

Resource Number: 5BL925  
Temporary Resource Number: 157508425002

COLORADO CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY  
**Cultural Resource Re-evaluation Form**

OAHP1405  
Rev. 9/98

1. Resource Number: 5BL925 2. Temp. Resource Number: 157508425002

2A. Address: 800/804 Spruce Street, Louisville, CO 80027

Previous address prior to 1939: Louisville addresses were changed in 1939.

LaFarge is sometimes spelled La Farge.

3. Attachments

(check as many as apply)

☒ Photographs

☒ Site sketch map

☒ U.S.G.S. map photocopy

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

4. Official determination

(OAHP USE ONLY)

☐ Determined Eligible

☐ Determined Not Eligible

☐ Need Data

☐ Nominated

☐ Listed

☐ Contributing to N.R. District

☐ Not Contributing to N.R. Dist

5. Resource Name:

Current Name: Harris House

Historic Name: Gutfelder/Withers

House/Louisville Times Office

6. Purpose of this current site visit (check as many as apply)

☐ Site is within a current project area

☒ Resurvey

☒ Update of previous site form(s)

☐ Surface collection

☐ Testing to determine eligibility

☐ Excavation

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



Describe: This property is within the Jefferson Place Subdivision in Louisville, which is being evaluated for historic district potential in 2010 – 2011. This resurvey is part of the historic district evaluation process.

7. Previous Recordings: Architectural Inventory Form 2000, as part of "Old Town" Louisville Historical Building Survey by Carl McWilliams of Cultural Resource Historians, and 1982 survey by Steven Whissen, City of Louisville.

8. **Changes or Additions to Previous Descriptions:** There is a non-historic storage shed in the back yard, with vertical composition siding painted tan with white trim, a gable roof covered with gray asphalt shingles, and a pair of swinging doors opening to the north.

**Construction History:** The original date of construction is unclear, as discussed in Field 12 below. The western portion (800 Spruce) may have been a single-family residence as early as 1893. By 1934, it was in use as the office of the *Louisville Times* newspaper, as well as the residence of the newspaper's operators. The eastern portion, 804 Spruce, was likely constructed by that time, as it was used as the newspaper office.

In 1948, the building had horizontal wood siding, wood shingle roofing, a brick chimney, and window openings of different sizes and different locations than those that presently exist. A 1974 building permit with an unidentified scope of work was issued. In 1997, owner Donald Reichert installed vinyl siding.

**Landscape or special setting description:** Jefferson Place Subdivision is a historic residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Louisville. The subdivision is laid out on a standard urban grid of narrow, deep lots with rear alleys. Houses are built to a fairly consistent setback line along the streets with small front lawns, deep rear yards and mature landscaping. Small, carefully maintained single-family residences predominate. Most of the houses are wood framed, one or one and one-half stories in height, featuring white or light-colored horizontal wood or steel siding, gabled or hipped asphalt shingled roofs and front porches. While many of the houses have been modified over the years, most of the historic character-defining features have been preserved.

800/804 Spruce is built very close to the sidewalks along LaFarge and Spruce. The grassy back yards, one for each unit, are located south of the building and enclosed with chain link and wire fences.

800/804 Spruce is one of the few buildings in Jefferson Place that once had a commercial use. It is also one of the few duplex residences in the subdivision.

9. Changes in Condition: None.
10. Changes to Location or Size Information: None.
11. Changes in Ownership: New Owner: Dan C. and Rebecca M. Harris, PO Box 1271, Lyons, CO 80540-1271
12. Other Changes, Additions, or Observations:  
Further research has yielded more information about the ownership and use of the building.

This building played a significant role in the local community. For many years, the eastern part of the building (804 Spruce) was used as a printing office for *The Louisville Times* newspaper and other printing projects, and the western part (800 Spruce) was used as the residence for the owners/editors of *The Louisville Times* newspaper in the mid 1900s.

