

**FORM A**
**Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark**

Please Type or Print Legibly

*One property only per Application Form.*
*If more than one Applicant, please attach additional sheet.*

| <b>APPLICANT(S) INFORMATION</b>             |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Owner of Proposed Landmark Property:</b> | Loveland Historical Society   |
| <b>Applicant:</b>                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> City Council (attach meeting minutes initiating action)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commission Designees (pursuant to 15.56.169)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic Preservation Commission (attach meeting minutes initiating action)<br><br><i>Please check one.</i> |
| <b>Address:</b>                             |   |
| <b>Telephone:</b>                           | MIKE PERRY 7440453 - BILL MEIRATH 6698049   |

| <b>PROPOSED LANDMARK INFORMATION</b>                                  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Property Name:</b>   |   |
| <b>Address:</b>   | Namaqua Avenue and Namaqua Elementary   |
| <b>Historic Use:</b>  | Burials   |
| <b>Current and Proposed Use</b>                                       | Open Field.<br>Preservation and History Park  |
| <b>Legal Description</b>  | <i>Please attach copy of officially recorded document containing a legal description.</i> |
| <b>Brief Description of Historical Qualities relating to Property</b> | <i>Please attach additional sheets if necessary.</i><br>1864 Catholic Cemetery            |



# FORM A

## Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>DETAILED PROPERTY INFORMATION</b>                      |   |
| <b>Historic Property Name:</b>                            | Mariano Medina's Family Cemetery  |
| <b>Current Property Name:</b>                             | MARIANNA Butte 25 <sup>th</sup> Subdivision   |
| <b>Address:</b>   | Namaqua Avenue and Namaqua Elementary   |
| <b>Legal Description</b>                                  | <i>Please attach copy of officially recorded document containing a legal description.</i>   |
| <b>Owner Name &amp; Address:</b>                          |   |
| <b>Style:</b>   |   |
| <b>Building Materials:</b>                                | Stone   |
| <b>Additions to main structure(s), and year(s) built.</b> |   |
| <b>Is the structure(s) on its original site?</b>          | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If No, Date Moved _____ |
| <b>What is the historic use of the property?</b>          | Burials   |
| <b>What is the present use of the property?</b>           | Open Field  |
| <b>What is the date of construction?</b>                  | Estimated: _____ Actual: 1864 Original: _____<br>Source:                                    |

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Doc: 2



# FORM A

## Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p align="center"><b>DETAILED<br/>PROPERTY<br/>INFORMATION</b><br/>continued</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Describe the condition of the property.</b></p>   | <p align="center"><i>OPEN Field</i></p>                     |
| <p><b>Who was the original architect?</b></p>   | <p>Source:</p>  |
| <p><b>Who was the original Builder/Contractor?</b></p>  | <p>Source:</p>  |
| <p><b>Who was the original Owner(s)?</b></p>  | <p>Source:</p>  |
| <p><b>Are there structures associated with the subject property not under the ownership of this applicant? Please describe.</b></p> |   |
| <p><b>Detailed description of the architectural characteristics of the property.</b></p>  | <p><i>Please attach additional sheets if necessary.</i></p> |

*Doc: 2*



# FORM A

## Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark

The Historic Preservation Commission and City Council will consider the following criteria when reviewing nominations of properties for designation.

Landmarks must be at least fifty (50) years old and meet one (1) or more of the following criteria for architectural, social/cultural, or geographic/environmental significance. A landmark may be less than fifty (50) years old if it is found to be exceptionally important in other criteria.

Age of Site is: 148 yr.

### 1. Proposed Historic Landmarks. Please check all that apply:

*For prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, please go to Form A Section 2, pg. 5.*

#### A) Architectural:

- 1) Exemplifies specific elements of an architectural style or period.
- 2) Is an example of the work of an architect or builder who is recognized for expertise nationally, state-wide, or locally.
- 3) Demonstrates superior craftsmanship, or high artistic value.
- 4) Represents innovation in construction, materials, or design.
- 5) Represents a built environment of a group of people in an era of
- 6) Exhibits a pattern or grouping of elements representing at least one of the above
- 7) Is a significant historic remodel.

#### B) Social/Cultural

- 1) Is a site of an historic event that had an effect upon society.
- 2) Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the community.
- 3) Is associated with a notable person(s) or the work of notable person(s).

#### C) Geographical/Environmental

- 1) Enhances sense of identity of the community.
- 2) Is an established and familiar natural setting or visual feature of the community.



# FORM A

## Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark

**2. Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites shall meet one (1) or more of the following. Please check all that apply.**

*\*\*Complete this section only if the subject property is a prehistoric or historic archaeological site.*

**A) Architectural**

- 1) Exhibits distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or manner of construction.
- 2) Is a unique example of a structure.

**B) Social/Cultural**

- 1) Has the potential to make an important contribution to the knowledge of the area's history or
- 2) Is associated with an important event in the area's development.
- 3) Is associated with a notable person(s) or the work of notable person(s).
- 4) Is a typical example/association with a particular ethnic or other community group.
- 5) Is a unique example of an event in local history.

**C) Geographical/Environmental**

- 1) Is geographically or regionally important.

**3. Each property or site will also be evaluated based on physical integrity using the following criteria (*a property need not meet all the following criteria*):**

- a) Shows character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, region, state, or nation;
- b) Retains original location or same historic context if it has been removed; or
- c) Has been accurately reconstructed or restored based on documentation.

