

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

Architectural Inventory Form

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I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL8046**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Louisville**
5. Historic building name: **Mountain States Teleph. & Telegr. Bldg.**
6. Current building name: **Brisnehan House**
7. Building address: **913 Main Street**
8. Owner name: **Robert B. Brisnehan**
Owner address: **913 Main Street**
Louisville, CO 80027

II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**
NW of **NW** of **NE** of **SE** of section **8**
10. UTM reference
Zone **13**
Easting: **488750**
Northing: **4425260**
11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994) 7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **4, 5** 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.**

22. Architectural style /
building type:

Bungalow

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: **1196 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **one**
17. Primary external wall material
Brick
Stucco
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):
Porch
Chimney



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21. General Architectural Description

This handsome brick Bungalow was constructed in 1928 to house Louisville's Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Office. The building is supported by a stuccoed concrete foundation, topped by a beltcourse, comprised of three rows of projecting brick stretchers. There is at least a partial basement, with 9-light hopper basement windows. The exterior walls are red brick, laid in common bond, with a row of headers every seventh course alternating with brick courses laid as stretchers. Painted cream color stucco appears in the upper gable ends on the east and west elevations, and in the front porch roof. The building is covered by a moderately-pitched front gable roof, with brown asphalt shingles, and exposed rafter ends with fascia. A red brick chimney, with a corbelled cap, is located on the south facing roof slope. The building's facade fronts toward Main Street on the east elevation. A stained natural brown glass-in-wood-frame door, with flanking 8-light sidelights, opens onto a concrete porch which extends the full length of the facade. The porch features red brick half-walls, and tapered brick piers, which support the gabled porch roof. A flight of nine, curvilinear, concrete steps, flanked by brick kneewalls, descends from the porch, to the sidewalk at Main Street. An original enclosed rear entry porch is located on the west elevation. A painted brown wood-paneled door, with a white wood screen door, enters the enclosed rear porch at the west end of the building's south elevation. This door opens onto a distinctive concrete porch, flanked by a curvilinear red brick kneewall with brick pedestals. The building's windows are predominantly 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames and surrounds, and with exterior wood screens. Most windows also feature brick slipsills, laid as rowlocks, and brick lintels, laid as soldiers.

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

This building was constructed in 1908 to serve as the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph office, and as a residence for the office's manager. There have been no additions and no noticeable alterations subsequent to the 1928 construction.

23. Landscape or setting special features:

This building is located on the west side of Main Street in downtown Louisville.

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

Estimate

Actual 1928

Source of information:

Boulder County Real Estate appraisal card

26. Architect:

n/a

Source of information:

n/a

27. Builder/ Contractor:**Rome Perrella**

Source of information:

"Louisville Telephone Exchange."
Louisville Historian, (published by the
Louisville Historical Commission, #30,
May 1995.)

28. Original owner:**Rome Perrella**

Source of information:

"Louisville Telephone Exchange."

30. Original location: yes

Moved no

Date of move(s) n/a

V. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

31. Original use(s): **Single Dwelling / Other Use**
32. Intermediate use(s): **Single Dwelling**
33. Current use(s): **Single Dwelling**
34. Site type(s): **Telephone Exchange and Residence**

35. Historical Background

This building was constructed by Rome Perrella in 1928, and subsequently served as Louisville's Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph office into the 1950s. This was also where the office's managers had their residence. Louisville's first telephone exchange office opened in December 1904. At that time, it was owned by the Colorado Telephone Company, a subsidiary of the Bell System. Mary Zurick, and Maude Machin, were the first operators, and the office was located on Second Street, between Spruce and Walnut. In 1916, Rose Machin was the manager, while Maude Machin worked as a telephone operator. A few years later, in 1921, Mrs. Jennie Perrella was the telephone office's manager.

After Louisville's original telephone office was destroyed by fire, Rome Perrella constructed this building for the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1928. From the late 1920s, into the 1940s, Mrs. Cathy Curtin (Curtan?) managed the office, and lived here with her three children, Jack (John E.), Bob (Robert E.), and Peggy. Cathy was the widow of John Curtin. Numerous Louisville women worked here as telephone operators during their high school years, and as young adults.

From the late 1950s to the present, the building has been a single family residence. In March 1963, the building was sold by Jennie C. Perrella to Wilfred and Beverly Thirlaway. The Thirlaways held it until December 1994, when they sold it to current owner, Robert B. Brisnehan.

36. Sources of Information

Brisnehan, Robert. Oral interview with Carl McWilliams, April 12, 2000.

