

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



655

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Robidoux, M. J. Lavina, House  
other names/site number Robidoux-Muldoon House / 5AM.344

### 2. Location

street & number 1615 Galena Street

N/A	not for publication
N/A	vicinity

  
city or town Aurora  
state Colorado code CO county Adams code 001 zip code 80010

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 6/10/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain):

[Signature] 9.15.11  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic/Single Dwelling  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)  
Late 19th & Early 20th Century  
American Movements/ Bungalow/Craftsman  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)  
 foundation: Concrete  
 walls: Brick  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 roof: Asphalt  
 other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1913, the Robidoux House is a one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled brick bungalow and is an excellent example of the Craftsman architectural style. The exterior is finished with decorative brickwork and an asphalt shingled roof. Four brick columns support a prominent front-gabled porch projecting on the main façade. The two exterior columns feature battered (or sloping) sides. Herringbone and patterned brickwork framing a pair of rectangular windows at the front gable above the porch provides a decorative architectural element. The interior of the house reflects the Craftsman influence in the quarter-sawn oak woodwork and built-in cabinetry. The house is on Galena Street, originally Hathaway Street, the first street constructed by developer and founder of Aurora, Colorado, Donald Fletcher. Fronted by a narrow boulevard, the front yard of the house has been professionally landscaped with the original wrought-iron fence still present and in good condition. An alleyway borders the rear of the property. The property is in excellent condition and retains a high level of architectural integrity.

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### Narrative Description

Mary Jane Lavina Girard Robidoux, the widow of Albert Robidoux, a successful wheat farmer and rancher from Kansas, commissioned the construction of the house at 1615 Galena Street in 1913. Mrs. Robidoux moved to Aurora, Colorado, following her husband's untimely death in 1912. Mrs. Robidoux had adequate financial resources and invested in the design and construction of one of the finest Craftsman-style brick bungalows in Aurora. It is no surprise Mrs. Robidoux wanted her new home to be located on Aurora's most affluent street: "Silk Stocking Row" as it was referred. According to the *Aurora Democrat* dated October 3, 1913, the Robidoux House was "finest house yet erected in Aurora."

This house is a single detached, one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled brick Craftsman-style bungalow with a full-width front porch extending below a front-gabled projection, which creates the cross gable, with the main section of the house displaying a rectangular plan. Most of the windows are divided-light leaded-glass transomed windows, with a few square single pane windows, and two multiple pane windows on the rear dormer. All of the windows have rusticated stone sills and all are original.

**Setting/Landscaping:** The Robidoux House is located on the east side of a double city block with the main façade facing east toward the street. On the west side of the block is an elementary school, with an alleyway backing directly to the property's west boundary. To the south and north of the house are private residences. Large north and south side yards of the property contain elaborate xeriscaped gardens. A large wooden flagpole, dating to circa 1913 – 1929, stands in the small garden area on the south side of the house. A contemporary pergola is located in the backyard on the south lawn. Large timbers that closely resemble the scale of the knee braces at the overhanging eaves on the house create the Craftsman-style pergola. Of particular note is the original exterior wrought-iron fence at the front and side yards designed in an alternating long/short picket along three separate horizontal rails positioned at low, mid, and high points of the pickets. The picket finials are a decorative ball tip design. The backyard of the house consists of grass lawn and miscellaneous landscape plants.

#### House, 1913

**East-facing façade:** The walkway to the east-facing main entrance is accessed through the original wrought-iron gate set into the original wrought-iron fence, which is anchored into a concrete retaining wall and extends the length of the property from north to south. The front walkway leads to the porch up four stone steps flanked by short brick sidewalls capped with rusticated stone. The porch is set back under the deep front

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gable end of the house and runs the length of the main façade. Four brick columns support this front gable; two battered columns are positioned at the outer corners of the porch, and two straight square columns flank the entry stairs at the center of the east elevation creating a clearly defined main entry. Rusticated square stone capitals top these four brick columns. A small arched niche with a rusticated stone sill punctuates the two battered columns at mid-height. The first ten courses of the foundation are dark brown brick while the bricks above are speckled beige. Keeping with the brickwork pattern of the main house, a low brick wall topped with a rusticated stone cap encloses the front porch. A leaded-glass sidelight window sits on either side of the main entry door. The sidelights have a high wood base and upper divided-light glazing. Two large divided-light leaded-glass transomed windows are located on either side of the main entry door. A wide dark-colored horizontal cornice piece anchors the front porch gable. The gable-face detailing consists of beige brickwork set in a herringbone or chevron pattern. Two small, rectangular side-by-side windows are centrally located in the gable end and surrounded by an elaborate pattern of alternating light and dark brickwork. Radiating voussoirs in alternating light and dark brick top the two windows. A light-colored, angled rowlock emphasizes the area directly above and below these two small windows. A plain bargeboard, deep eaves and knee braces are included in the gable-face architectural detailing. The main roof is side-gabled, shingled and has deep eaves with decorative knee braces.