# FORM A

## Application for Designation of a Historic Landmark

|  |   |                 |                |                 |                |       |       |       |       |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <p><b>Statement of Significance</b></p> <p>Please provide a brief statement summarizing the applicable criteria checked on previous pages.</p>   | <p><i>Please attach additional sheets if necessary.</i></p> <p><del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del></p> <p>MARIANO Medina's family cemetery<br/>         First settled Thompson VALLEY 1858-59</p>   |                 |                |                 |                |       |       |       |       |
| <p><b>Photographs of property as it appears today</b></p>  | <p><i>Include photos from all angles: front, rear, and side elevations.</i></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>North elevation</td> <td>East elevation</td> <td>South elevation</td> <td>West elevation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>Other</td> <td>Other</td> <td>Other</td> </tr> </table> | North elevation | East elevation | South elevation | West elevation | Other | Other | Other | Other |
| North elevation  | East elevation  | South elevation | West elevation |                 |                |       |       |       |       |
| Other  | Other   | Other           | Other          |                 |                |       |       |       |       |
| <p><b>Please identify all references used during the research of the property. Include titles, author, publisher, publication date, ISBN# (when applicable), and location of source such as public library, etc.</b></p> | <p><i>Please attach additional sheets if necessary.</i></p> <p>OVER Hill and VALE Vol. 1-2-3 1956-1962-1971<br/>         Author Harold Dunning</p> <p>MARIANO Medina Colorado Mountain MAN 1981<br/>         Author Zephyr Gates</p>  |                 |                |                 |                |       |       |       |       |

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Doc: 4

## I. ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution #12-01
2. Mariana Butte GDP Amendment approved in 2009 (for reference)
3. Thompson School District Letter
4. Traffic Excerpts
5. Mariana Butte 25th Preliminary Development Plan
6. Mariana Butte 25th Subdivision Preliminary Plat

## II. VICINITY MAP



## III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Summary

The application is for a Preliminary Development Plan (PDP) and a Preliminary Plat for the Mariana Butte 25<sup>th</sup> Subdivision. The property is located on the north side of W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Namaqua Avenue and Crestone Drive, within the Mariana Butte Planned Unit Development. The property contains approximately two separate parcels (Lot 1, Block 12, Mariana Butte Seventh Subdivision (Parcel A) and a portion of Tract A, Mariana Butte PUD First Subdivision (Parcel B)) totaling approximately 13 acres in size.

6" VINYL FENCE (SEE DETAIL ON THIS SHEET). FENCE TO BE INSTALLED 1' FROM SIDEWALK EDGE, WITHIN 2' STRIP OF 2" ROCK

LANDSCAPING WITHIN THE BUILDING SITES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE DEVELOPER OF EACH BUILDING

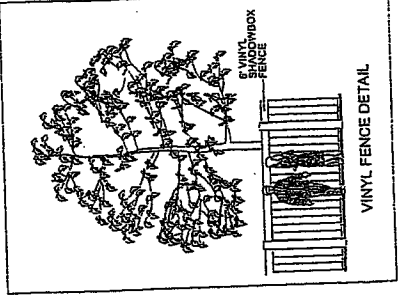
PROPOSED SIGNAGE LOCATION UTILITIES SHALL BE POT-HOLED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

BUFFERYARD 3 PLANTINGS SEE DESCRIPTION ON SHEET 8

NATIVE SEEDING IN DETENTION POND AREA

6" ATTACHED SIDEWALK

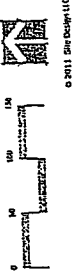
THIS AREA TO BE DEDICATED TO LOVELAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NATIVE SEEDING WITH GROUPS OF XERIC TREES AND SHRUBS, TYPICAL

IRRIGATED TURF

BUFFERYARD 2 PLANTINGS SEE DESCRIPTION ON SHEET 8



**KEY**

**SYMBOLS**

- Deciduous Tree
- Evergreen Tree
- Ornamental Tree
- Proposed Street
- Irrigation Meter
- Proposed Signage
- Proposed Utility
- Proposed Pot-Hole
- Proposed Erosion Control

REQUIRED STREET TREES

LANDSCAPE AREAS BETWEEN BUILDING SITES TO BE ROCK FINISHED SHRUB BEDS OR NATIVE SEEDING WITH GROUPS OF XERIC TREES AND SHRUBS

LANDSCAPE AREAS BETWEEN EACH BUILDING SITE AND BACK OF SIDEWALK TO BE LANDSCAPED AND MAINTAINED BY THE OWNER OF THE BUILDING

REQUIRED STREET TREES

NATIVE SEEDING WITH GROUPS OF XERIC TREES AND SHRUBS, TYPICAL

ORNAMENTAL TREES AS STREET TREES DUE TO OVERHEAD POWER LINES

6" DETACHED SIDEWALK

PROPOSED SIGNAGE LOCATIONS UTILITIES SHALL BE POT-HOLED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION

PROPOSED IRRIGATION METER

EVERGREEN TREES, BERM NOT PROVIDED DUE TO GRADING CONSTRAINTS

BED AREAS TO BE DEFINED BY STEEL EDGING AND FINISHED WITH ROCK MULCH

*MARIANNA Butte 25<sup>th</sup> Sub Division*



## **Medina Family Cemetery**

### **Spelling of the Last Name of the Medina/Modena Family**

The last name of Mariano Medina and the members of his family has been spelled numerous ways in historical records, partially because Mariano himself could not read and write, although he spoke a number of languages. On pages 1 and 2 of her book *Mariano Medina* (Source No. 9 below), Zethyl Gates explains why she has concluded that "Medina" is the correct spelling and that "Modena"—the most frequent alternative spelling—is, instead, "an Anglicization of *Medina*." We have consequently used "Medina" below except when directly quoting documents that use another spelling.

