



History of 908 Main Street, Louisville

The first floor of the building at 908 Main St. was constructed in 1952. For close to forty years, that building was the location of the business named Louisville Electric that was owned and operated by Raymond Caranci. Also, the basement of the building for some time was the home of Ray and Nadine Caranci and their three children.

(Ray Caranci's parents, Carl and Jennie Caranci, acquired the property at 908 Main in 1951. At that time, a house that historically was associated with the Carlton family stood on the property. That house was moved to the south end of Old Town Louisville when Caranci initiated his plans for a new, modern building on the site.)

According to Historical Museum records, the grand opening of Louisville Electric was September 21, 1952. This date also marked the arrival of televisions to Louisville, and the store opened with several Dumont television sets in stock.

A 1952 *Louisville Times* article stated:

Ray Caranci is putting up a big building just north of the post office [located on the corner of Main and Walnut] ... The building will be 49 by 83 feet with a full basement and so constructed that other floors can be added. Caranci will have living quarters in the basement, and there will be room for another business. The construction of cinder block will have a native stone front with tilting glass windows. Caranci plans to expand his appliance business to including heating and television. ... This will be fourth [sic] new building in that row. G.R. Henning built the post office building first. Then John Madonna built the pool hall and Joe D'Amato built his fruit store which he later expanded to include groceries and a meat market.

The right side of the building was 908 Main and housed Louisville Electric, while the left side of the building was 912 Main. Museum records indicate that occupants of 912 Main included the *Louisville Times* newspaper offices operated by Percy and Carolyn Conarro (prior to its move

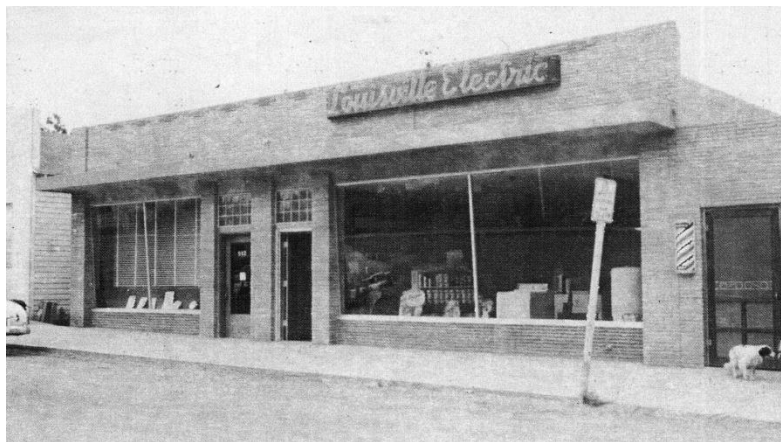
next door to 916 Main), Berry's Ice Cream, Tom's Meat Market, King's Barber Shop, and Jerry's Place.

An advertisement for Louisville Electric from 1953-53 highlighted its "Complete Hotpoint Refrigeration / Stoves, Water Heaters, Washers / Sales & Service."

According to the online Boulder County property records, Ray's parents conveyed this parcel to Ray and Nadine Caranci in 1957.

Ray Caranci retired in 1991 and closed Louisville Electric. The building later had additional stories added to it. While the exact year could not be located at the Museum, it is believed that this occurred in the later 1990s.

This photo shows the building in 1954:



Boulder County Assessor photo

Here are Carolyn and Percy Conarroe in front of the Louisville Times offices at 912 Main in 1966:



This photo shows the building in 1970:



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This photo, a compilation of a few photos, shows the building in circa 1978:



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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.