

HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

EST. 1970 * VOLUME 49 * NUMBER 1 * SPRING 2020

COVID-19 ALERT

DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK we're keeping our community connected to the places you love. Be sure to check out the links to additional online content in this issue, and follow us on social media for engaging activities, more news, and virtual experiences. Plus, consider making a donation to help us through the disruption to our programs, and don't forget to renew your membership for special, members-only content.

See page 12 for more details.



1457-1459 Ogden, early office of Colorado's first Osteopath. Photo: Paul Brokering

DISCOVERING HIDDEN STORIES OF THE MEDICAL PIONEERS OF THE PAST

By Beth Glandon, Discover Denver Director and Leslie Krupa, Survey Coordinator



This unexpected time at home, away from routines and social activities, brings with it no small amount of anxiety. But, being at home doesn't mean you can't be connected to Denver's past, and there is joy to be found in understanding the people that have come before us and the places they built, the times they lived in, and the hardships and challenges they endured that have shaped our current neighborhoods and city.

As we think of today's medical professionals with gratitude as they take risks and make sacrifices for our collective health, Discover Denver can help us look back at their predecessors, the medical pioneers of earlier generations.

Now in its sixth year, Discover Denver is a city-wide building survey that identifies the buildings that help tell our city's story. Led by Historic Denver, the project is a partnership with the City and County of Denver with funding from Colorado's State Historical Fund. With the help of more than 70 volunteers, Discover Denver documents the city's

individual buildings, the histories of its neighborhoods, and the stories important to its communities. Surveyed neighborhoods to date include Capitol Hill, Globeville, Cheesman Park, Virginia Village, City Park West, and many others. When complete, the project will have documented the historic buildings in every neighborhood in our city.

While buildings are interesting in their own right, they also serve as a jumping-off point for other records, such as city directories, census records, and property deeds, that help us piece together the stories of the people associated with them. As Discover Denver volunteers research the history of buildings throughout the city, surprising themes come to light. One such theme is of strong Denver women who overcame adversity and seized opportunity in the early decades of Denver history.

Women found particular traction and opportunity within medicine. Through the hard work of organizations such as the Black American West Museum, the lives of some physicians, such as Dr. Justina Ford, are now more commonly known and celebrated. But Discover Denver has uncovered many remarkable untold stories, including one that was hiding in plain sight! The surprising story of the early occupants of a 128-year-old duplex across the street from Historic Denver's office was largely forgotten until Discover Denver volunteers researched its history.

The building at 1457-1459 Ogden St. was designed by the architectural team of Balcomb & Rice, known for designing many other Queen Anne

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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CURRENT ISSUES

A Letter From Our Executive Director

Dear Members,

In March I sent an e-mail to many of you with the news that for the first time in our nearly fifty-year history we'd closed the Molly Brown House Museum indefinitely, as we sought to help protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. In the weeks since we have all had to find a new rhythm and a new routine, and we hope you are staying healthy, seeking small joys in being more home-bound, and finding space to reflect on the historic events swirling in our city, our country and our world.

In times like these, I take comfort in reflecting on the things that endure - including our beloved historic places. From the Molly Brown House to Union Station, to your local library or school, our landmarks have borne witness to our collective triumphs and trials, and they will still stand to tell Denver's stories tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond.

You are helping to make that happen, and we are grateful for your continued support as members and patrons. We see the vital effects on our organization now more than ever. In this issue we've also included a number of other ways you can support Historic Denver through this period, and we appreciate your gifts and notes of encouragement.

While the Molly Brown House Museum remains closed, and our spring events on hold, we're committed to keeping you connected to the places you love. Each Monday we're sending all our members a special e-mail with fresh content and invitations to members-only virtual experiences. So far we've hosted a historic home Q&A with our Deputy Director John Olson, released a segment about Art Leisnering's recently donated scrapbook by our Molly Brown House Museum Curator Stephanie McGuire, and hosted a home research segment with Director of Discover Denver, Beth Glandon. More programs are planned each week, and we've been extra active on social media with fun content and family-activities.