For another detailed discussion of the various spellings of Mariano's first and last names in historical documents, see pages 11 and 12 of Source No. 8 below, which report that Mariano "himself claimed to be able to read and write."

### **Location and Description of Original Medina Family Cemetery**

Latitude 40° 23' 38" N, Longitude 105° 07' 32" W, Sixth Principal Meridian

The original Medina Family Cemetery is located in Loveland south of the Big Thompson River on the southwest corner of North Namaqua Avenue and a private road named Namaqua Elementary and is just southeast of the Namaqua Elementary School itself.

Sometime after 1864 (page 433 of Source No. 7 below) and probably after the first three individuals (a "Friend," Martin Medina, and Rosita Medina in the list under Photo C below) were buried there, Mariano Medina had a stacked sandstone wall erected around the cemetery, with the wall surrounding an approximately 12 X 20 foot area. Except Mariano and his son Rafaelito, who died after the original walled-in area was full, all of the individuals buried in the cemetery for whom we have historical records were buried inside that wall. Following his death in 1878, Mariano was buried outside of the original walled-in area at the southwest corner of the cemetery's south wall (Source No. 4 below). At least one source suggests that Mariano's youngest child, his son Rafaelito by his second wife Susan Carter Howard, was also buried south of the south wall near his father.

In the 1940s, Harold Dunning had the walls around the cemetery extended south to include Mariano's and Rafaelito's graves.

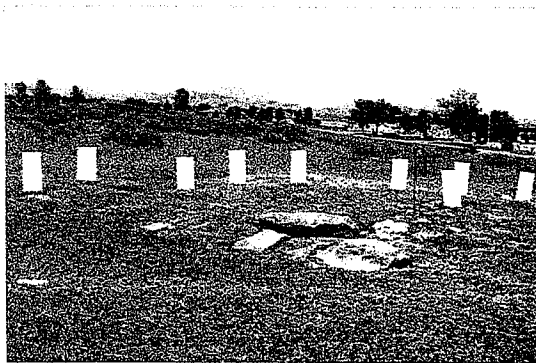
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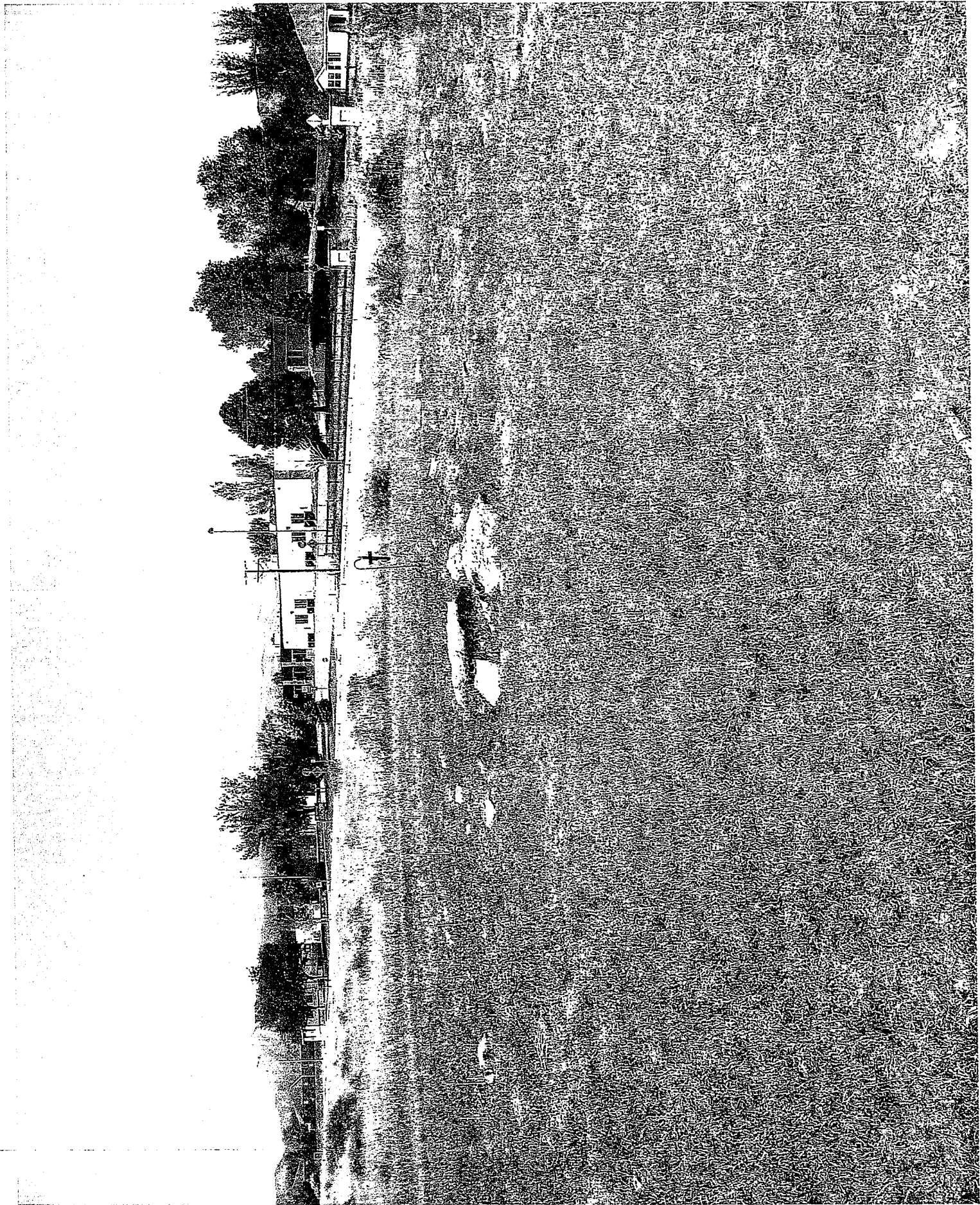
*Photo B: The Portion of the Field Southeast of Namaqua Elementary School With Orange Flags Marking the Graves in the Original Medina Family Cemetery as of May 2011 (Courtesy Bill Meirath)*