**South-facing side:** The south side of the front porch extension has a large divided-light window from porch wall to porch ceiling providing protection from the elements. The south side of the house continues the two-toned brick pattern of the front elevation. A tall, brick stepped-back chimney penetrates the roof at the front southeast section. A second chimney extends from the southwestern section of this side. The same dark brown foundation brick is used on the exterior of both chimneys; the easternmost chimney serves a fireplace in the living room, the westernmost chimney once served as a fireplace or stove in the kitchen. Two small, square stained glass casement windows, located at the height of the horizontal step in the chimney, flank the easternmost chimney. The pattern of the stained glass is the Robidoux family coat-of-arms. These windows were designed and installed with the centered letter "R" facing the exterior. The two chimneys flank a prominent bay window. A shed roof, supported by triangular braces, covers the bay with a long narrow transomed window on each section of the bay. A large transomed window that serves the kitchen appears west of the bay. Six tie-rod anchors in a fleur-de-lis pattern are present on the face of this elevation. All wood trim around the exterior doors and windows on the house is painted a brown color, contrasting from the light color of the brickwork.

**West-facing side:** Dominant on this side is the original enclosed back porch, which extends nearly the entire width of the west-facing side. The porch is the only portion of the exterior not covered with brick veneer. Vertical wood siding painted dark brown covers this section. The porch enclosure has small, square windows equally spaced and located directly below the deep roof eave. Entry to the porch is through a doorway on the south side. A hipped roof that connects with the edge of the gabled roof at a central front-gabled dormer tops the porch. A contemporary air conditioning unit sits in the window of the dormer and with two metal legs supporting the unit at the porch roof. Several vent stacks penetrate the roof at the west end. Three vine-type plants grow vertically on wire trellises from the eaves down to a concrete walkway spanning the length of the house. To the north of the porch a narrow divided-light leaded-glass transomed window appears.

**North-facing side:** The north-facing side of the house continues the two-toned brick pattern of the front elevation with the first ten courses of dark brown brick and beige colored bricks continuing above for the main story and upper story. Four transomed leaded-glass windows punctuate the north side with three first-floor windows and one upper story window of similar design. Six tie-rod anchors in a fleur-de-lis pattern are present where the upper story meets the lower story. As with the other sides, deep eaves with decorative knee braces are present. The north side of the front porch extension has a large divided-light window from porch wall to porch ceiling, providing protection from the elements.

**Interior detail:** Interior architectural details of note include: the original floor plan, original quarter-sawn oak woodwork throughout the house for door and window trim and built-in casework; the original double-L

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staircase with detailed newel posts, turned balusters and a built-in settle; oak hardwood floors; original brass window hardware including curtain rods; brass casement hardware; and original light fixtures. The back porch retains its original weighted-sash windows that opened "like car windows" as noted in the *Aurora Democrat* in 1913. Original light fixtures, some wall switches, and casement hardware remain as originally installed. The hanging lantern fixture in the foyer was removed, cleaned, rewired and reinstalled.

Living room interior details include an Arts and Crafts-style fireplace with mirrored overmantel and wood Tuscan columns flanking the original ceramic tile fireplace surround and hearth, leaded-glass windows, and two stained glass windows depicting the Robidoux coat-of-arms. A pair of built-in bookcases with original leaded-glass doors, pilasters and Ionic columns supports a large exposed oak ceiling beam that divides the living room and dining room. The ceilings in both the living room and the adjacent dining room have original exposed oak beams in a typical geometric Craftsman pattern. The dining room boasts a beautiful built-in hutch and quarter-sawn oak picture rail. John Carlson, a Norwegian immigrant, was a highly skilled and meticulous craftsman who fashioned most of the quarter-sawn oak features. He returned to the house periodically to check whether any touch-ups to his work were needed. The original light fixture is still present above the dining room table. Walls throughout the house are original smooth-finished plaster over wood lath.

The kitchen was remodeled for contemporary use, but the historic pantry and original cupboard remain intact and are now located on the enclosed back porch. According to the present owner, the original floor plan of the kitchen area was not altered during the kitchen remodel in 2008.

**Integrity:** With the original interior floor plan, trim, hardware, built-ins, and other features detailed above along with the original, unaltered exterior, the house has a high degree of integrity in the areas of setting, location, association, feeling, design, workmanship, and materials.