Plus, as we enter May you can look forward to our annual photo contest, check out page 4 for details, and be sure to take a snap and share shots of the places you love close to your home.

Our staff and board remain committed to our mission, working from home as advocates, stewards and educators. Please reach out to us with any questions or needs; we are available by email and looking forward to engaging with you in new and creative ways. Stay healthy, wash your hands, and we'll hope to see you soon.

Best,

Annie Levinsky
Executive Director



HISTORIC DENVER, INC.

1420 Ogden Street
Denver, CO 80218
303.534.5288
historicdenver.org

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1340 Pennsylvania St.
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Graphic Design	Edgellworks
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Discovering Hidden Stories of the Medical Pioneers of the Past CONT.

style homes in central Denver - including the Flower-Vaile House at 1610 Emerson St., a Denver landmark. In 1900, Dr. Jeanette “Nettie” Bolles (nee Hubbard) and her husband Newton Bolles began renting the Ogden Street building, eventually purchasing it in 1907. Nettie was a member of the first graduating class at the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) in Kirksville, Mo., in 1894, setting a precedent as the first female osteopathic physician in the country. Newton followed his wife into osteopathy, graduating from ASO in 1898.

After moving to Denver in 1896, Nettie founded the Western Institute of Osteopathy, an osteopathic college, at 832 E. Colfax Ave. (The location is now a parking lot.) She was the first osteopathic physician of either gender in Colorado! Her husband joined her a year later, and after several name changes the couple continued their practice under the name Bolles Infirmary of Osteopathy, both living and practicing out of the Ogden Street duplex. The couple had two daughters, and divorced in 1909. Nettie remained at 1457-1459 Ogden St., while Newton relocated downtown. Nettie’s numerous accomplishments are a testament to her ambition and capability as a practicing physician and teacher. Among other accolades, she became the first osteopathic physician to serve on the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners, and in 1925, the governor of Colorado chose Dr. Bolles to be one of only 10 women to represent the state at the International Council on Women in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bolles’ daughter, Esther, followed her into osteopathy, graduating from the Andrew Taylor Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1924. She married classmate C. Robert Starks, and the couple practiced out of 1457-1459 Ogden St. alongside her mother. Dr. Nettie Bolles died in 1930, and members of the Bolles family owned the building until the 1970s.

Another sub-field of medicine that attracted women in Denver was dentistry. A 1930 full-page Denver Post article features several national and local female dentists, albeit with the flippant headline, “‘And it Won’t Hurt,’ say these women dentists to their patients.” In the accompanying photo, we can see Dr. Edwina W. Hedge and Dr. E. Pearle Bishop, both of Denver, posed in their Sunday best. Discover Denver volunteers came across these physicians while surveying and researching the history of buildings in the Congress Park and

- the only woman in her class. Dr. Hedge even opened her own practice, an unusually bold undertaking for a woman of her time. The Denver Post noted in 1903, “It is predicted that she will have a large practice. She is careful and possesses unlimited nerve. She is devoted to the work and does not think it odd that a young woman should take up dentistry as a profession.”

Like many families in the early 20th century, Edwina’s parents lived with her in the Cook Street house after it was constructed. Upon her sister Dottie’s death, her widowed brother-in-law, Bert Laws, moved into the home, and Edwina legally adopted Dottie and Bert’s daughter. Interestingly, Bert remarried another dentist named Dr. Mary Hotaling - perhaps introduced via Edwina? Mary appears to have been strong-willed; she defiantly challenged Denver Post reporters in 1928 when asked about plans for her dental practice after marriage: “I should say I’m not going to give up my practice! What for?”

