

Amelia Brackett Hogstad

From: John Leary <Johntleary@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 9:14 PM
To: Amelia Brackett Hogstad
Subject: 916 Main Demolition Review
Attachments: Fwd_ MADONNAS discharge paper.eml

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Members of the Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing this to provide you input on the Demolition Review you will be performing for the historic 916 Main Street building. 916 Main Street gained much of its historic character as the Bugdust Pool Hall.

Three weeks ago I attended the burial of John "Bugdust" Madonna at the Louisville Cemetery. John was preceded in death by Belle, his wife of 69 years. John, a good friend and good neighbor of mine and my wife for over forty years, was 104 years old at the time of his death. I learned much about the history of Louisville from stories John told me, many of which involved his personal experiences.

Upon graduating from Louisville High School, John joined his dad in the coal mines. John was not very tall and on his first day another worker looked at him and said "What's this guy going to do? He is no bigger than bug dust." With that his lifelong nickname was born. (Bug dust was the fine material resulting from various processes in coal mining).

In 1942, John enlisted into the United States Navy. After receiving training in San Diego he was assigned to a Ship Repair Unit in Samoa. The main function of the unit was to "patch up" damaged vessels so they could make it back to the U.S. for permanent repairs. (See the attached Separation document).

After the war's end, John returned to Louisville where he constructed the Bugdust Pool Hall in the late 1940's. In those days, at least in Louisville, the term Pool Hall meant gambling hall. At this time gambling was not legal in Colorado, although it was well known that if you wanted to gamble, you either went to Denver or Louisville. For this reason, big time gamblers came to town and big time games were frequent. For the most part, the "City Fathers" of Louisville tolerated the practice. In fact, the local constable once broke up a game in City Hall. One story is that this incident cost him his job. Another example of this tolerance was John's story about the local parish priest stopping by the "Pool Hall" on Saturday nights to take up a collection for the parish.

At one time there were two "pool halls" in operation. According to John the other operation sold alcohol on the premises. This practice created frequent fights and the City finally shut it down for this reason. No alcohol was sold in the Bugdust Pool Hall, but John said there was nothing he could do about patrons going out to their cars for a drink.

In early 1953, the Bugdust Pool Hall was shut down by the Boulder County DA. Some time after this John started working in the roofing business. He eventually owned his own company and was a highly respected businessman.

The above social history is very supportive of preserving the historical character of 916 Main. Although, we may not be happy with the nature of some of our history, it is still history, and it should be treated for what it was. Yes, gambling was not legal in Louisville and still is not. Family life was likely damaged by the practice and that was tragic. We can only hope issues were worked through. Hopefully, we can learn from the past and move forward in a positive manner.

In addition, to the social history associated with the 916 Main building, you will be looking at its contribution to the historical character of the building. Taking into consideration the general purpose and function of the Design Handbook for Downtown Louisville, Colorado, preservation of this building is the “poster child” for its existence. In support of this position is the following quote from page 1 of the Handbook: “The standards and guidelines address alteration of historic structures with the understanding that a sound preservation approach is as important for a simple vernacular cottage in the commercial district as for a larger turn-of-the-century commercial building.” In other words, we should not make preservation decisions based on how big a building it is, or how it was used . All historic buildings are preservation candidates.

An important norm for historic buildings in Old Town Louisville is the protection of the street view. Demolishing the current building facade would be the antithesis of preservation. I urge you to review the following standards and guidelines in the Handbook: 1) The Standards and Guidelines for Historic Buildings, pages 55 to 59. 2) G33 dealing with windows.

In sum, please put a hold on the demolition permit for this building. Also, please do all you can to engage in discussions with Ms. Schlaetger on the historic importance of this building, and the opportunities for financial incentives should she landmark the building.

Thanks,

John Leary
1116 LaFarge Ave.

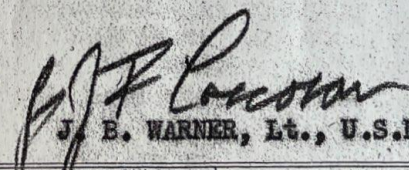
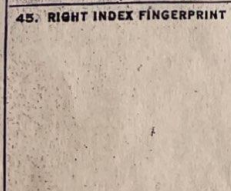
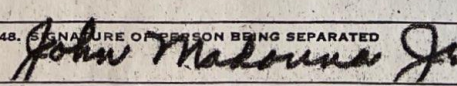
Note: My wife and I have the first privately owned landmarked house in Louisville. We landmarked it to honor our predecessors and to contribute to the historic character of our City. It was landmarked before there were any financial incentives for doing so.

