

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL961.6**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Louisville**
5. Historic building name: **National Fuel Co. Store**
6. Current building name: **State Mercantile Building**
7. Building address: **801 Main Street**
8. Owner name: **Della Cava/ Hartonft Development Co LLC.**
Owner address: **2418 30th Street**
Boulder, CO 80301

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**
SW¼ of **NW**¼ of **NE**¼ of **SE**¼ of section **8**
10. UTM reference
Zone **13**
Easting: **488750**
Northing: **4425120**
11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994) 7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **12, 13** Block: **5**
Addition: **Original Town of Louisville** Year of Addition **1878**
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
15. Dimensions in feet: **12,189 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **2½**
17. Primary external wall material
Wood / Weatherboard
Wood / Horizontal Siding
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):
False Front
Decorative Cornice
Balcony
Dormers

22. Architectural style / building type:

**Late 19th and Early 20th
Century American Movements
/ Commercial Style**



21. General Architectural Description

The State Mercantile Building is an imposing 2½-story building which dominates the visual landscape in downtown Louisville. Featuring a rectangular plan, the building is supported by a concrete foundation, and has painted beige horizontal weatherboard walls, with 1" by 4" corner boards. The roof is a moderately-pitched front gable, with brown asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. A large false front parapet wall extends well above the roof line on the facade (east elevation), and features a decorative cornice with scroll brackets. Another parapet wall is located along the north elevation. Four large, non-original, shed-roofed dormers, each with two 1/1 double-hung sash windows, are located on the south elevation. Two stained natural brown glass-in-wood-frame doors, with a flanking sidelight, are located within a recessed entryway on the facade. The entryway is flanked, on either side, by four large single-light fixed-pane storefront windows. Above these windows and the entryway, is a band of sixteen fixed-pane clerestory windows which visually divides the building's first and second stories. Three signbands, advertising some of the building's current retail and professional tenants, are affixed to the upper facade wall, above the clerestory windows, and above these signs, are three sets of paired single-light awning windows. Finally, on the uppermost facade wall is a large painted sign advertising the building's historic name : **STATE MERCANTILE**. The building's south elevation fronts onto Spruce Street. Windows on the first story here include a set of paired single-light fixed-pane windows, with transom lights, and a set of three large fixed-pane storefront windows, each topped by three transom lights. Second story windows on the south elevation include five sets of paired single-light awning windows. One glass-in-wood-frame entry door is located near the center of the south elevation. On the building's west (rear) elevation, three painted cream color solid wood doors open onto a concrete dock, covered by a large flat roof, held up by squared posts. The roof also serves as a second story balcony. Windows on the west elevation include 1/1 double-hung sash, 2-light fixed-panes, and single-light fixed-panes. A very large, non-original shed-roof dormer on this elevation has six 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

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

The State Mercantile Building was built originally in 1905. After the building was vacated by Steinbaugh's Hardware in 1997, efforts to renovate the building into retail and professional space were led by Louisville architect Eric Hartronft, of Hartronft Associates. The building is now home to twelve retail and professional tenants, while much of the historical character of the building's exterior has been preserved or restored.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

The State Mercantile Building is located at the northwest corner of Spruce and Main Streets, in the heart of downtown Louisville.

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

Estimate

Actual **1905**

Source of information:

Sanborn maps; Boulder County Assessor records**26. Architect:****n/a**

Source of information:

n/a**27. Builder/ Contractor:****unknown**

Source of information:

n/a**28. Original owner:****Dr. Charles F. Wolfer**

Source of information:

Mehls, Steven F., and Mehls, Carol Drake. "Colorado Historical Society, Historic Building Inventory Record", (801 Main Street), July 28, 1985.**30. Original location: yes**Moved **no**Date of move(s) **n/a**

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Department Store**

32. Intermediate use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Specialty Store**

33. Current use(s): **Commerce and Trade / Specialty Store**

34. Site type(s): **Commercial Building**

35. Historical Background

This building was constructed in 1905 on land owned by Dr. Charles F. Wolfer. Originally known as the State Mercantile Company, this was a dry goods store, and a subsidiary of the National Fuel Company. By 1916, the business had been taken over by Louisville brothers James A. and Frank N. Carveth, and their partner, George A. Dalby. Known as "Carveth Bros. and Dalby, General Merchandise", this business existed here until the 1950s, spanning two generations of the Carveth and Dalby families. In the 1960s, the business evolved into Dalby's Supermarket. Joseph F. Dalby, a former city councilman, was the proprietor. Both the Carveth and Dalby families had come to Louisville prior to the turn of the twentieth century, and initially had been engaged in carpentry and mining. In 1904, prior to starting their business, Frank Carveth was working as a miner, while James was employed as the bookkeeper at the Matchless Mine. George Dalby, meanwhile, was involved with the Miners Trading Company, located a block to the south.