Louis Gutfelder acquired this property in 1883. It became part of his parcel along with what is now 728 La Farge (5BL919) to the south. The Sanborn maps for 1893, 1900, and 1908 show that the first buildings on Gutfelder's parcel were actually along Spruce, and 728 La Farge had not yet been constructed. The 1904 Louisville directory shows members of the "Goodfellow" family living at "Lafarge & Spruce," which likely was a reference to 800 Spruce. Biographical information about Louis and Josephine Gutfelder and their children can be found in the historical information provided for 728 La Farge.

The 1893, 1900, and 1908 Sanborn maps each show two buildings on this site, although the footprint of the building on the very corner (the current location of 800 Spruce) appears to have changed between 1900 and 1908. It could be speculated that the two separate buildings were at some point attached to one another, creating one building. The 1909 Drums Wall map also shows a building on this site, at the corner of Spruce and La Farge, but this 1909 map shows only buildings that were primary structures on parcels. Thus, the absence of the second building from the 1909 map is not an indication that it was not there in 1909.

It is not known how the Gutfelder family used the structures along Spruce after their house at 728 La Farge was constructed and they moved into it, which appears to have been in 1909 or soon after. The Gutfelders may have rented out the property at 800/804 Spruce.

Boulder County gives 1920 as the year of construction of this property. In addition to the evidence of the buildings shown on this site on the 1893, 1900, 1908, and 1909 maps, there is also an undated written statement written by Louisville resident Nelle Wolfer Willis, who lived from 1890 to 1976. In describing the history of Louisville newspapers, she wrote, "I believe Mr. Withers [sic] was owner next in the Old Gutfelder Home on the corner of Spruce & La Farge." This would suggest that when Withers took over the publication of the *Louisville Times* in the early 1930s, he did so in the same building that had been used by the Gutfelder family in the early 1900s, well before the County's given construction date of 1920. However, a precise date of construction could not be ascertained.

The location of this building historically is given as the corner of Spruce and La Farge. Although Louisville addresses were changed in 1937, no earlier numerical address could be found for this property.

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The *Louisville Times* newspaper typically was published once or sometimes twice a week beginning in 1913. It was operated by Pearl Conley beginning in 1917 in offices on Pine Street that were previously used for the short-lived *Louisville News* newspaper. Conley stopped operating the *Louisville Times* in 1932. It is in the 1932 Louisville directory that Wesley S. and Harriett N. Withers are listed as being the new owners/managers of the *Louisville Times*, although their address that year is given as an address on Front Street and not this address.

Online Boulder County property records show that Louis Gutfelder sold the parcel at 800/804 Spruce to Wesley S. Withers in 1934. The 1936 and 1940 directories have a listing for Wesley and Harriett Withers, and the *Louisville Times* office is listed as being located at Spruce and La Farge.

Wesley S. and Harriett N. Withers were both from Wisconsin, Wesley having been born in 1876 and Harriett in 1874. Wesley S. Withers had a business in Boulder, Colorado prior to moving to Louisville to run a newspaper. According to the catalog records of Boulder's Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Withers owned the Withers Garage & Tire Station on the southeast corner of 12<sup>th</sup> and Walnut in Boulder as well as the Withers Ford Garage & Tire Station at 1515 Pearl in Boulder (probably at different times). The couple lived at 918 Pleasant in Boulder. It is believed that they may not have had a newspaper background when they took over the *Times*. They were in their fifties at the time.

Unfortunately, fewer than thirty out of over 1,000 of the newspapers that Withers or his predecessor Pearl Conley wrote and worked on are known to have survived. It is believed that a later owner of the *Times* disposed of nearly all of the past issues of the *Times* that had accumulated. To this day, the new corporate entity that owns the *Louisville Times* is understood to have issues dating back to only 1942. The Louisville Historical Museum has in its collection some issues dating from earlier years.