The orange flags in Photo B mark the 10 possible burial locations that William Schneider found using dowser rods at the original cemetery location in October 1996 (Source No. 10 below). When we dowsed the same area on 23 February 2008, we found three possible body burials near some bushes that were growing in the area of the original cemetery at that time. However, as the number of flags in Photo B indicates, Bill Schneider found seven additional possible burials. Given the low temperature on the day of our February 2008 visit, we certainly did not search the entire cemetery site.

In preparation for visits to the site of the original Medina Family Cemetery during the Loveland Historical Society's 20 June 2011 Historic Home Tour, Bill Meirath and other members of the Medina Family Cemetery Committee created nine wooden grave markers for the cemetery and labeled and placed them by matching the grave locations found by William Schneider in 1996 and the diagrams of the original cemetery created by Harold Dunning and Pierce Egan. Photo C below shows the cemetery with these wooden markers in place.

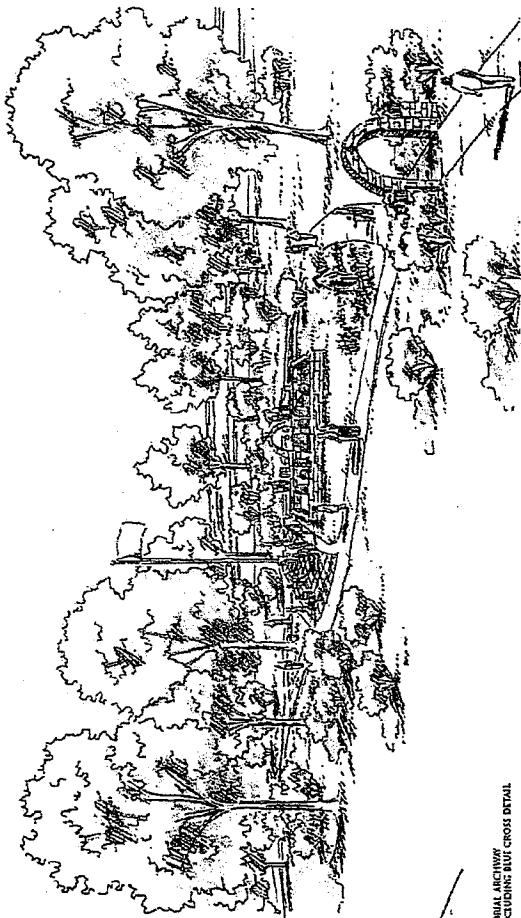


*Photo C: Wooden Grave Markers Temporarily Placed in the Original Medina Family Cemetery for the Loveland Historical Society's Historic Home Tour on 20 June 2011 (Courtesy of Mike Perry)*

