

## COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

### Architectural Inventory Form

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#### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL921**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Louisville**
5. Historic building name: **Stecker / Kerr / Brennan House**
6. Current building name: **McWilliams House**
7. Building address: **633 LaFarge Avenue**
8. Owner name: **Anne P. McWilliams**  
Owner address: **633 LaFarge Avenue**  
**Louisville, CO 80027**

#### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**  
**SE** $\frac{1}{4}$  of **SE** $\frac{1}{4}$  of **NW** $\frac{1}{4}$  of **SE** $\frac{1}{4}$  of section **8**
10. UTM reference  
Zone **13**  
Easting: **488640**  
Northing: **4424980**
11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**  
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994) 7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **1-3** Block: **7**  
Addition: **Jefferson Place** Year of Addition **1880**
13. Boundary Description and Justification: **This legally defined parcel encompasses but does not exceed the land historically associated with this property.**

#### Official Eligibility Determination

(OAHP use only)

- Date \_\_\_\_\_ Initials \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Determined Eligible - National Register
- ☐ Determined Not Eligible - National Register
- ☐ Determined Eligible - State Register
- ☐ Determined Not Eligible - State Register
- ☐ Needs Data
- ☐ Contributes to eligible National Register District
- ☐ Noncontributing to eligible National Register District

#### III. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

14. Building plan (footprint, shape):  
**Rectangular Plan**
15. Dimensions in feet: **952 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **1½**
17. Primary external wall material  
**Wood / Horizontal Siding**  
**Wood / Shingle**
18. Roof configuration (enter one):  
**Gabled Roof / Front Gabled Roof**
19. Primary external roof material (enter one):  
**Asphalt Roof**
20. Special features (enter all that apply):  
**Decorative Shingles**  
**Chimney**  
**Decorative Cornice**  
**Fence**

22. Architectural style / building type:

**Other Style**  
**(Wood Frame Front**  
**Gable Dwelling)**



**21. General Architectural Description**

This wood frame residence is supported by a low sandstone foundation, and features painted white narrow horizontal wood siding exterior walls. A planted grass yard surrounds the house, with a large cottonwood tree located near the sidewalk along Pine Street. A large planted grass side yard to the south of the house is enclosed by a stained natural brown picket fence. The house is covered by a moderately-pitched front gable roof, with green asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. A red brick chimney, with a corbelled cap is located on the ridge. Richly decorated bargeboards appear in the upper gable ends on the east and west elevations, and a projecting gable on the east elevation features fishscale shingles as well. A low-pitched hipped-roof porch covers the northern 2/s of the facade on the east elevation. The porch roof is supported by turned columns, and leads to a painted black wood-paneled entry door. This distinctive door features one upper sash light, carved panels, and a dentil course and garland motif in the locking rail. A 24' by 10', one-story, enclosed hipped-roof rear porch addition to the original house's west (rear) elevation predates 1950. A band of four 4-light hopper windows, and one 1x1 horizontal sliding window, penetrate the porch's west elevation. Two additional 4-light hopper windows are located in the addition as well, at the far west end of the north elevation. A painted white wood-paneled door, with a white metal storm door, opens onto a concrete stoop, from the enclosed porch on the house's west elevation. The house's windows are little altered from their historic appearance, and include single, paired, and tripled 1/1 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames, painted dark green wood surrounds, and painted burgundy wood cornices.

A gravel driveway to the west of the house leads from Pine Street to a gable-roofed single-wing **Garage / Barn** structure. This building rests on a concrete slab foundation and floor, and has pressed metal exterior walls, in a faux brick pattern over wood frame construction. The roof is covered with corrugated metal over 1x wood decking. Three vertical wood plank, horizontal sliding garage doors, with X-bracing, open onto the driveway on the building's north elevation. A band of five plywood-filled window openings are located on the west elevation, and a single plywood-filled window opening is located on the south elevation.

A small **Tool Shed** is located to the east of the garage / barn. This wood frame structure rests on a concrete foundation, has horizontal wood siding exterior walls, and is covered by a gable roof. A painted white vertical wood plank door is located on the north elevation.

**29. Construction History** (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions:

This house was constructed in 1898 by Louisville Contractor Herman H. Fischer. The barn, located to the southwest of the house, was built shortly after the house.

**23. Landscape or setting special features:**

The McWilliams property is located at the southwest corner of LaFarge Avenue and Pine Street, west of downtown, in Louisville's oldest residential neighborhood.