According to an interview with Lois Chiolino Tesone, a previous resident of 729 La Farge (5BL7981), the Withers' granddaughter, Mercedes Horton, was about nine years old when the Withers couple moved to Spruce and La Farge in the early 1930s. Mercedes would sometimes visit her grandparents in their home at 800 Spruce and would play with other children in the neighborhood. Lois Chiolino Tesone stated that she remembered playing in the print shop (804 Spruce) where there were huge round presses. Lois Chiolino Tesone also recalled that the school newspaper of Louisville High School, *The Lookout*, which she worked on, was printed in the print shop side of the building.

A later owner of the *Times* donated to the Louisville Historical Museum a 1935 typed directory of Louisville residents that was used by the *Times* with notations about who subscribed to the paper and who had passed away. It was obtained from the *Louisville Times* offices. Since it is from 1935, it dates from the time that the *Times* was owned by the Withers couple. It is used extensively as a research resource at the Museum.

The 2000 survey of this property indicated that the Withers published the newspaper at this location through most of the 1940s, but it has been ascertained that they only published it until 1941. Wesley and Harriett Withers do appear to have owned this property until 1958 when they sold it to Albert and Elizabeth Varra. The Withers do not appear in Louisville directories after 1940 and it is believed that they returned to Boulder at that time. In 1941, Harry Naeter is listed in the Louisville directory as editor of the *Times*, presumably at this location because this is the building that still held the printing presses.

Beginning in 1942, Art and Della Hobson are listed in Louisville directories as living and working at 800/804 Spruce. They were to own and operate the *Louisville Times* from 1942 to 1965, and are remembered as being involved members of the community. In the 1940s, Della joined the Saturday Study Club, a women's organization that ran the library in Louisville. Art Hobson is remembered for his enthusiastic coverage of Louisville High School sports. The Hobsons had married in Kansas in 1927. According to Della Hobson's obituary, she was an editor of newspapers in Kansas before the couple moved to Louisville. Directories indicate that the Hobsons lived and worked at 800/804 Spruce from 1942 to about 1955. It is the 1955 directory that first lists them as having their home at another location in Louisville, and shows that the *Louisville Times* offices had moved to 912 Main Street.

Both Wesley S. and Harriett Withers passed away in the 1960s; Della Hobson died in 1971 and Art Hobson died in 1973.

## Sources of information

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Boulder County "Real Estate Appraisal Card – Urban Master," on file at the Carnegie Branch Library for Local History in Boulder, Colorado.

Boulder County Clerk & Recorder's Office and Assessor's Office public records, accessed through <http://recorder.bouldercounty.org>.

Directories of Louisville residents and businesses on file at the Louisville Historical Museum.

Census records and other records accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Drumm's Wall Map of Louisville, Colorado, 1909

Louisville building permit files

Sanborn Insurance Maps for Louisville, Colorado, 1893, 1900, and 1908

*Green Mountain Cemetery Index to Interment Books, 1904-1925*, Boulder Genealogical Society, 2006.

Carnegie Branch Library for Local History, Boulder Colorado, online catalog records accessed at <http://boulderlibrary.org/carnegie/>.

Archival materials on file at the Louisville Historical Museum, including written undated piece by Louisville resident Nelle Wolfer Willis (1890-1976) on the subject of newspapers in Louisville.

Interview conducted by Museum Coordinator Bridget Bacon with Lois Chiolino Tesone, April 28, 2009.

13. National Register Eligibility Assessment:

Eligible \_\_\_\_ Not eligible X Need data \_\_\_\_

Explain: While the property has sufficient integrity and significance to be a contributing resource to a potential historic district, it lacks sufficient integrity and significance to be individually eligible to the National Register. The property has integrity of location, setting, feeling and workmanship. Integrity of design is compromised, but not completely lost, due to modified window openings and sizes. The building's size and shape remain intact, so some integrity of design exists. Integrity of materials is lost due to replacement siding, windows and roofing. Integrity of association is lost due to the loss of association with the local newspapers that were written and printed there.