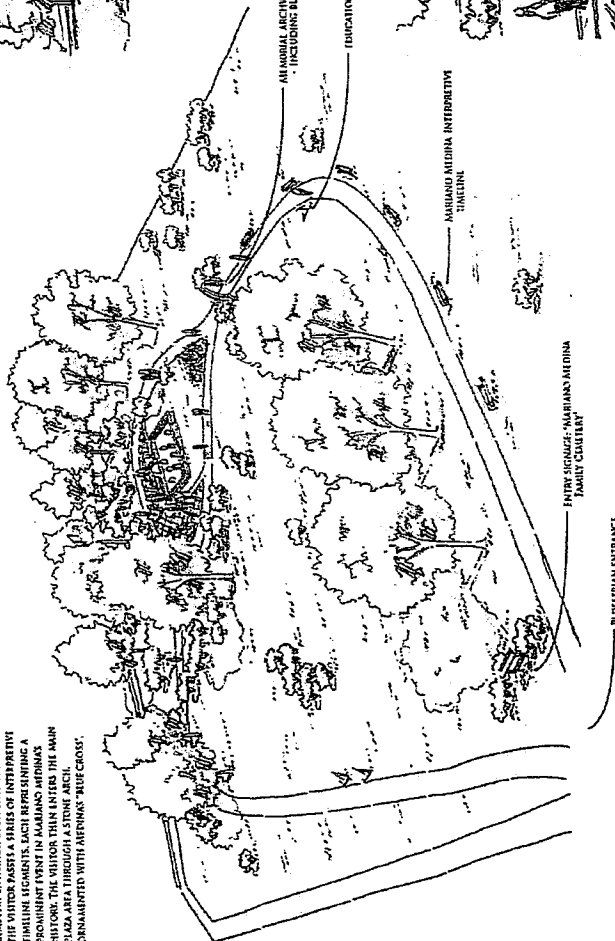


Doc: 3

# Future Plans



> VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS THE EAST INTO THE PLAZA FROM THE MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE. THE SMALL MEMORIAL PLAZA IS LOCATED ON THE SOUTH EASTERN PORTION OF THE SITE. THE PLAZA INCLUDES A RECONSTRUCTED WHITE WASHED STONE ENCLOSURE, REPLICATED MEMORIAL HEADSTONE MARKERS, AND A CERAMIC WHITE FLAG, ALL INTENDED TO PAY HONOR TO THE HISTORICAL CHARACTER OF THE CEMETERY.



> THE DRAWING BELOW DETECTS AN AERIAL PERSPECTIVE VIEW FACING TOWARDS THE SOUTH EAST. THE MAIN PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE POINT IS LOCATED ON THE NORTH EAST OF THE SITE. THE PLAZA IS A RECTANGULAR OPEN SPACE WITH PROMINENT PLANTING DESIGN. THE MEMORIAL CHARACTER ENTRANCE, UPON ENTERING THE SITE, THE VISITOR PASSES A SERIES OF INTERPRETIVE TIMELINE SEGMENTS, EACH REPRESENTING A PROMINENT EVENT IN MARIANO MEDINA'S HISTORY. THE VISITOR THEN ENTERS THE MAIN PLAZA AREA THROUGH A STONE ARCHWAY, UNOCCUPIED WITH METALWORK, AND CROSS.

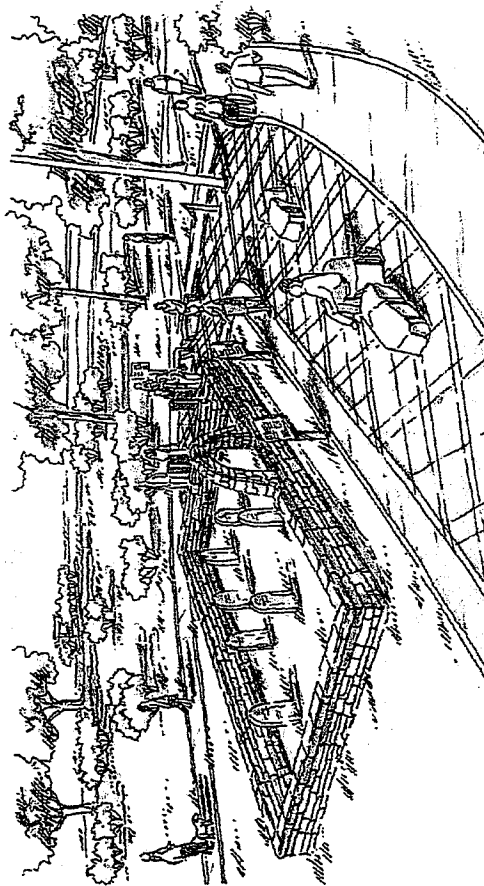
MEMORIAL ARCHWAY  
INCLUDING BLUE CROSS DETAIL

EDUCATIONAL PLANT SIGNAGE

MARIANO MEDINA INTERPRETIVE  
TIMELINE

ENTRY SIGNAGE: "MARIANO MEDINA  
FAMILY CRYPTS"

PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE



> TO THE LEFT IS AN AERIAL PERSPECTIVE DETECTING A GLOSS UP VIEW OF THE MEMORIAL PLAZA LOOKING TOWARDS THE NORTH WEST. THE PLAZA AND STONE WALL ENCLOSURE ARE SITUATED ON THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE SITE, AND A VEGETATIVE BUFFER WOULD BE PLACED TO TESTIFY THE IMPACT OF MARIANO MEDINA ON THE PLAZA. THE PLAZA IS A RECTANGULAR OPEN SPACE WITH PROMINENT PLANTING AND SIGNAGE. INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE WILL BE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE SITE IN ORDER TO GUIDE THE VISITOR THROUGH MARIANO MEDINA'S HISTORY.

## MARIANO MEDINA FAMILY CEMETERY LOVELAND, COLORADO

W. W. W. W.

the original cemetery was somewhere in the field, but she did not tell him its suspected location or how many graves her research had indicated that the cemetery might have originally contained. Concerning his discovery, Bill told the *Loveland Reporter-Herald* reporter, "It's something we can't forget is our past. Otherwise we're bound to create problems for the future."