## **Fences and gates – contributing structures**

### **Garden Loop Wire Fence and Gate, circa 1913**

The original garden loop, wire fence surrounds much of the backyard. The fence, at a height of approximately 4', runs from the back entrance door on the south side to the south property boundary. The original garden loop, wire gate, is located on the northern most section of the fence, east of the back entrance and allows access to the backyard. North of the house, the fence extends from the house to the north boundary with the original double gate. The fence continues around much of the backyard. The owner built a cedar privacy fence just outside of the historic garden loop fence within the last twenty years, with the exception of the south side where the historic fence is on the outside of the new fence.

### **Wrought-iron Fence and Gate, circa 1913**

Extending from the front walkway to mid-way on both sides of the property is the original wrought-iron fence. Designed in an alternating long/short picket fashion it has three separate horizontal rails positioned at low, mid, and high points of the pickets, and contains picket finials in a decorative ball tip design at the top. Centered at the front of the fence, at the concrete sidewalk accessing the house, is the original wrought-iron gate. Sequential scrolls exist at the bottom area of the gate. Matching the pattern of the fence, picket finials occupy the middle section of the gate and a scroll design, creating a center point scroll, appears at the top of the gate.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1913  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1913  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)** The period of significance is 1913, the date of construction.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)** N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The M. J. Lavina Robidoux House is significant under **Criterion C** for its *architecture* at the local level as an excellent and well-preserved example of the Craftsman style. The city of Aurora, Colorado, has very few examples of Craftsman brick bungalows, making this house particularly significant. Representative of the Craftsman architectural style, the one-and-a-half-story Robidoux House has a cross-gabled roof with full-width front porch supported by massive columns, large triangular knee braces supporting broad eaves, decorative exterior brickwork patterning, and original leaded-glass and stained-glass windows. Character-defining architectural features on the prominent front porch include chevron-patterned brickwork at the gable end, and original gable-end windows with elaborate brick surrounds of alternating light and dark brickwork. The two gable-end windows are topped with radiating voussoirs in alternating light and dark brick. The 1,630-square-foot Robidoux House is remarkable for its use of decorative exterior brickwork, custom-made stained glass windows, and interior quarter-sawn oak built-in furnishings and detailed wood trim. Most notably, the house retains all of its original light fixtures, brass hardware, windows, and original exterior wrought-iron fencing. The house sits on its original lot and retains its high degree of architectural integrity as demonstrated by the lack of changes or alterations over time.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### Architecture

This house is a single detached, one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled brick Craftsman-style bungalow with a full-width front porch extending below a front-gabled projection, which creates the cross gable, with the main section of the house displaying a rectangular plan. According to *A Field Guide to American Houses*, by Virginia and Lee McAlester, there are five main identifying features of this architectural type: low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs; decorative beams or braces under the gables; full or partial porches with roofs supported by square tapered columns; and columns or pedestals that extend to the ground level without a break at the porch level. The Robidoux House exemplifies this architectural style with a low-pitched gabled roof with wide eaves, decorative knee braces under the eaves, and a full-width porch supported by battered columns. The Robidoux House is constructed in the cross-gabled subtype. According to the McAlesters, one quarter of Craftsman-style houses make up this subtype which are typically one-and-a-half to two stories with a full- or partial-width front-gabled porch, its roof forming the cross gable. The Craftsman style employs varied architectural details on the exterior that may include columns supporting the porch roof sometimes resting on massive piers or upon a solid porch balustrade. Two outer battered columns that extend from ground level to the horizontal cornice and two square straight brick columns that extend from ground level to the horizontal cornice, support the Robidoux House porch roof. A solid brick wall creates the balustrade on the sides and front of the porch. The windows in Craftsman style houses are often transomed, as is the case with the Robidoux House.

The architectural style of the Robidoux House exemplifies the change from Victorian architecture to the Arts and Crafts styles most commonly represented by the Craftsman bungalow. As explained in *The Elements of Style*, the Arts and Crafts movement from 1860 to 1925 responded to the grim industrialization of the nineteenth century by creating "new and more beautiful environments in which people might live and delight in fine craftsmanship wrought with intrinsically attractive building materials" (Stephen Calloway, ed. and Elizabeth Cromley, ed., *The Elements of Style*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 1991, p. 306).

Gustav Stickley, preeminent furniture maker in the Arts and Crafts movement, explained that Craftsman houses were typically designed with low, broad proportions and little ornamentation so that they would blend in with their environment. Perhaps most characteristic of the shift from ornate Victorian detail to the artistic

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simplicity of the Arts and Crafts movement as reflected in bungalow design is the attention to hand-crafted detail and natural materials left as close as possible to their natural state. In his book, *American Bungalow Style*, Robert Winter wrote, "The bungalow was practical, and it symbolized for many the best of the good life" (Robert Winter. *American Bungalow Style*, Simon & Schuster: New York, NY. 1996, p. 9).