Dr. Edith Pearle Bishop’s home at 2225 Vine St. in the City Park West neighborhood is a unique Dutch Colonial Revival style with a striking stepped parapet. The home was built in 1901, and designed by notable architect John J. Huddart, an Englishman who was the chief draftsman in the offices of another important Denver architect, Frank Edbrooke, until opening his own practice in 1887.

Dr. Bishop was not the first owner of the house, purchasing it in 1921. She first worked in the University of Denver dental laboratory before entering dental school there in 1917. Despite her duties as a mother of two, a lab assistant, and student, she graduated in 1921 at the top of her class. Her son, Donald, later became a dentist and joined his mother in her practice.

Doctors Bolles, Hedges, and Bishop are just a few of the many remarkable women that made their mark on Denver’s history, but have largely been forgotten. As Discover Denver’s volunteers work their way across the city, we will continue to report on the surprising stories they find, of both women and men, that helped make our city what it is today. ✨



LEARN MORE

You can learn about the histories of many more individuals, and their associated buildings, at Discover Denver’s project website: www.discoverdenver.co.

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

You can upload photos and share stories about a person or building directly at the website by clicking “Map” on the home page. Learn more about becoming a Discover Denver volunteer on our website or by contacting Beth Glandon at bglandon@historicdenver.org.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Turn to p. 10 to meet a few of our enthusiastic Discover Denver volunteers!



City Park West neighborhoods, respectively.

Dr. Hedge’s home at 601 Cook St. is a quaint storybook English Norman Cottage with a sweeping catslide roof. While the architect is unknown, records show it was built for Dr. Hedge in 1923. Dr. Hedge graduated from West Denver High School and initially went into teaching. Disenchanted with that profession, she soon became a dental assistant, which she enjoyed. In 1903, she graduated from the University of Denver’s dental school

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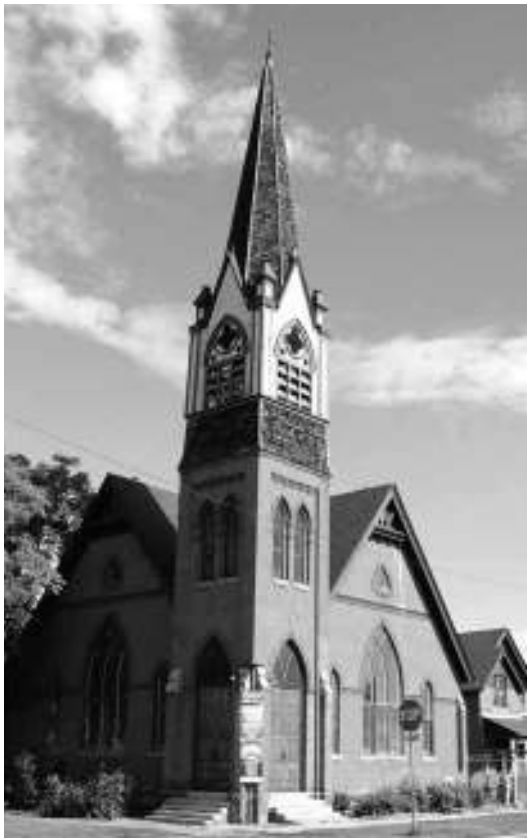
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PRESERVATION BRIEFS

STATE HISTORICAL FUND GRANT WINS

By Shannon Stage,
Preservation Coordinator

We are pleased to share that our partner projects - the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center (BAWM), and Agape Christian Church - were awarded restoration funds from History Colorado's State Historical Fund earlier this year! At BAWM, the funds will match the Partners in Preservation grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (awarded last October, thanks to your online votes!) to take on critical window and masonry restoration. At Agape, funds will restore window frames and stained-glass windows on the east facade. We are excited to see construction begin on these important gathering spaces so they can continue to serve our community well into the future!