**24. Associated buildings, features, or objects**  
**Barn/Garage****IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY****25. Date of Construction:**

Estimate

Actual 1898

Source of information:

**Boulder County Assessor records****26. Architect:**

n/a

Source of information:

n/a

**27. Builder/ Contractor:****Herman H. Fischer**

Source of information:

**"Stecker-Kerr-Brennan-McWilliams: A Short History of Five Generations of Louisville People, 1870-1988."****28. Original owner:****Joseph Stecker**

Source of information:

**"Stecker-Kerr-Brennan-McWilliams: A Short History of Five Generations of Louisville People, 1870-1988."****30. Original location: yes**

Moved no

Date of move(s) n/a

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## V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Single Dwelling**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Single Dwelling**
33. Current use(s): **Single Dwelling**
34. Site type(s): **Residence**

### 35. Historical Background

This house was built by Louisville carpenter Herman H. Fischer for the Joseph Stecker (Stecher) family. Born in Austria in 1846, Joseph Stecker was married to Agatha Hoffer (born 1848), near Vienna in the late 1860s. The couple immigrated to America, and arrived in the Louisville area in about 1870. Joseph Stecker was one of the region's first coal miners, and was later a farmer. He and Agatha were also among Louisville's first residents. Their daughter, Anna Marie Stecker, was born in Louisville in 1883. In 1898, the Steckers contracted with Herman Fischer to construct a residence, on this lot at the southwest corner of LaFarge Avenue and Pine Street. The house, and an adjacent barn, were completed circa 1900. Joseph Stecker passed away in 1904, at the age of 58. Agatha, his widow, and their daughter, Anna, continued to live here though. In 1909, Anna Stecker married Robert John Kerr, who was employed as a blacksmith by Steinbaugh's Hardware. Kerr later operated a Ford garage on Main Street. Agatha Stecker passed away in 1930, at the age of 82, and her daughter, Anna (Stecker) Kerr, died less than two years later, at the young age of 48. Prior to her death though, Anna and Robert raised two daughters here - Alma, born in 1911, and Bertha, born in 1913. Alma and Bertha both graduated from Colorado Teachers College (University of Northern Colorado) in Greeley, and enjoyed careers as teachers. Alma Kerr married Floyd Brennan of Canfield in 1934. They had one daughter, Anne Patricia, born in 1943. Anne Patricia Brennan (McWilliams) is the current owner of this home. She represents the fourth generation of ownership by the Stecker/ Kerr/ Brennan family.

### 36. Sources of Information

(Boulder County) "Real Estate Appraisal Card - Urban Master", on file at the Boulder Carnegie Library.

Brennan, Alma Kerr. "Stecker-Kerr-Brennan-McWilliams: A Short History of Five Generations of Louisville People, 1870-1988." (Manuscript on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.)

Mehls, Steven F., Mehls, Carol Drake, and Fell, James E. Jr. "Colorado Historical Society, Historic Building Inventory Record", (633 LaFarge), August 2, 1985. On file at the Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, CO.

*Polk's Boulder County Directory* [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company Publishers.

*Polk's Longmont City Directory*, [generally published annually], Denver, Kansas City, and Salt Lake City: R.L. Polk and Company, Publishers, 1966 - 1997.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, dated August 1893, November 1900, and August 1908.



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## VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:

Yes

No **xx**

Date of Designation: n/a

38. Applicable National Register Criteria

**xx** A. Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

**xx** C. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;

D. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory;

Qualifies under Criteria Considerations A through G (see Manual).

Does not meet any of the above National Register criteria.

39. Area(s) of Significance:

**Community Planning and Development; Ethnic Heritage / European**

40. Period of Significance: 1898 - 1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: **xx**

## 42. Statement of Significance

This property is historically significant, relative to National Register Criterion A, for its association with residential development in Louisville during the first half of the twentieth century. It accrues additional significance because it has been owned by a single family throughout its existence, and because its history has been very well documented. The house is architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C, because it is one of Louisville's most intact examples of a vernacular wood-frame front gable dwelling.

## 43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This property's house has had no additions, and minimal alterations, within the past fifty years. An appraisal card photo from the 1950s shows that the front porch was screened-in at that time, and that the gable ornaments, now present in the upper gable ends, did not then exist.

Pine Street

633

Alley

617

Approximate Scale

40 Feet

# SKETCH MAP

633 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

628

624

616

608

600

Louisville PreSchool

North

Alley