### **Sources of Information on Mariano Medina, His Family, and the Medina Family Cemetery**

1. Record Book A1, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Boulder, Colorado as cited in Source No. 9 below. The records in this book covering Catholic sacraments at Marianne's Crossing/Namaqua began on 9 January 1861 when Reverend Joseph Projectus Machebeuf conducted the first Catholic mass at "Marianne's Crossing," the name of the town that was later renamed "Namaqua".
2. *The History of Larimer County, Colorado*, written by Ansel Watrous and published in 1911. (See "Bibliography" for complete citation.) Pages 87 and 88 contain information on Mariano Medina (spelled "Mariana Modena" in this book) and his "Old Lady Hawkens" rifle (spelled "Old Lady Hawkins" in this book). Pages 167 and 168 contain information on Mariano Medina, his family, his exploits, and the cemetery that he established at Namaqua.
3. *Namaqua*, written by Pierce Egan and published in 1925 by the Bookfellows at The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Egan was originally a reporter for the *Loveland Reporter*. *Namaqua* is a romantic novel based on the life and legends of Marcellina Medina, one of Mariano Medina's two daughters, and is set in the foothills west of Loveland.
4. *Hitting the Trail to the Land of Olden Times; Historical and Natural Points of Interest Around the City of Loveland, Colorado*, pamphlet published in 1926 by the Loveland Chamber of Commerce. This pamphlet includes two paragraphs on the Medinas' "burial ground" and includes a map of the Namaqua area drawn by Harold Dunning that includes the Medinas' walled-in burial ground with Mariano Medina's grave shown as being outside the southwest corner of the cemetery.
5. Volume I of *Over Hill and Vale*, written by Harold Marion Dunning and published in 1956. (See "Bibliography" for complete citation.) Page 38 lists Mariano Medina (spelled as "Modena" in this book), his wife Marie/John, and his step-son Louie Papa as the first permanent settlers in the Big Thompson Valley. Page 51 mentions that "Mariano Modena took great pride in his little cemetery where five of the family are not buried." Pages 423-425 contain information on the "fiction and fact" concerning Mariano Medina, including quotes from Jean Milne Bower's little booklet titled *Beads of Namaqua*. Pages 425-427 contains information on Mariano Medina that Dunning reports from Francis Whittemore Cragin's "Far West

Notebook" on his 1903 "trip up thru this region." Dunning's source was copied from Cargin's "originals in the Pioneer Museum at Colorado Springs by Lorene Englert." Note that Cargin did spell Mariano's last name as "Medina." Pages 427-434 contain a section titled "More About Mariano Modena" that provides a wide-ranging collection of information and stories about Mariano and his family. Pages 439-441 contain Dunning's plea that the Mariano's "little graveyard" be made into a show place to which Loveland's residents could point to in pride.

6. Volume II of *Over Hill and Vale*, written by Harold Marion Dunning and published in 1962. (See "Bibliography" for complete citation.) Pages 226-227 discuss in detail the 17 and 18 January 1960 move of six graves (one being a "modern" infant) from the original Medina Family Cemetery to Namaqua Park and quote in its entirety Carl Kibbey's "report of the events." Pages 254-255 discuss where the "famous Overland Trail" existed in the Loveland area, including the establishment of a stage station at Mariano Medina's place.
7. Volume III of *Over Hill and Vale*, written by Harold Marion Dunning and published in 1971. (See "Bibliography" for complete citation.) Page 223 contains a photo taken in about 1920 showing Louis Papa and Lucas Brandt sitting in front of Mariano Medina's log home in Namaqua.
8. *Loveland-Big Thompson Valley, 1877-1977 Centennial*, edited by Clara Ball and published and distributed by the Loveland-Big Thompson Valley Centennial Commission, Inc., 1975. Pages 10-12 contain information on "Mariana Modena" that includes a fairly lengthy discussion of how his first and last names were spelled in early accounts of his life.
9. *Mariano Medina: Colorado Mountain Man*, written and copyrighted by Zethyl Gates, originally published in 1981. (See "Bibliography" for complete citation.) This extremely well-researched and well-written biography does an excellent job of weaving the wealth of information on Mariano, his family, Miraville/Marianno's Crossing/Namaqua, and his family cemetery into a coherent story that does a convincing job of separating the truth about Mariano Medina and his family from the extensive legends/stories. The Loveland Museum and Gallery sells reprints of this well-researched book.
10. "Rods help historian uncover Loveland's past," written by Philip Tardanl, *Loveland Weekend Reporter-Herald*, 26 and 27 October 1996, pages A-1 and A-5. Article reports on William Schneider's dowsing the original Medina Family Cemetery several days before the article was published.
11. "Dowsing has backing from some scientists," written by Philip Tardanl, *Loveland Weekend Reporter-Herald*, 26 and 27 October 1996, page A-6. In this article, Tardanl cites a scientific experiment discussed in a 1995 issue of *Science News*

that concludes that some, but not all, dowzers “can find objects when the likelihood of their doing so by luck alone is astronomically high.”

12. *Medina Family Plot*, notebook prepared by Bill Meirath and distributed in May 2007 in an effort to prevent the development of the property containing the original Medina Family Cemetery and to encourage the preservation and restoration of the cemetery. As discussed in “Efforts to Preserve and Restore the Original Cemetery” below, it is through Bill’s considerable efforts that the Loveland community became aware of the abandoned and destroyed Medina Family Cemetery and determined to preserve it. It was this notebook that first brought the original Medina Family Cemetery to our attention.