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

"Louisville Telephone Exchange." *Louisville Historian*, (published by the Louisville Historical Commission, #30, May 1995). On file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

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

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

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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; Communications; Commerce; Community Planning and Development

40. Period of Significance: 1928 - 1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

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

This building is historically significant, relative to National Register Criterion A, because of its use as Louisville's telephone and telegraph exchange office from 1928 into the 1950s. This building is where Louisville's citizens could be connected by telephone, where news of fires and other disasters was disseminated from, and where the community first learned of such landmark events as the end of World War II. The building is also architecturally significant, under National Register Criterion C, for its brick masonry construction and Bungalow style of architecture. It is probably Louisville's best, and most intact, brick Bungalow residence

43. Assessment of historic physical integrity related to significance:

This building exhibits an exceptionally high degree of historical integrity. There have been no additions and no noticeable alterations subsequent to its 1928 original construction.

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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-10**

Frame(s): **24-27**

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 12, 2000**

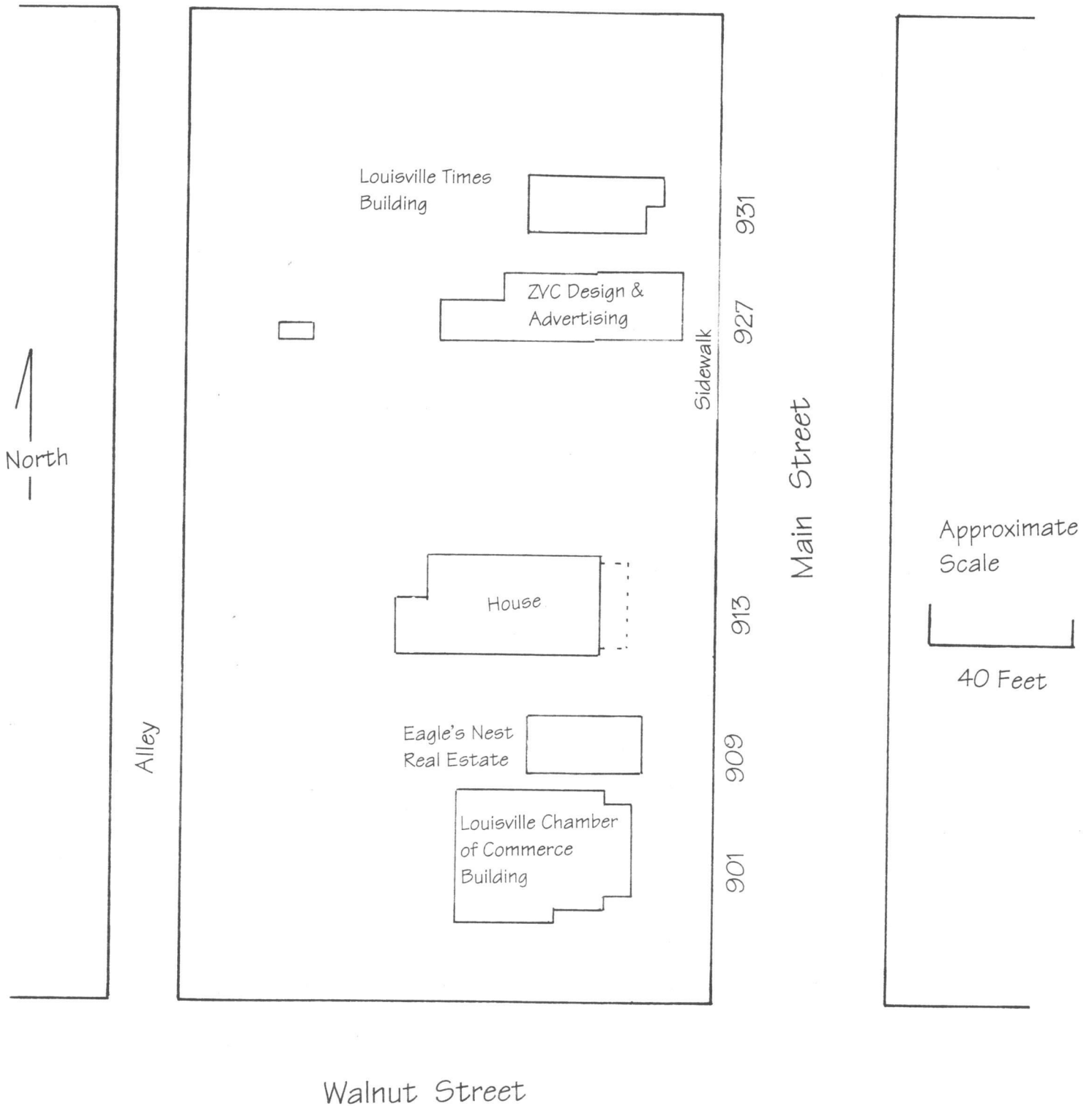
50. Recorder(s): **Carl McWilliams**

51. Organization: **Cultural Resource Historians**

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

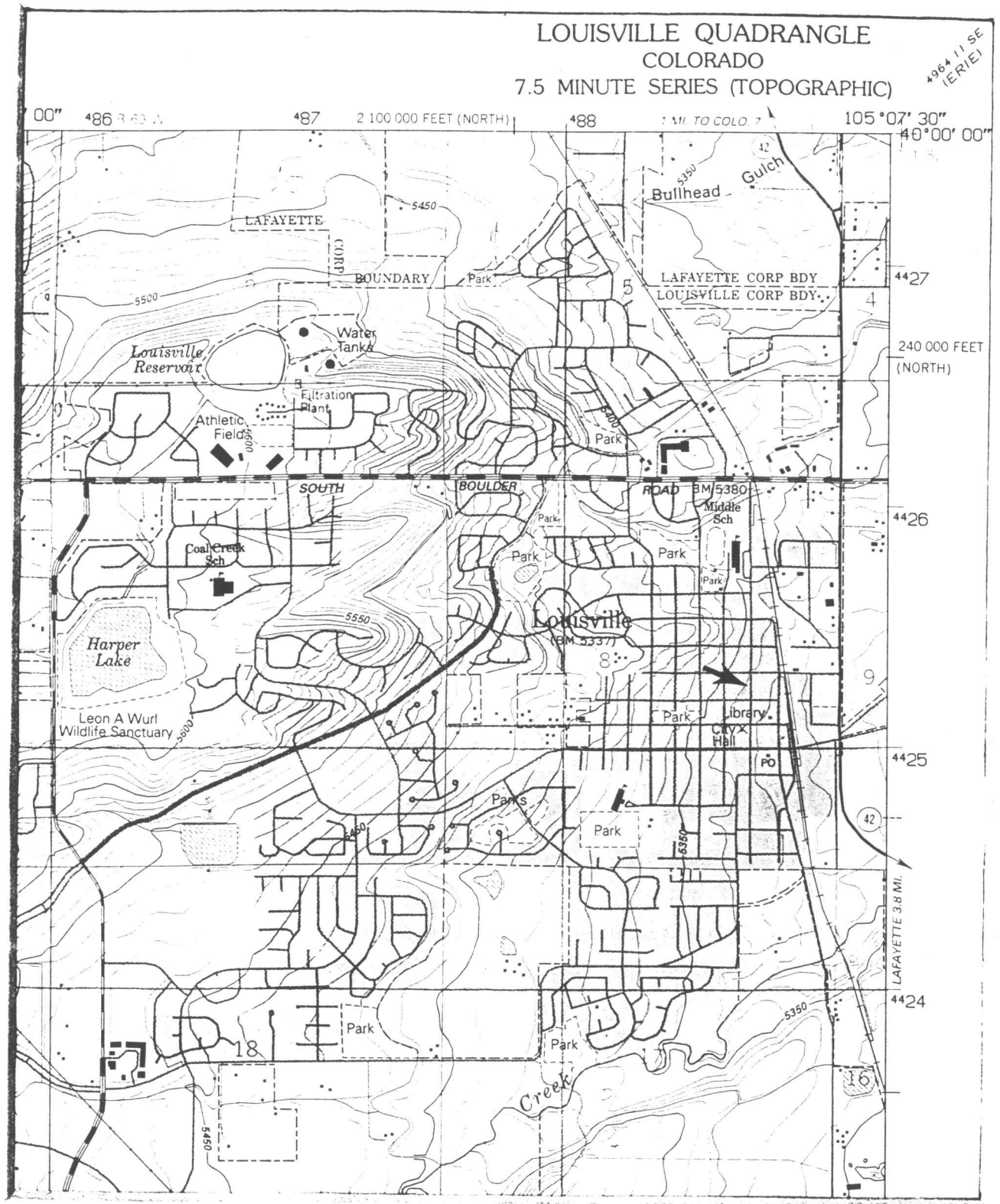
53. Phone number: **970/493-5270**

South Street



. . . SKETCH MAP . . .

913 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado



913 Main Street, Louisville, Colorado



