateway Healing Center, and 724 Main was the location of Hank's Model Trains. Later, Hank's moved to 728 Main and 724 Main was rented out, being used for such businesses as the Cat's Meow, a gift shop, which opened in 2003. Hank Argue had worked as an aerospace engineer at Ball Corp. and had run a model train shop out of his basement starting in 1977. He sold Lionel trains as well as models made by other companies, and his store became Boulder County's only exclusively model train store.

The following photo shows the property in 1999:



The following photo from the 2000 survey shows the property in 2000:



In 2011, the current owner, S & B LLC, acquired this parcel. 724 Main is currently the location for The Book Cellar bookstore.

Survey Description and Statement of Significance

One prior inventory record is available for this property; it was completed in 2000. Although much more historical information is available and accessible for this property now than was available in 2000 (and has been discussed in this report), the 2000 survey is instructive for its description of the property and statement of significance.

The 2000 survey that was completed on this property stated that “724 / 728 Main is a double-storefront commercial building, historically comprised of two separate buildings. The one-story wood frame buildings rest on concrete foundations, and have stuccoed exterior walls. . . . Each of the two buildings has a front gable roof, with grey asphalt shingles. The gable ends are hidden behind tall parapet walls, with distinctive stepped gables which rise well above the roof lines on the façade (west elevation).”

The 2000 survey stated in its Statement of Significance that “This property is historically significant, relative to National Register Criterion A, for its association with early sustained commercial development in Louisville, in support of the area’s coal mining industry. The building is architecturally significant for its distinctive false front façade, and as a representative [of] late 19th Century / early 20th Century commercial building. The building’s significance in these regards is probably not to the extent that would qualify it for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, however, it is eligible as a contributing resource within a potential downtown Louisville Historic District.”

With respect to an “assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance,” the 2000 survey stated that “Although this building has undergone changes to its façade, and exterior wall surfaces, it has not had any additions within the past fifty years. It is unreasonable to expect the facades of commercial buildings to remain the same as new businesses come and go. For this reason a greater latitude in assessing integrity should be applied.”

The 2000 survey stated the period of significance to be circa 1890 to 1950.

The preceding research is based on a review of relevant and available online County property records, census records, oral history interviews, Louisville directories, and Louisville Historical Museum maps, files, obituary records, and historical photographs from the collection of the Louisville Historical Museum.