13A. Colorado State Register: Not eligible X

13B. Louisville Local Landmark: Eligible X

13C. Historic District Potential: Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register and local historic district. There is potential for a National Register historic district. This property is non-contributing.

Discuss: This building is being recorded as part of a 2010-2011 intensive-level historical and architectural survey of Jefferson Place, Louisville's first residential subdivision, platted in 1880. The purpose of the survey is to determine if there is potential for National Register, State Register or local historic districts. Jefferson Place is eligible as a State Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European, for its association with European immigrants who first lived here and whose descendants continued to live here for over fifty years. The period of significance for the State Register historic district is 1881 – 1980. Jefferson Place is potentially eligible as a National Register historic district under Criterion A, Ethnic Heritage, European. However it needs data to determine dates of some modifications, and to more definitely establish the significant impacts of various European ethnic groups on the local culture of Louisville. The period of significance of a National Register district is 1881 – 1963. Jefferson Place is eligible as a local Louisville historic district under local Criterion B, Social, as it exemplifies the cultural and social heritage of the community.

European immigrant families flocked to Colorado coal mining communities, including Louisville, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in search of economic opportunities they could not find in their own countries. Louisville's Welch Coal Mine, along with other mines in the area, recruited skilled workers from western Europe. In the early years before 1900, most of the miners who lived in Jefferson Place came from English-speaking countries.

Immigrants from England brought a strong tradition and expertise in coal mining. The English are widely credited with developing the techniques of coal mining that were used locally, and they taught these techniques to other miners. The British mining culture was instilled in the early Colorado coal mines. English immigrants also brought expertise in other necessary skills such as blacksmithing and chain forging.

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Later Jefferson Place residents arrived from Italy, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia, among other places. The Italians eventually became the largest single ethnic group in Jefferson Place and in Louisville as a whole. About one-third of the houses in Jefferson Place were owned and occupied by Italian immigrants. Italian immigrants left their mark on Louisville in the food and beverage industries. To the present day, downtown Louisville is known throughout the Front Range for its tradition of Italian restaurants. The impacts of the heritage and customs of the other European ethnic groups could be significant, but are not well documented and need further investigation.

14. Management Recommendations: The property is worthy of individual nomination as a Louisville Local Landmark. Although integrity is somewhat compromised, the building is significant for its role in communications in the local community.
15. Photograph Types and Numbers: 5BL925\_800Spruce\_01 through 5BL925\_800Spruce\_05
16. Artifact and Field Documentation Storage Location: Electronic files of forms with embedded photos and maps at Colorado Historical Society. Electronic files of forms, and electronic files of photographs at City of Louisville, Colorado, Planning Department.
17. Report Title: Historical and Architectural Survey of Jefferson Place Subdivision, Louisville, Colorado
18. Recorder(s): Kathy and Leonard Lingo, and Bridget Bacon, City of Louisville
19. Date(s): 2013
20. Recorder Affiliation: Avenue L Architects, 3457 Ringsby Court Suite 317, Denver CO 80216 (303) 290-9930