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

The Robidoux House at 1615 Galena Street is in Aurora, Colorado, a city of 315,000 people located east of Denver. Originally named Fletcher after its founder, Donald Fletcher, in 1891, Aurora began as a four square-mile suburb of Denver, located approximately six miles east of the heart of Denver. Fletcher came to Denver in 1879, from Coburg, Canada, by way of Chicago. He began a career in real estate and was very successful. Along with other speculators, he bought land east of Denver and between 1890 and 1892 began building two-story brick homes along Hathaway Street (now Galena Street) down which he ran a water line. At that time, it was mainly a rural community with farms, cattle ranches and dairies. Some sources speculated the town changed its name to Aurora in 1907 as prompted by a desire of citizens to disassociate with the name Fletcher in the wake of complicated real estate deals and unfinished projects left behind by a quickly fleeing Fletcher in the late 1890s.

The early residents of Aurora escaped the busy polluted streets of Denver in favor of fresh air and comfortable rural living. In 1892, the town of Fletcher claimed thirty-nine citizens, the beginnings of a water system, and fourteen new brick homes on Galena Street, or Hathaway Street as it was originally named. The original Fletcher houses, designed in the popular gabled Queen Anne style of the last decades of the nineteenth century, boasted indoor bathrooms and running water in the kitchens. By 1926, Galena Street was the only well-developed street in Aurora. Growth and development of Aurora exploded with the construction in 1918 of U.S. Army General Hospital No. 21, Lowry Air Force Base in 1937, and Buckley Air Force Base in 1943. This military presence helped grow the economy of Aurora. It was after World War II that the population of Aurora really boomed, making it the third largest city in Colorado today.

Most of the original Fletcher houses were built on several lots, allowing owners to have horses, cows, chickens, a garden, and fruit trees. As lifestyles changed, some of the extra lots were sold. By 1926, quite a number of substantial brick and frame homes filled in the blocks and Galena became the only well-developed street in Aurora. As Elizabeth Johnson and Bobbie McClure noted in the *Historic Fletcher Walking Tour-Galena Street*, one early Aurora resident recalled, "Galena was one of our show streets of fine homes" (Johnson and McClure: p. 10).

The Robidoux House is an example of one of these infill houses constructed between 1891 and 1926. According to public record, the original owner of the house, Mary Jane Lavina Girard Robidoux, was the widow of Albert, a wealthy wheat farmer and rancher from western Kansas. After Albert's death in 1912, she headed to Denver and purchased four lots to build a \$3,500 bungalow that would be modern throughout with six rooms and hardwood finishes. According to the *Aurora Democrat* dated October 3, 1913:

The house of Mrs. Albert Robidoux on Galena street [sic] is nearing completion, it being the finest house yet erected in Aurora. It is constructed of the best brick and is as modern as it is possible to make it. It is finished in quarter-sawed oak throughout, and has one of the most beautiful buffets we have ever seen. The house has leaded-glass windows, two having the Robidoux coat-of-arms, full basement with hot water heat and solid brass hardware throughout. The back porch ...has an [sic] unique feature, the windows operating like car windows with



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weights. The interior walls will be painted, the woodwork having a golden oak finish, and the stairway alone costing over \$200. It is a most desirable improvement and adds much to Galena street.

The Historic Building Inventory Record on file with History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation states, "This house is a fine example of the Bungalow style of architecture, and is in excellent condition. The architectural details are more elaborate than commonly found in Aurora, and represent the work of a master builder." There have only been four families including Mrs. Robidoux, who have resided at 1615 Galena Street and much still remains of the original house. Mrs. Robidoux died in her home in June 1929. She left the house to St. Clara's Orphanage as a memorial to her late husband Albert. The rest of her estate was split up between nieces, nephews, and surviving siblings. St. Clara's Orphanage sold the house to the Cornelius Muldoon family in 1930. The Muldoons lovingly cared for the woodwork for over 60 years (from 1930 to 1996). It was said that the matriarch of the family, Clare Muldoon, never allowed anything other than cheesecloth to be used for dusting. In the 1940s, this house had the highest assessed value of any residence in Aurora.