After Dalby's Supermarket closed in the late 1960s, this building was occupied by the Mill End Carpet Company. Within a year or two, Mill End gave way to Sears Carpet World, which managed to exist here until only 1974. The building then faced an uncertain future, until it was perhaps saved by the loss of another building. On September 1, 1974, the Steinbaugh Lumber Company building, located a block to the east on Front Street, burned to the ground in a disastrous arson fire. Rather than closing the business, its owner Glenn Steinbaugh, decided to persevere by relocating it here to the old State Mercantile Building at the northwest corner of Main and Spruce Streets. Steinbaugh Hardware then operated in this location until 1997 when it was finally forced to close its doors, driven out of business by Eagle Hardware and Home Depot warehouse stores which had opened nearby. Glenn's son, Tom Steinbaugh, was the business's last owner. (Starting out as a blacksmith shop, Steinbaugh's Hardware Company had been in business in Louisville since the 1880s. For more information on Steinbaugh's Hardware, and the Steinbaugh family, please see the Architectural Inventory Form for 945 Front Street (5BL951).)

36. Sources of Information

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

Conarroe, Carolyn. *The Louisville Story*, Louisville: Louisville Times Inc., 1978.

"Hardware Store to Undergo Renovation." *Boulder Daily Camera*, September 1997, n.p. [article taken from clipping file at the Louisville Public Library.]

Mehls, Steven F., and Mehls, Carol Drake. "Colorado Historical Society, Historic Building Inventory Record", (801 Main Street), July 28, 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.

"Steinbaugh Hardware Closing." *Louisville Times*, March 27, 1997, p. 1.

VI. SIGNIFICANCE

37. Local landmark designation:

Yes

No ☒

Date of Designation: n/a

38. Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ 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;

☒ 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:

Architecture; Commerce; Industry

40. Period of Significance: 1905 - 1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: ☒**42. Statement of Significance**

This building is historically significant, relative to National Register Criterion A, for its association with early sustained commercial development in downtown Louisville. The building is also architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C, because it is Louisville's largest example of a wood-frame false-front commercial building dating from the early years of the turn of the twentieth century. As a result, the building may be regarded as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under both Criteria A and C. It would also be eligible as a contributing property within a potential downtown Louisville historic district.

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

Although this building has recently been renovated to accommodate multiple retail and professional tenants, the renovation was designed to be sympathetic to the building's historical appearance.

VII. NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT

44. National Register eligibility field assessment:

Eligible: xx

Not Eligible:

Need Data:

45. Is there National Register district potential?

Yes: xx

No:

Discuss: **Historic buildings along Main Street in downtown Louisville, which have retained a sufficient degree of historical integrity, could comprise a National Register historic district.**

If there is National Register district potential, is this building:

Contributing: xx

Noncontributing:

46. If the building is in an existing National Register district, is it:

Contributing: n/a

Noncontributing: n/a

VIII. RECORDING INFORMATION

47. Photograph numbers:

Roll: **CM-11**

Frame(s): **1-6**

Negatives filed at: **City of Louisville, Administration
749 Main Street
Louisville, Colorado 80027**

48. Report title: **"Old Town" Louisville Historical Building Survey**

49. Date: **April 11, 2000**

50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

52. Address: **1607 Dogwood Court
Fort Collins, Colorado 80525**

53. Phone number: **970/493-5270**

Walnut Street



Alley

Main Street

Approximate

Scale

40 Feet

Druid Arms

State Mercantile
Building

Sidewalk

809

801

Sidewalk

Spruce Street

• • • SKETCH MAP • • •

801 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado

9641 SE
(ERIE)



801 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado