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NOTICE OF SEPARATION FROM THE U. S. NAVAL SERVICE

NAVPER-553 (Rev. 8-45)

1. SERIAL OR FILE NO. 618 28 90		2. NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) Madonna, John Jr.		3. RATE AND CLASS / OR RANK AND CLASSIFICATION Machinist's Mate 1st Class V6 USNR		5. PLACE OF SEPARATION PSC NOB T1 San Pedro, Calif.	
4. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES Box 324 Louisville, Colorado Boulder County		6. CHARACTER OF SEPARATION Honorable					
7. ADDRESS FROM WHICH EMPLOYMENT WILL BE SOUGHT Same as #4		8. RACE N					
9. SEX M		10. MARITAL STATUS Married		11. U. S. CITIZEN (YES OR NO) Yes		12. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH 10-9-18 Louisville, Colorado	
13. REGISTERED ☒ YES ☐ NO		14. SELECTIVE SERVICE BOARD OF REGISTRATION Louisville, Colorado		15. HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE Box 324 Louisville, Colo.			
16. MEANS OF ENTRY (INDICATE BY CHECK IN APPROPRIATE BOX) ☒ ENLISTED ☐ INDUCTED ☐ COMMISSIONED		17. DATE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE 2-6-42		18. NET SERVICE (FOR PAY PURPOSES) (YRS. MOS. DYS) 03-07-12			
19. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE Denver, Colo.		20. QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATES HELD, ETC. None		21. RATINGS HELD A/S, F2c, F1c, MM2c, MM1c(T)		22. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE WORLD WAR II ☒ YES ☐ NO	
23. SERVICE SCHOOLS COMPLETED Local Defense		WEEKS 12		24. SERVICE (VESSELS AND STATIONS SERVED ON) VTB, San Diego, Calif. B, San Francisco, Calif. Naval Sta. Tulunila, Samos Ship Repair Unit, Navy #129 R/B, San Diego, Calif.			
IMPORTANT: IF PREMIUM IS NOT PAID WHEN DUE OR WITHIN THIRTY-ONE DAYS THEREAFTER INSURANCE WILL LAPSE. MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE TREASURER OF THE U. S. AND FORWARD TO COLLECTOR'S SUBDIVISION VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.							
25. KIND OF INSURANCE NSI		26. EFFECTIVE MONTH OF ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUANCE 10/45		27. MONTH NEXT PREMIUM DUE 11/45		28. AMOUNT OF PREMIUM DUE EACH MONTH 3.30	
29. INTENTION OF VETERAN TO CONTINUE INSURANCE Yes		30. TOTAL PAYMENT UPON DISCHARGE \$122.59		31. TRAVEL OR MILEAGE ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN PAYMENT \$7.90		32. INITIAL MUSTERING OUT \$100	
33. NAME OF DISBURSING OFFICER Lt. (Jg) G. L. Owens, (SG), USN		34. REMARKS None					
35. SIGNATURE (BY DIRECTION OF COMMANDING OFFICER)  J. B. WARNER, Lt., U.S.N.R.		36. NAME AND ADDRESS OF LAST EMPLOYER Boulder Valley Fuel Co. Louisville, Colo.					
37. DATES OF LAST EMPLOYMENT FROM: 3-1938 TO: 3-1942		38. MAIN CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D. O. T. NO. Coal Miner 5-21.010					
39. JOB PREFERENCE (LIST TYPE, LOCALITY, AND GENERAL AREA) Undecided		40. PREFERENCE FOR ADDITIONAL TRAINING (TYPE OF TRAINING) None					
41. NON-SERVICE EDUCATION (YEARS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED) GRAM.: 8 H. S.: 4 COLL.: 0		42. DEGREES H.S.		43. MAJOR COURSE OR FIELD Academic			
44. VOCATIONAL OR TRADE COURSES (NATURE AND LENGTH OF COURSE) None		45. RIGHT INDEX FINGERPRINT 					
46. OFF DUTY EDUCATIONAL COURSES COMPLETED None		47. DATE OF SEPARATION 10-0-45					
48. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED 		49. TO: BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL					