Albert Robidoux, was born in St. Remy, Quebec, Canada, on May 19, 1857. He came to Wallace, Kansas, shortly after his brother Peter arrived. He initially worked as a saloonkeeper, then a rancher. He married Mary Jane Lavina Girard on January 7, 1887. The wedding announcement appeared in *The Wallace County Register* on January 15, 1887, and stated "Wedding Bells – Married, Jan. 7, 1887, at Denver, Colorado....The happy young couple returned from their wedding trip to Denver on Sunday night and stopped for a few days with the family of Peter Robidoux in Wallace. They will shortly take up their residence at the Robidoux ranch in the northeast part of the county, whither The Register follows them with best wishes and gratulations [sic]." In the 1880 census, Albert Robdioux's recorded occupation was saloonkeeper, in 1895, it was farmer, in 1900, a ranchman, and by 1910, he worked in the stockman industry. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States on April 14, 1891. The *Standard Atlas of Wallace County Kansas 1908*, featured photographs of Albert and Lavina and showed the location of their homestead in the northeast part of Wallace county.

After his death from suicide on May 19, 1912, articles appearing in *The Oakley Graphic*, *The Western Times* and *The Goodland Republic*, described Robidoux as a well-known ranchman owning one of the largest ranches in western Kansas. It indicated he was a jovial, good-natured man and had many friends. The obituary in *The Western Times* of May 24, 1912, described him this way, "Mr. Robidoux was among the earliest settlers of this county and accumulated considerable wealth in rise in land prices, etc. Thus, one by one, death removes the pioneers who first made homes here." Robidoux suffered a stroke a year and a half earlier and it resulted in paralysis in his arm. He traveled to find the best physicians but became more despondent over his condition. According to reports in the *Goodland Republic* in 1912, he had let it be known that, "when he was no longer able to attend to business, he would fix things so he would no longer have no business to attend to." He committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn. He and his wife were out doing the milking when he made an excuse to go into the barn. When he did not come back after about fifteen minutes, Lavina went to look for him and found him hanging from a rope tied to a rafter. She immediately got him down, but it was too late. Lavina brought the rope with which he hung himself from town because he told he told her he needed it for halter ties.

Mary Jane Lavina Girard was born in Quebec, Canada, in 1866, to parents who hailed from Ireland, according to the 1910 census. She immigrated to Gopher, Kansas, in 1886, and married Albert Robidoux in 1887. They had no children. Upon Albert's death in 1912, there was nothing keeping her in Wallace, Kansas or on their ranch. The town was dying and perhaps due to the shame of her husband's suicide, she decided to move to Denver where she and her husband married. She sold the estate in Wallace County and used the money to build the Robidoux house in Aurora on Galena Street. Not much is known of her life after she moved to the

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Denver area, but the home she built in 1913 is still lived in today. Lavina died in her home in June 1929, with personal property worth about \$40,000.

St. Clara's Orphanage sold the house to the Cornelius Muldoon family in 1930. Mr. Muldoon became sick in World War I from mustard gas and sought medical help as a disabled veteran from the Fitzsimons Army Hospital in Aurora. The Muldoons had two young sons who still live in the neighborhood today, Neil and Felix. They tell stories about how their mother was so grateful to have the lovely home that she took great care of it and would not allow them to scuff any of the woodwork. During the Depression, their mother served bread and soup out of the back porch to men passing through from the railway station looking for work. Mrs. Muldoon passed away in 1984, after which a family member moved in and lived in the house until 1996. The family sold it to non-family members at this time. In 2007, the current owners bought the house and completed some minor restoration of the wood floors and staircase damaged over the years. They also remodeled the kitchen to modernize it, but saved the old sink, which is kept in the basement along with what appears to be the original stove and clothes washing machine. A large kitchen buffet moved to the back porch is still used today.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Architectural Inventory Record, Borland House, 610 North Jefferson Avenue, Loveland, Colorado (5LR.6125). Prepared by Carl McWilliams, Cultural Resource Historians, Fort Collins, Colorado, February 20, 2004. On file at History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.

Architectural Inventory Record, Muldoon House, 1615 Galena Street, Aurora, Colorado (5AM.344). Prepared by Cathleen Norman, Preservation Publishing, March 4, 2004, for the City of Aurora. On file at History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.

Architectural Inventory Record, Swanson, Gustav and Annie, Farm (5LT.1714). Prepared by Ron Sladek, Tatanka Historical Associates, Fort Collins, Colorado, May 25, 2005. On file at History Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Denver, Colorado.

*Ancestry.com*. Search for Clare Muldoon, Aurora, CO, found in the social security death index. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Accessed November 15, 2010.

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Robidoux, M. J. Lavina, House

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: History Colorado

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than one acre  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References (NAD 27)**  
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

The UTMS were derived by OAHP from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U. S. Bureau of Land Management.