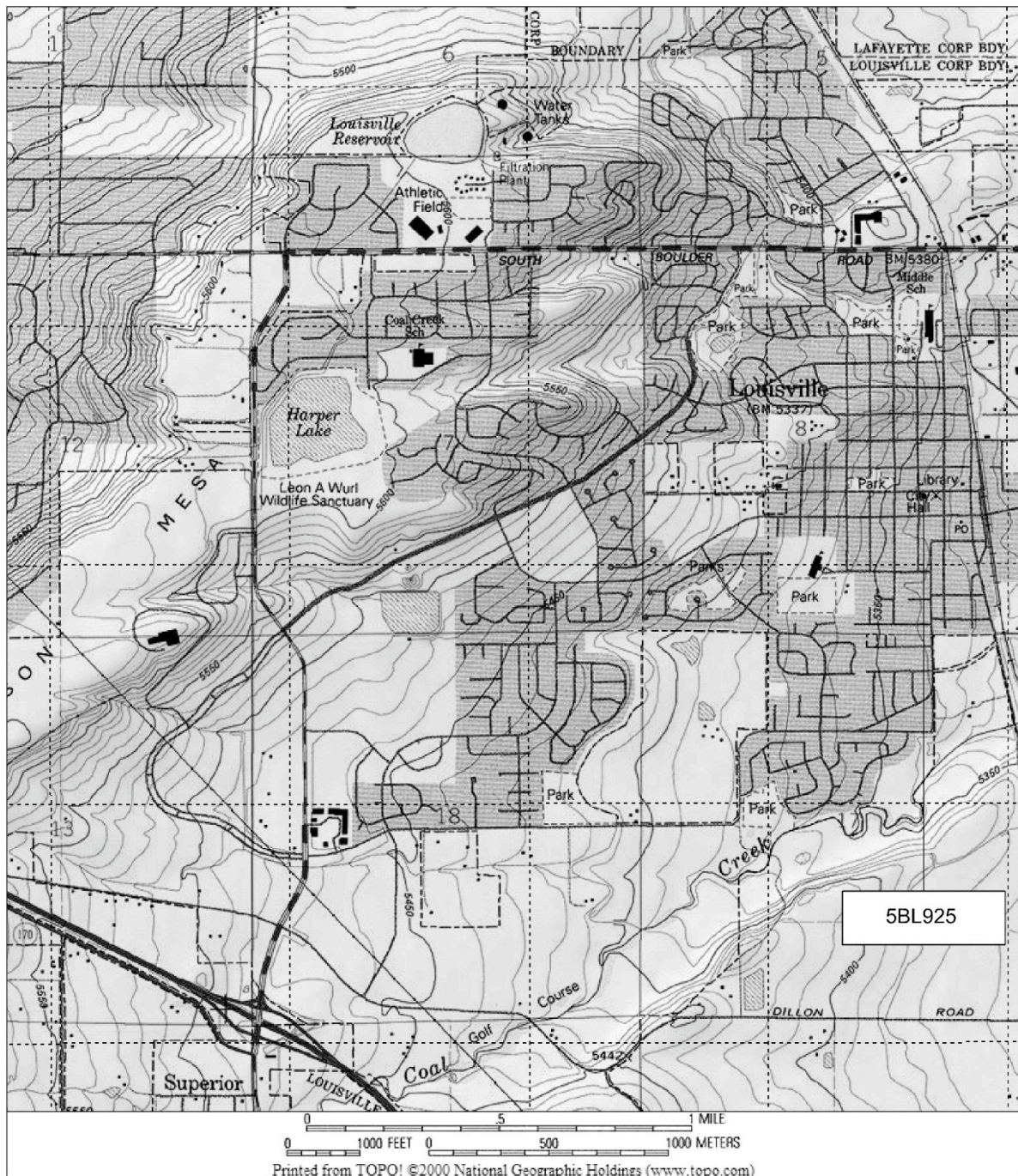
Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation  
1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-3395



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Architectural Inventory Form  
USGS Location Map



