



Littleton Area Historical Museum
6028 South Gallup
Littleton, Colorado 80120

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD AND EVALUATION

Building: Columbine Mill

Location: 5798 S. Rapp Street
Littleton, CO 80120

Vicinity: City of Littleton
Planning District: City of Littleton
Present Zoning: Central Area
Lot and Block Number: Lot 012 Block 011
Subdivision: Littleton
Assessor's Schedule Number: 2720

Date or Period: 1901
Style: Vernacular Industrial
Architect: Unknown
Builder: C.O. Napper, Great Falls, MT
Evaluation:

Original Owner: Columbine Mercantile Co.
Original Use: Grain Mill

Present Owner: Leo Lech and Pasquale Girolamo
Present Use: Brewery/Restaurant

Physical Condition of Structure: Fair

Exterior: Needs painting, new roof, window repair, foundation repair

Interior: Requires remodeling of restaurant/bar area

Number of Stories: Main level plus basement and tower

Number of Rooms: Six

Construction: Wooden post and beam

Foundation: Concrete

Exterior Wall: Wood frame with corrugated metal panels

Roof: Tower: Rolled asphalt; Main level: Bituminous membrane

Interior finish: Post and beam remodeled to restaurant use. (Seating area, bar, kitchen)

Map Reference:

Comments (additions, modifications, restoration):

The main level/basement, tower, and rear mechanical storage areas were part of the original grain mill construction. The structure was converted to restaurant use in 1975. The interior main level was remodeled. A front entry vestibule and parking attendant shed matching the rest of the building were added. Interior remodeling included restaurant seating, kitchen, and bar area. The grain elevator and other pieces of mill equipment are included as part of the restaurant decor. No modifications were made to the tower area other than placement of sign. The basement was remodeled to include food preparation and cold storage. Much of the mill equipment remains in the basement. The rear mechanical storage area was closed off and an air conditioning unit mounted on the roof.

The new owners historic preservation plans for the exterior are to restore the building as close as possible to its original appearance. The tower and main level metal panels and wood trim will be repaired/painted. The tower will also be repaired/repainted. The tower roof shall be replaced with corrugated metal which is shown to be the original roofing material shown in a photo taken in 1927. The old restaurant sign will be removed and replaced with signage redesignating the building as the Columbine Mill. The air conditioning unit will be moved inside the mechanical storage area out of sight and the storage area shall be repaired and repainted to its original condition.

Notable Features, Historical Significance and Description:

The 81 foot tower is the tallest structure in Downtown Littleton and visible for miles in every direction. Much of the old mill equipment remains and has been blended into the decor of the main level restaurant area. This building stands as one of the last remnants of the agricultural origins of the City of Littleton. Its 1901 construction is typical of construction techniques used for industrial buildings of that era. The wood post and beam technique used is clearly visible inside of the building. The building still contains an operational grain elevator and scales. Restoration and preservation of this landmark building will serve as a constant reminder of the agricultural roots of Littleton and the South Platte River Valley.