1 13 5 11 223 43 98 944  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Lots 27-30 of Block 45, Aurora Subdivision, platted 1889, in the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 34, range 67 west, township 3 south of the 6<sup>th</sup> principal meridian, city of Aurora, county of Adams, state of Colorado, further described as 1615 Galena Street.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

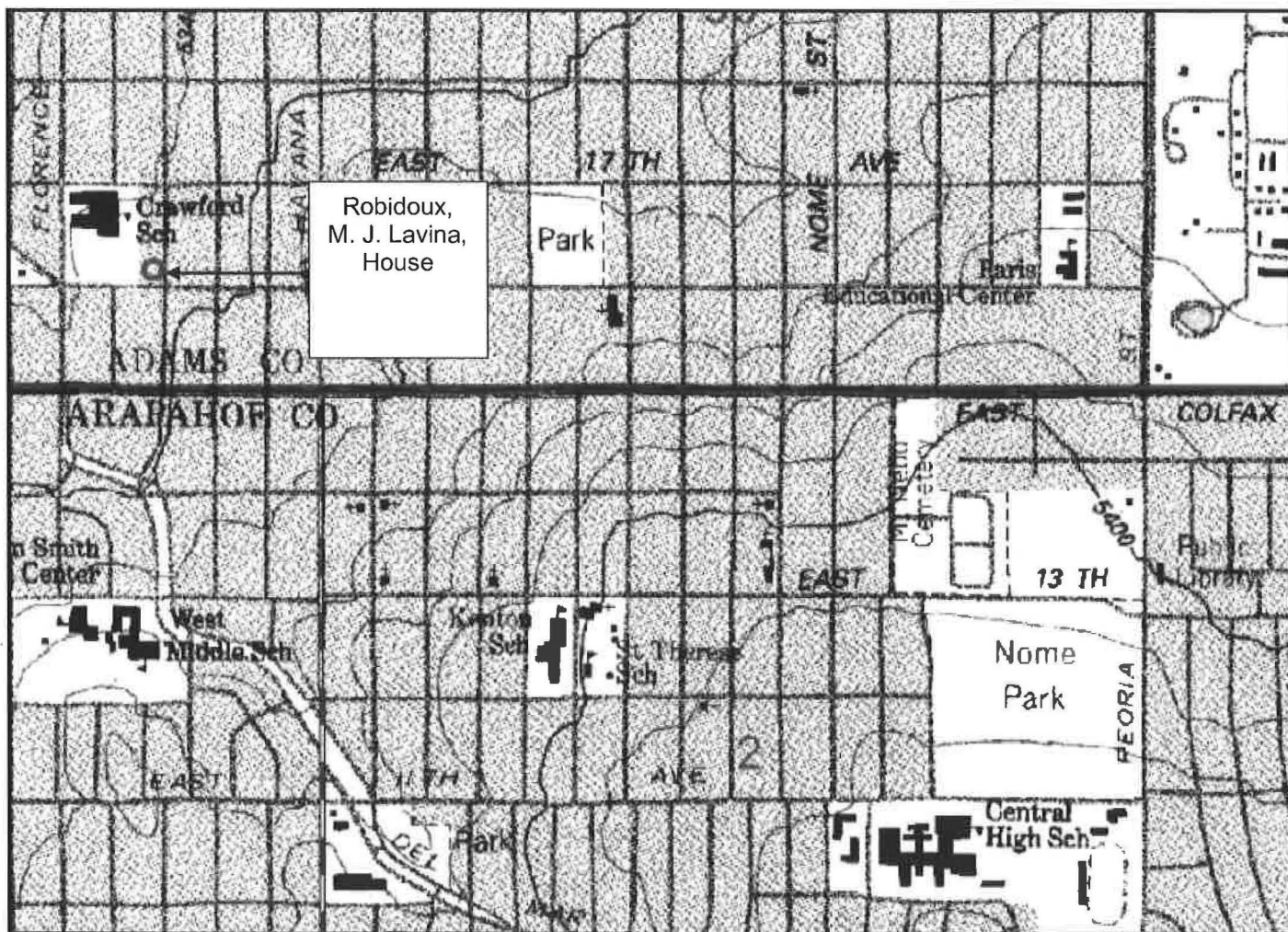
The nominated property includes the parcel of land historically associated with the house.