A copy of Bill’s notebook will be in our research files on the Medina Family Cemetery in the Local History Archive of the Fort Collins Museum, which has agreed to take our research files for this book.

13. “Preservation of the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery,” written by Sharon Danhauer, *The Folsom Point*, the newsletter of the Northern Colorado Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, Vol. 23, Issue 08, November 2008, pages 4 and 5. Article provides a brief biography of Mariano Medina and a brief history of the Medina Family Cemetery and reports on the beginning of the efforts to preserve the original cemetery.
14. “Mariano Medina, the first permanent settler in the Big Thompson Valley,” on pages 49-53 of the *Convention Booklet of the Oregon-California Trails Association 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention*, August 18-22, 2009, Loveland, Colorado. Article also provides a brief biography of Mariano Medina; photos of Namaqua, the town that Mariano established; and a brief history of the Medina Family Cemetery, including its destruction in 1960 and efforts to preserve and restore it.
15. “Land saved, history preserved,” transcription and video available at <http://www.9news.com> of story on the original Medina Family Cemetery that first appeared on 9NEWS in Denver on 19 September 2009 . Video includes interviews with both Bill Meirath, the Chairman of the Medina Family Cemetery Committee of the Loveland Historical Society, and Jess Rodriguez, who bought the land containing the cemetery and who has agreed to donate the 0.96 acre containing the cemetery to the Loveland Historical Society. The story was one of several that 9NEWS produced in September 2009 in recognition of National Hispanic Awareness Month.
16. “Old Lady Hawkens, Mariano Medina’s Famous Gun, Is Safe and Sound,” written by Sharon Danhauer, *The Fifty-Niner*, the quarterly newsletter of the Colorado-Cherokee Trail Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association, July 2011,



**COMMUNITY & STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
Civic Center • 500 East Third Street • Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 962-2577 FAX (970) 962-2945 • TDD (970) 962-2620  
www.cityofloveland.org

To: Loveland City Council  
From: Community and Strategic Planning  
Meeting Date: September 4, 2012  
Re: Application for Historic Landmark Property Designation, Mariano Medina Family Cemetery

**SITE DATA**

**Address:** Property at Namaqua Ave and Namaqua Elementary  
Loveland, CO 80537

**Request:** Application for Historic Landmark Property Designation

**Historic Name:** Mariano Medina Family Cemetery

**Historic Use:** Burials

**Land Size** 0.739 acres (Source: Larimer Co. Assessor Property Information)

**Date Established:** 1864

**Legal Description:** A PARCEL OF LAND BEING PART OF TRACT "A" MARINA BUTTE P.U.D. FIRST SUBDIVISION LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH , RANGE 69 WEST OF THE 6<sup>TH</sup> PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CITY OF LOVELAND, COUNTY OF LARIMER, STATE OF COLORADO

**Owner(s):** Loveland Historical Society

**Applicant(s):** Mike Perry and Bill Meirath, Loveland Historical Society

**Application Summary:**

In March 2012 staff received a nomination application for the landmark designation of the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery property at Namaqua Ave and Namaqua Elementary in Loveland. The property was then owned by Jess Rodriguez, who was in the process of deeding the land to the Loveland Historical Society (LHS) because the historic Medina burial plots were located there. The designation process was placed on hold until August 2012 when the deed was legally transferred to the LHS.

At the August 20, 2012 Historic Preservation Commission meeting, staff presented the nomination application for this property. The Commission made the official recommendation to City Council to designate the property as a historic landmark.



**History:**

Born in Taos, New Mexico in 1812, Mariano Medina was a trapper and guide. His friends included Kit Carson, Louis Vasquez, the Bent brothers along with other legendary mountain men like Jim Bridger and Tom Toblin. Mariano Medina's surname has been spelled a variety of ways; Medina, Modena and Medena are the more common found. In 1858, Medina established the first permanent settlement on the Big Thompson Creek (River) (the unorganized western district of the Territory of Nebraska) near present day Loveland.

Medina started a business on the Big Thompson with a raft to ferry teams across the river and charged fifty dollars in gold for the service. Soon after, he built a toll bridge high enough to avoid the high spring run-off with its construction and eventually built a fort and trading post called "Marianne's Crossing." Soon the business became the favorite stopping place for the travelers involved in the western movement and Medina's now famous mountain friends.

Medina's homestead consisted of a traditional Spanish-style plaza surrounded on three sides by his log home, trading store, saloon, corrals and a post office. The settlement was originally called Miraville, then Mariano's Crossing, Big Thompson Crossing, and by today's name, Namaqua. Overland Mail in 1862 selected Medina's settlement as a home station. Medina is credited with establishing the first business, first school, first church, and first cemetery in the valley.

Mariano Medina had a very rich family life including two wives, two sons, three (?) daughters and a step son. Most of his family was buried in the Catholic Cemetery now known as the Medina Family Cemetery.