Agape Christian Church in Curtis Park. Photo: Shannon Stage

OTHER SHF GRANT PARTNER PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Fitzroy Place** - Front porch stone restoration project. A pre-construction meeting occurred recently to kick-off the physical work
- Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church** - Roof and parapet restoration; with the architectural drawings completed, this project will also begin physical work in the next month
- Trinity United Methodist Church** - Stained glass window restoration; team will be meeting soon to kick start this project
- First Church of Divine Science (Althea Center)** - Roof restoration (phase 2); the architectural construction drawings are underway



HOWARD MORTUARY ON PATH TO PRESERVATION

By John Olson, Deputy Director

The Howard Mortuary was constructed in 1959 from a design by the prominent architect, J. Roger Musick, to satisfy a need for a funeral home closer to the families of the northwest Denver Berkeley neighborhood. Its modern take on traditional elements resulted in a one-story brick building with a steeply pitched gable at its chapel and terra cotta ornament featured in its prominent arcades at the corner of W. 46th Ave. and Tennyson St.

In June 2019, the owner of the property since 1971, Service Corp. International (SCI), applied for a demolition permit of the building with the understanding that a local developer, Koelbel Urban Homes, would purchase and develop the property after its demolition. After both informal and formal discussions, an organization by the name of Historic Berkeley Regis (HBR) - with the backing of their supporters - filed an application for local landmark status in response to the public posting of the demolition request.

Soon after, through the assistance of Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval's office and

Historic Denver, a mediation was convened between the owner (SCI), Koelbel Urban Homes, and Historic Berkeley Regis. The parties ultimately agreed to a pause, which allowed for a search for a preservation-minded buyer who could not only meet the price expectations, but also commit to the restoration and reuse of the chapel.

The pause was successful when, in February 2020, a new owner with substantial experience in repurposing historic buildings closed on the property: GM Development of Northwest Denver. While the earlier landmark designation application was withdrawn as part of the pause agreement, the new owner intends to submit an application for landmark status to ensure its preservation as a part of their new development.

HISTORIC DENVER WINS AWARD



Deputy Director John Olson accepting Stephen Hart Award on behalf of Bosler House team.

On Jan. 31, Historic Denver was honored with a History Colorado Stephen H. Hart Award for our work to secure and manage a State Historical Fund grant that helped save and rehabilitate the Bosler House at 3209 W. Fairview Place. We were recognized alongside the owners of the home, Steve and Jan Davis - who, in particular, helped turn a dire situation into an outstanding success; Denver Landmarks staff; and other partners. Our deputy director, John Olson accepted the award on behalf of the project team.

LA ALMA LINCOLN PARK - STEPS TOWARD A HISTORIC CULTURAL DISTRICT

For the last two and a half years, Historic Denver has partnered with neighbors of the La Alma Lincoln Park (LALP) community on an Action Fund project to explore the possibility of creating a historic cultural district. Historic Denver's Action Fund is a donor-supported fund that provides both technical and financial assistance to grassroots community preservation efforts.

In La Alma Lincoln Park this has included in depth research and survey work, numerous community meetings and feedback sessions, and the identification of new tools to acknowledge the particular and diverse stories of one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods.

The neighborhood tells a layered story of Denver's history: Native American tribes that called this land home; the earliest permanent homes developed by A.C. Hunt; early residents who worked for the nearby railroads and other industries; and the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and '70s. The neighborhood's built environment reflects these layers of history, and the community's evolving cultural significance.

Updates to the Landmark Ordinance, approved by Denver City Council this past fall, included cultural heritage criteria. This will help move this community effort in LALP forward. Customized design guidelines are needed to address the specific needs of the potential district and its layers of significance developed over a century. The community has been engaged with Historic Denver and the Denver Landmark Preservation staff in a working group to brainstorm and help create the guidelines. After this stage of the project is complete, the community can submit an official historic cultural district application to the city for review and consideration by the Landmark Commission and ultimately Denver City Council.

You can stay informed about this project through our emails, publications and social media. The Historic Context document, which details over 100 years of neighborhood history, is available on our website at historicdenver.org. 🌿



PHOTO CONTEST!

