

## COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

### Architectural Inventory Form

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#### I. IDENTIFICATION

1. Resource number: **5BL8000**
2. Temporary number: **N/A**
3. County: **Boulder**
4. City: **Louisville**
5. Historic building name: **Porta House**
6. Current building name: **Porta House**
7. Building address: **925 LaFarge Avenue**
8. Owner name: **Albert Porta**  
Owner address: **925 LaFarge Avenue**  
**Louisville, CO 80027**

#### II. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

9. P.M. **6th** Township **1S** Range **69W**  
**NE**¼ of **NE**¼ of **NW**¼ of **SE**¼ of section 8
10. UTM reference  
Zone **13**  
Easting: **488640**  
Northing: **4425250**
11. USGS quad name: **Louisville, Colorado**  
Year: **1965 (Revised 1994) 7.5'**
12. Lot(s): **6, 7** Block: **4**  
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.**

22. Architectural style /  
building type:

**Other Style**  
**(Wood Frame Gabled**  
**Roof Dwelling)**

#### 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: **918 square feet**
16. Number of stories: **one**
17. Primary external wall material  
**Wood / Weatherboard**  
**Wood / Horizontal Siding**
18. Roof configuration (enter one):  
**Gabled Roof / Hip-on-Gable Roof**
19. Primary external roof material (enter one):  
**Asphalt Roof**
20. Special features (enter all that apply):  
**Porch**  
**Fence**



## 21. General Architectural Description

The Porta House is a modest wood-frame dwelling supported by a low concrete foundation. The house's facade, on the east elevation, fronts onto a small planted grass front yard, while a larger backyard, to the west, is enclosed by a painted white picket fence. The house's exterior walls are painted white horizontal weatherboard, with 1" by 4" corner boards, although the west (rear) elevation has been clad with white horizontal masonite siding. The facade, on the east elevation, is decorated with a low red brick planter, which extends along the porch and the lower facade wall. The roof is an intersecting hip and gable, with grey asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. There are no chimneys. A non-original single-light fixed-pane window, flanked by single-light casement windows, is located near the south end of the facade. A similar window is located on the north elevation. Windows on the secondary elevations are otherwise entirely 1/1 double-hung sash, with painted white wood frames and surrounds. A stained natural brown wood door, with three upper sash lights, and with an aluminum storm door, opens onto a 2-step concrete porch at the north end of the facade. A black wrought iron porch railing and post support a shed porch roof. The building's rear entry is located on the west elevation where a painted white 15-light glass-in-wood-frame door opens onto a concrete sidewalk.

A wood frame **Garage / Secondary Residence** is located in the backyard, west of the house. This building rests on a concrete block foundation, and features painted white vertical wood plank and horizontal weatherboard exterior walls. The roof is a moderately-pitched gable with grey asphalt shingles and boxed eaves. There are no chimneys. Two 1/1 double-hung sash windows are located on the north elevation, and three 1/1 double-hung sash windows are located on the south elevation. A painted white wood-paneled roll-away garage door, on the west elevation, opens onto an elevated concrete driveway which extends to the alley to the west. A stained brown wood door, with a wood screen door, opens onto a 3-step concrete stoop on the south elevation.

A small **Shed** is located at the property's southwest corner. This building has a concrete foundation, painted white horizontal weatherboard walls, with 1" by 4" corner boards, and a moderately-pitched side gable roof, with grey asphalt shingles and exposed rafter ends.

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

The front part of this house, measuring 12' by 10' was moved here from across LaFarge Avenue by Henry Porta, ca. 1897. A 22' by 16' addition was built onto the rear of the original structure in 1909, creating an L-shaped home. Another addition, used as a bathroom and utility porch, and measuring 22' by 22' was built onto the rear of the structure in 1947. The garage / secondary building in the backyard is a prefabricated structure erected here ca. 1964. Built originally as a secondary residence, it was later converted into a garage and workshop.

## 23. Landscape or setting special features:

The Porta Property is located on the west side of LaFarge Avenue, in Louisville's oldest residential neighborhood, northwest of downtown.

## 24. Associated buildings, features, or objects **Garage / Secondary Residence**

## IV. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

### 25. Date of Construction:

Estimate

Actual **ca. 1897, 1909, 1947**

Source of information:

**Albert Porta**

### 26. Architect:

**n/a**

Source of information:

**n/a**

### 27. Builder/ Contractor:

**Henry Porta, Frank Varley**

Source of information:

**Albert Porta**

### 28. Original owner:

**Henry and Edith Porta**

Source of information:

**Albert Porta**

### 30. Original location: **no**

Moved

**yes (original portion)**

Date of move(s) **ca. 1897**

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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 property has been associated with the Porta family throughout its existence. Henry and Edith Porta, the original owners, immigrated from Italy before the turn of the twentieth century, arriving in Louisville in the mid-1890s. An experienced miner, Henry obtained work in area coal mines, and the family initially lived on the east side of LaFarge Avenue, across the street from this location. The Portas acquired this property circa 1897 and moved a small dwelling onto it from across the street. The original home was enlarged in 1909 and again in 1947. The 1947 addition was constructed by Frank Varley, a carpenter, who is known locally for having helped construct buildings at Camp Hale during World War II. Varley also served as a Louisville Mayor. Henry and Edith Porta raised a family of ten children here, including five sons and five daughters. Born in 1910, Albert "Boots" Porta, grew up here and continued to live in the home after his parents' deaths. Albert married Helen (Bean) Porta, a native Chicagoan, in 1935. They did not have any children. Like his father before him, Albert worked in area coal mines, including the Centennial, Hi-Way and Eagle mines, between 1929 and 1953. In later years, Albert worked as a plumber, and as a pipe fitter at Rocky Flats. Helen passed away in 1984. Albert, who turned ninety this year (2000), continues to live here.

### 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.

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

Porta, Albert "Boots". Oral interview with Carl McWilliams, April 25, 2000.

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:

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

40. Period of Significance: ca. 1897-1950

41. Level of Significance:

National:

State:

Local: ☒

### 42. Statement of Significance

Associated with a single family throughout its entire history, this property is historically significant for its association with the theme of coal mining, and with Louisville's early settlement by European immigrants, primarily from Italy. From the late 1800s through the mid-1900s, coal mining had the greatest socioeconomic impact on the Lafayette, Louisville, and Superior area.

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

With no post 1950 additions, and displaying minimal alterations, the Porta House has retained sufficient integrity to convey a sense of its historic significance. The garage / secondary building is less than fifty years old, and thus should be regarded as a non-contributing resource.

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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: Platted in 1880 as the Jefferson Place Addition, the neighborhood, along Lafarge and Jefferson Avenues, between Elm and South Streets, is Louisville's oldest residential neighborhood. Historic houses in this area, 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-4**

Frame(s): **28-32**

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

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

49. Date: **March 28, 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

Alley

937

929

925

917

913

909

901

LaFarge Avenue



40 Feet

717

Walnut Street

SKETCH MAP

925 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado

4964 11 SE  
(ERIE)



925 LaFarge Avenue, Louisville, Colorado



STYLE NO. 48-6P

DO. FR. 35890 - (402) 888-3100

952 Latrobe Avenue