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**USGS Topographic Map:**  
Fitzsimmons 7.5 minute quadrangle

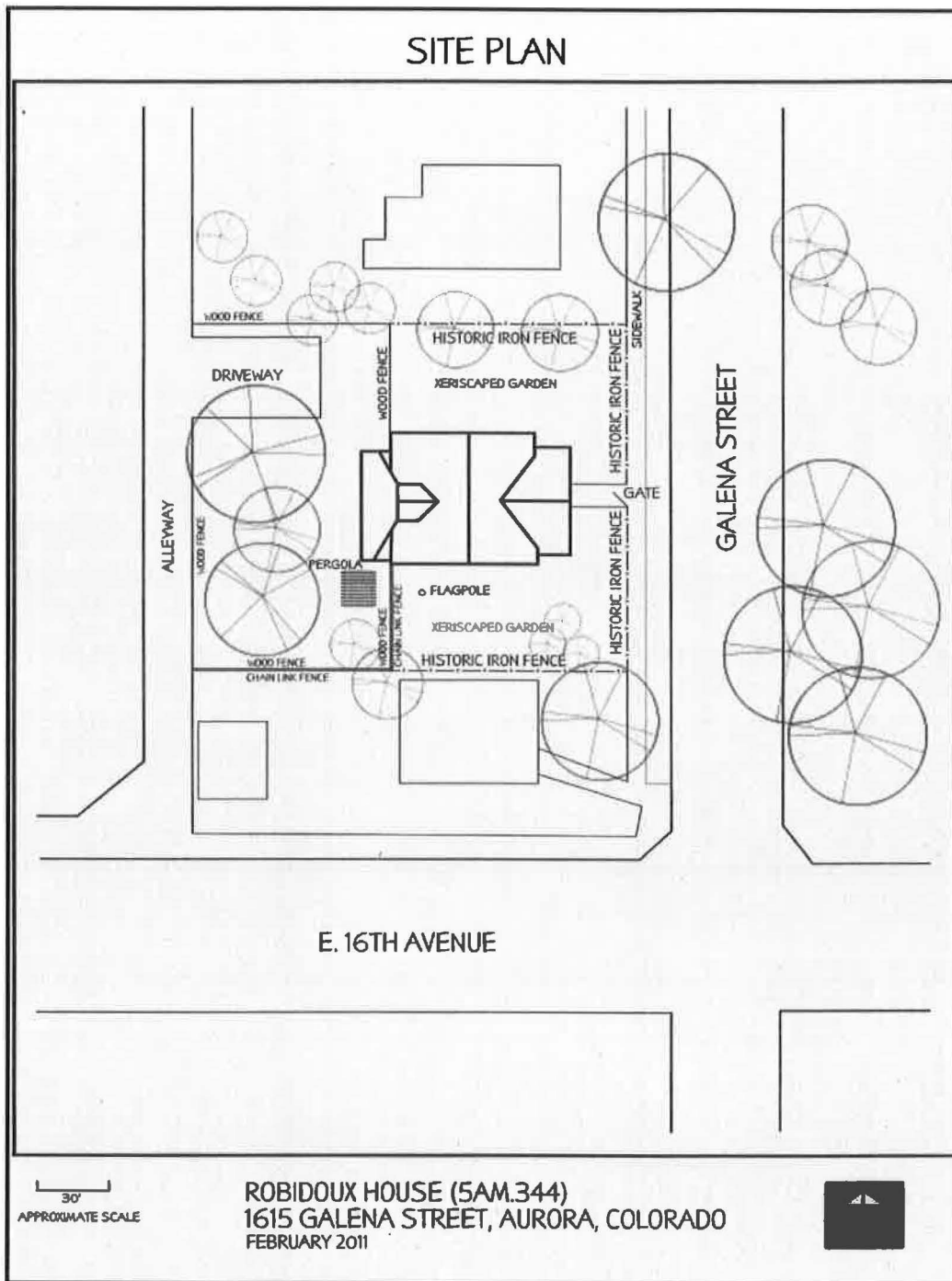
**Elevation:** 5350 feet



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Site Plan



Site plan drawn by preparer

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Jeanne Ramsay, Historic Preservation Coordinator (for property owner)  
organization City of Aurora, Historic Sites and Preservation date 2/22/11  
street & number 15051 E. Alameda Parkway telephone 303.739.6661  
city or town Aurora state CO zip code 80012  
e-mail jramsay@auroragov.org

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Robidoux, M. J. Lavina, House  
City or Vicinity: Aurora  
County: Adams State: Colorado  
Photographer: Jeanne Ramsay  
Date Photographed: January 27, 2011