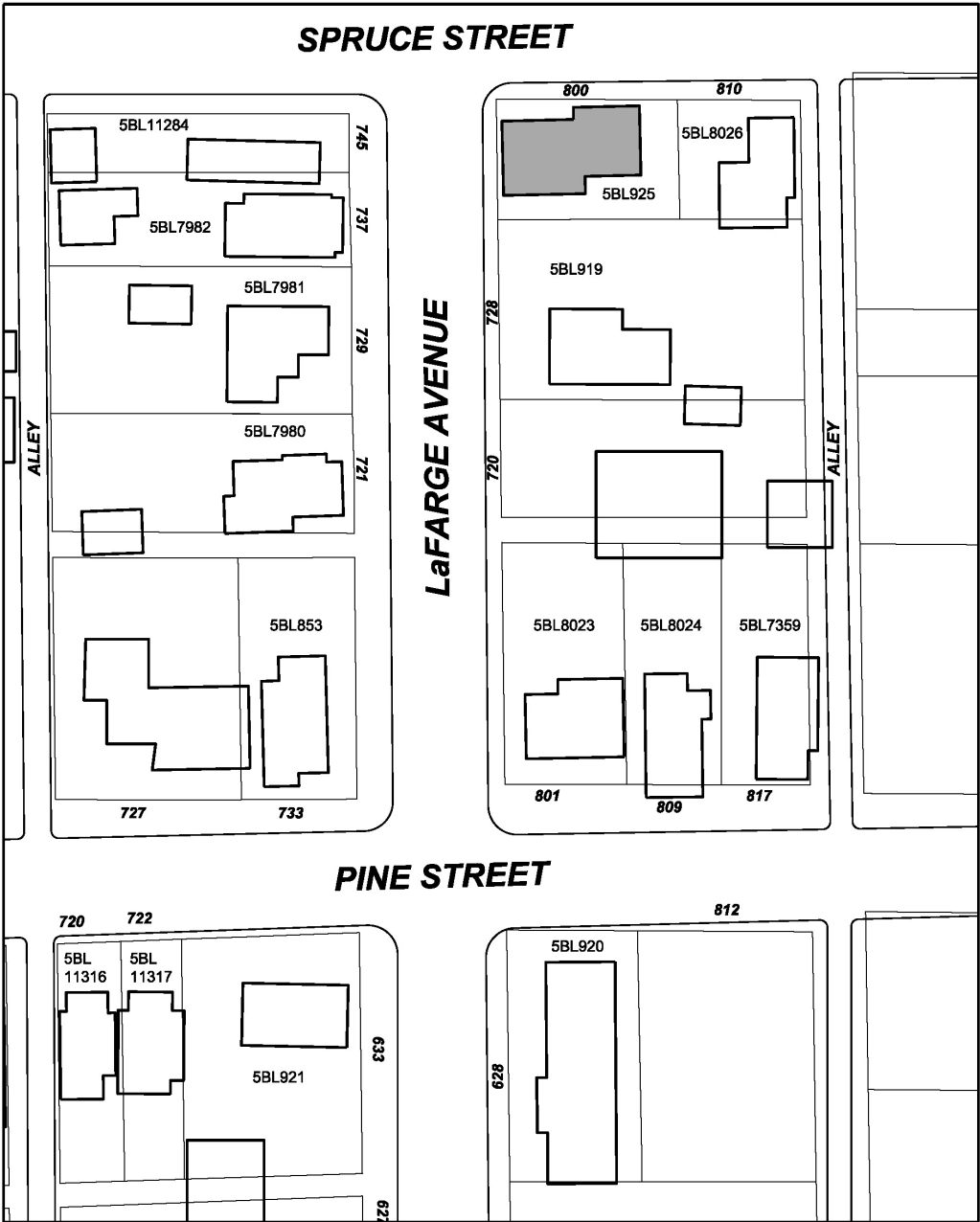
800 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: Extract of Louisville, Colorado  
USGS map, 1994.



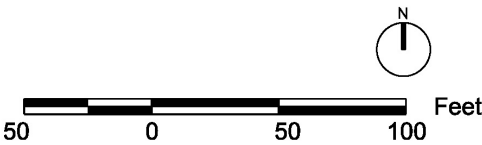
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Architectural Inventory Form  
Site Location Map



800 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado

SOURCE: City of Louisville, Colorado  
GIS Files.





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5BL925\_800Spruce\_01 North



5BL925\_800Spruce\_02 West



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5BL925\_800Spruce\_03 South



5BL925\_800Spruce\_04 East



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5BL925\_800Spruce\_05 Shed



1948 Boulder County Assessor's photo



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Ca. 1930s Aerial photo in Louisville Historical Museum 99-09-01. Looking southeast, with Spruce Street in the center of the picture. 800 Spruce is at the lower right corner.