**Description of Burial Plots in Cemetery:**

**There are nine bodies in the cemetery, eight are associated with Mariano Medina:**

1. Mexican friend of Mariano, buried prior to 1864
2. Martin Medina, died in 1864 at age 12-15. Martin was the son of Mariano and his first wife, Marie/John/Tacanecy.
3. Rosita Medina, died in 1864 at the age of 2. Daughter of Mariano and first wife.
4. Daughter of Louis Papa (Mariano's step-son. Who died shortly after her birth in 1866.
5. Marcellina ("Lens") Medina, died in 1872 at the age of 15 and was the daughter of Mariano and first wife.
6. Marie/John/Tacanecy Medina, Mariano's first wife, died in 1874.
7. Mariano Medina, who died in 1878
8. Rafaelito Medina, who died in 1880 at the age of 6 or 7. He was Mariano's son by his second wife Susan Carter Howard.
9. An infant wrapped in a 1940's newspaper who body was discovered in January 1960.

**Historic and Cultural Significance:**

- Mariano Medina is credited with establishing the first business, first school, first church and first consecrated cemetery in the Big Thompson Valley.
- A pioneer cemetery established in 1864
- The 1850 branch of the Cherokee Trail passed near the western edge of the cemetery and close to the Overland Trail.
- Except for the cemetery, no trace of Namaqua (first permanent settlement on the south bank of the river and established in 1858) remains today.
- Nine people (8 associated with the Medina family) are buried on the site. Burials began in 1864 and ended in the 1940s. Contributed to the history of Loveland.
- Enhances the Hispanic Heritage of Larimer County.
- Mariano Medina was probably 1<sup>st</sup> permanent practicing Catholic in the Big Thompson Valley.

**Sources:**

Bill Meirath, Loveland Historical Society, Mike Perry, Loveland Historical Society;  
Gates, Zethyl, "*Mariano Medina Colorado Mountain Man*" Johnson Publishing Co., 1981;  
Jeff and Cindy Feneis, *Exploring Loveland's Hidden Past, the People and Places of Early Loveland, Colorado*. Published by the Loveland Historical Society;  
Harold Marion Dunning , "*Over Hill and Vale: In the Evening Shadows of Colorado's Longs Peak,*"  
Published 1962.

**Future Plans:**

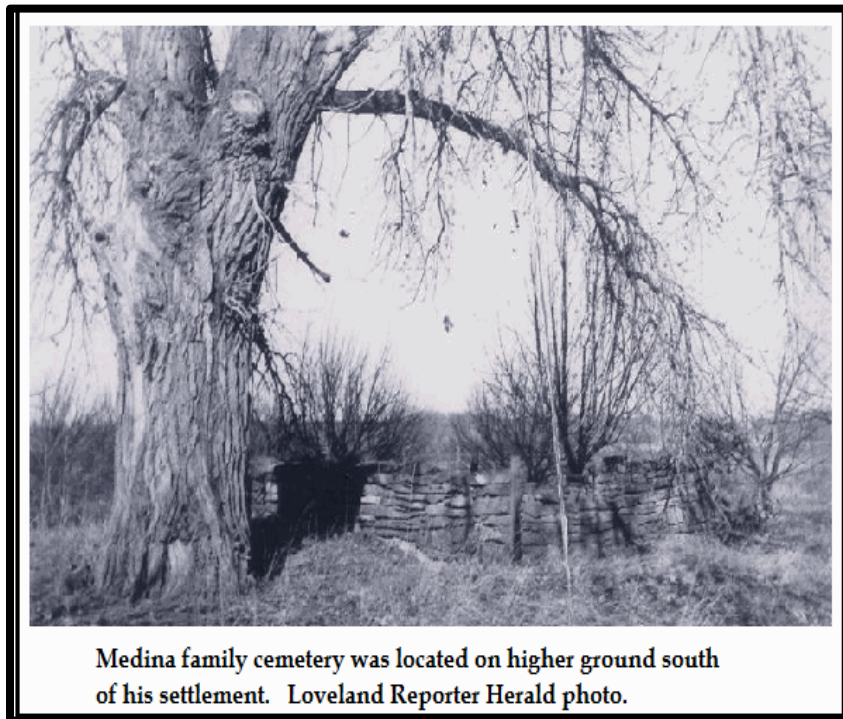
The Loveland Historical Society plans, through grants and fundraising activities, to create a Historical and Educational Park for local history and outdoor classrooms.

**Staff Recommendation**

To be considered eligible for designation as a historic landmark on the Loveland Historic Register, a property must be at least fifty (50) years old and must meet one (1) or more of the criteria for architectural, social cultural, or geographic/environmental significance as identified in Loveland Municipal Code 15.56.090. The Mariano Medina Family Cemetery satisfies the age requirement and meets the following criteria for designation as a Loveland Historic Register landmark of property:

- a.) Social/Cultural
  - 1. Exemplifies the cultural, political, economic or social heritage of the community.
- b.) Geographic/Environmental
  - 1. Enhances sense of identity of the community.
- c.) Physical Integrity
  - 1. Shows character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the community, region, state or nation.
  - 2. Retains its original location.

Given available information for the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery, staff and the Historic Preservation Commission has determined that the property exhibits the adequate *significance* to support its eligibility for designation as a Loveland historic landmark. This determination is based on the Colorado Historical Society's recommended framework for determining landmark eligibility. Staff and the Historic Preservation Commission recommends approval of this request for designation of the Mariano Medina Family Cemetery property, located at Namaqua and Namaqua Elementary as a Loveland Historic Register landmark property.



**Medina family cemetery was located on higher ground south of his settlement. Loveland Reporter Herald photo.**



Mariano Medina Family Cemetery 2012