May is Historic Preservation month! Help us celebrate our nearly 50 years as your preservation advocates by sending pics of places in Denver that represent little known or untold stories. We encourage you to safely walk your neighborhoods or submit photos you’ve taken in the past. It can be a building, art piece, bridge, park or anything else that you want Historic Denver to know about, love and help take care of. More info on rules and submissions at historicdenver.org

LORETTO HEIGHTS: SAVING A CORNERSTONE OF THE SOUTHWEST DENVER COMMUNITY

By John Olson, Deputy Director



The theater at Loretto Heights, built in 1963.

The Loretto Heights campus began in 1888, when the Sisters of Loretto purchased the property in what is now southwest Denver on Mt. Sheridan, later to be renamed Mt. Loretto. The initial use for the campus was the Loretto Heights Academy, a school for elementary and high school girls. The Academy officially opened when the iconic Administration Building was completed, designed and erected under the supervision

of prominent Architect, Frank E. Edbrooke, in 1891. In the 132 years since its purchase by the Sisters, the campus evolved into a college for women, a co-ed university and, later, a university specializing in the education and promotion of international students.

Since the closure of what was most recently known as Colorado Heights University in the fall of 2017, and the eventual purchase of the site by master developer Westside Investment Partners, Inc. in June 2018, the campus has been the subject of major planning initiatives at the City of Denver. Historic Denver was an active participant in the 17-member steering committee for the Loretto Heights Small Area Plan, beginning in October 2018 and completed with the adoption of the plan by City Council in September 2019. Our participation was of the highest priority for our organization and our Board, given the historic and architectural heritage of the campus. We believe that this plan, and the future redevelopment of Loretto Heights, is a unique opportunity to build on the site’s legacy as the cornerstone of the southwest Denver community.

Throughout the Small Area Plan process, during both community-wide meetings and steering committee meetings, participants and stakeholders emphasized and prioritized the preservation of the unique assets and qualities of the campus, principally the 1891 Administration Building, the 1929 Pancratia Hall, the 1963 Library/Theater complex, and the campus cemetery. Recommendations in the Small Area Plan call for individual designations and the exploration of tools such as historic districts to protect these assets. As a response to the community, Historic Denver and Westside Investment Partners, Inc., have been in ongoing negotiations to provide immediate protection to the most significant buildings through a conservation easement - a tool that would prevent demolition and help maintain the building’s historic integrity. A commitment to these easements was provided to Historic Denver by Westside Investment Partners at the time of the Small Area Plan adoption, and the negotiation and drafting of these documents continues now as other plans for the campus move through the city processes.

This, coupled with the upcoming development of Pancratia Hall into affordable housing and the exploration of cultural uses for the theater building, give us hope that the future of Loretto Heights will honor and celebrate its productive and colorful past. 🌱