**Photo No.**                      **Photographic Information**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | Exterior view – east facing façade, camera facing west  |
| 2  | Exterior view – south and east sides, camera facing northeast   |
| 3  | Exterior view – east and north sides, camera facing southeast   |
| 4  | Exterior view – wrought-iron fence detail, camera facing southwest                                      |
| 5  | Exterior view – west side, camera facing east   |
| 6  | Exterior view – wrought-iron fence detail, camera facing west   |
| 7  | Interior view – from foyer looking into living room at south wall, camera facing south                  |
| 8  | Interior view – detail of column at foyer, camera facing southeast                                      |
| 9  | Interior view – fireplace in living room, south wall, camera facing south                               |
| 10 | Interior view – from foyer looking at double-L stairway, camera facing northwest                        |
| 11 | Interior view – detail newel post at stairway, camera facing north                                      |
| 12 | Interior view – detail of original lantern in stairway, camera facing east                              |
| 13 | Interior view – detail of stained glass window opened to living room, camera facing south               |
| 14 | Interior view – detail of built-in bookcase in living room looking into dining room, camera facing west |
| 15 | Interior view – detail of built-in buffet in dining room, camera facing southwest                       |
| 16 | Interior view – detail of original dining room light fixture, camera facing northwest                   |
| 17 | Interior view – detail of original kitchen cupboard now on back porch, camera facing northeast          |



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**Historic Images – All images are courtesy of the Muldoon Family Collection, Aurora, Colorado**

<u>Figure No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Brothers Neil and Felix Muldoon, ca. 1933, in front of original fence still intact
2	Muldoon family, 1935.
3	Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Muldoon. South side of house, ca. 1940.
4	Muldoon family, ca. 1944.
5	Muldoon family, 1965.

**Historic Photographs**

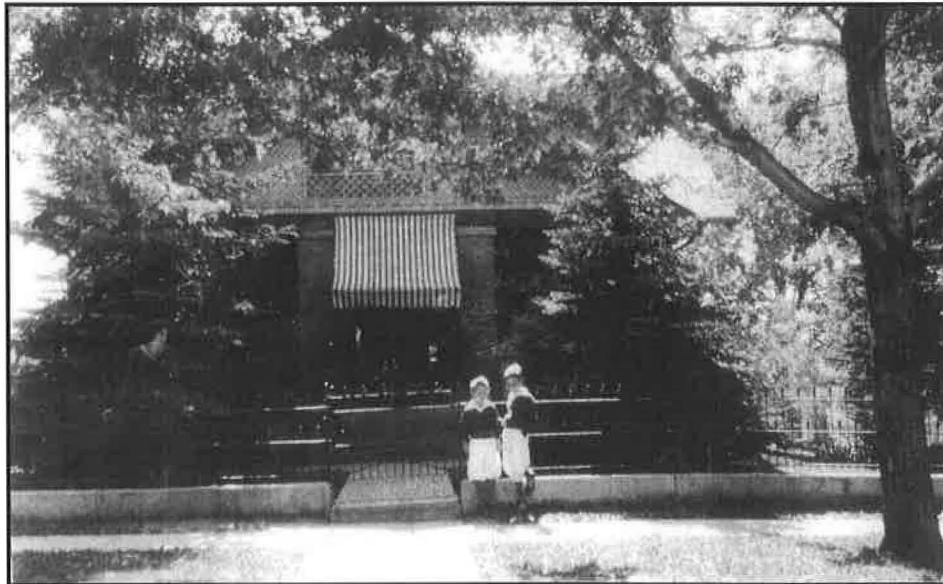


Figure 1

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Figure 2



Figure 3

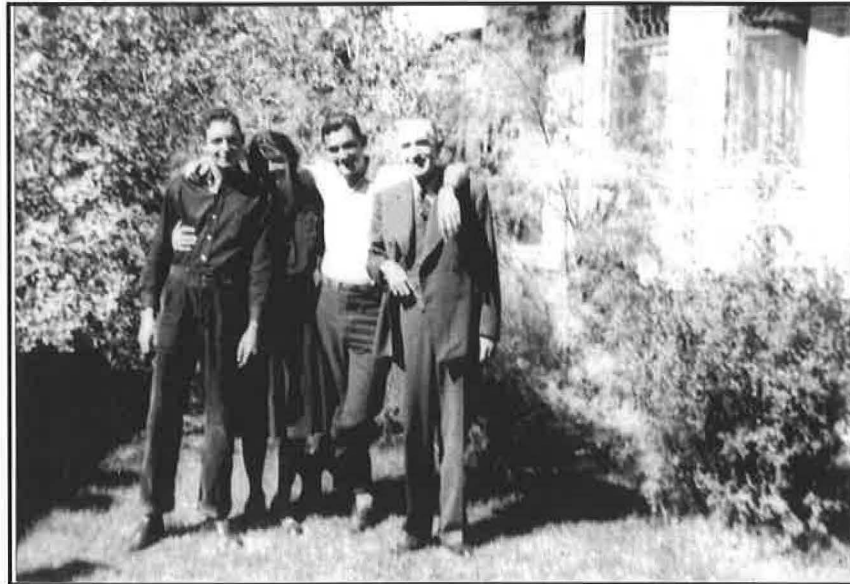


Figure 4

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Figure 5

