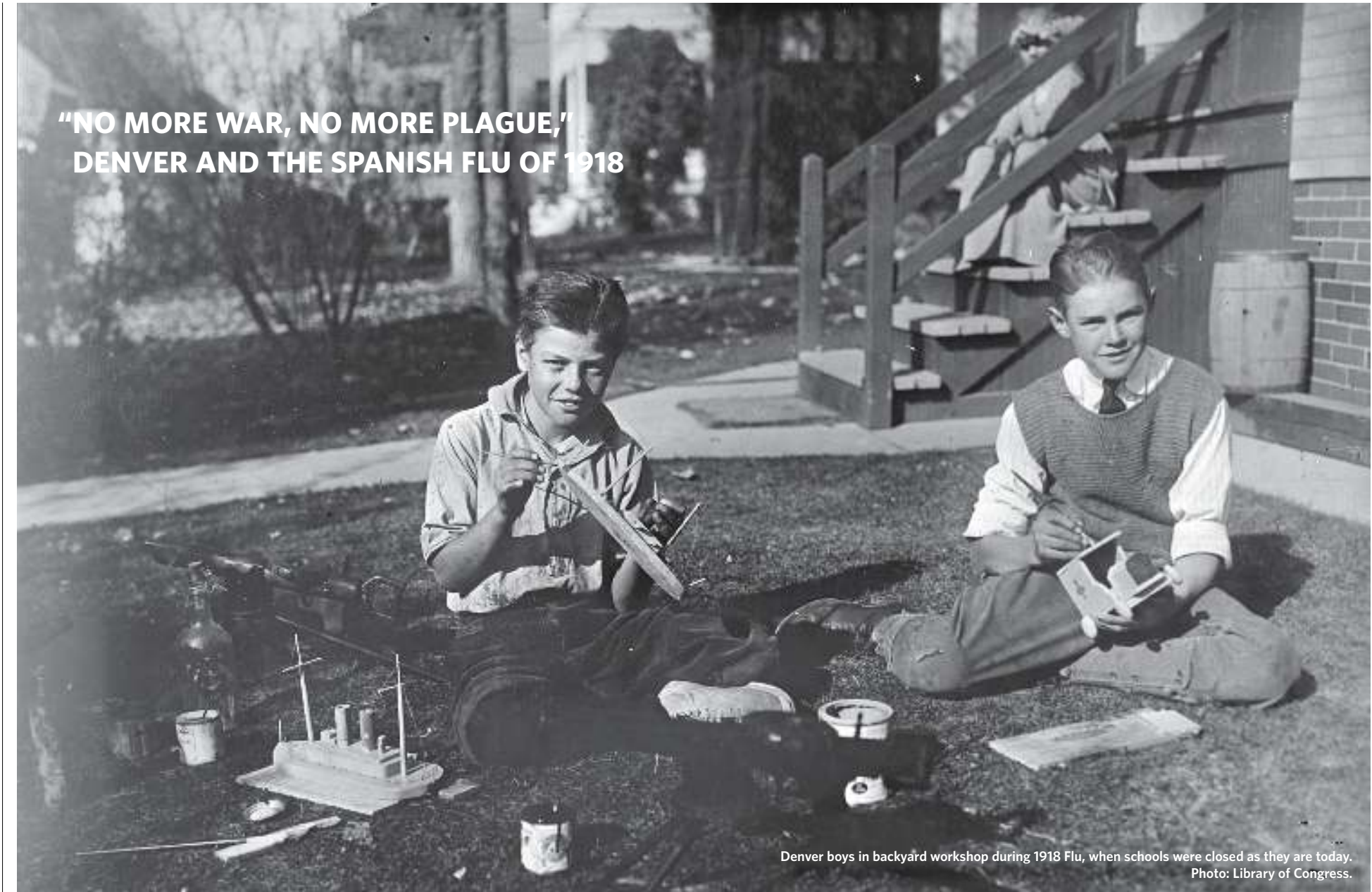


2019 2nd Prize Winner: Andrew Ledbetter, J. Solf Building in Sun Valley



2019 Grand Prize Winner: Brad Crooks, The Rossonian Hotel in Five Points

“NO MORE WAR, NO MORE PLAGUE,”
DENVER AND THE SPANISH FLU OF 1918



Denver boys in backyard workshop during 1918 Flu, when schools were closed as they are today.
Photo: Library of Congress.

By Jen Kindick, Museum Education Specialist

In 1918, World War I was ending. The Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles, officially ending the war, was signed seven months later, but before the end was in sight, French and American troops had begun to be affected by a benign influenza. By the summer of 1918, the virus had become extremely virulent. The influenza made its first appearance in Colorado that fall. On September 21 soldiers from Montana who were training at the University of Colorado, Boulder fell ill. Within a week, the number of cases of influenza on campus had increased to 95. Fraternity houses became makeshift hospitals and convalescent wards. M.E. Miles, chief public health officer and doctor, ordered a city-wide quarantine as the epidemic took hold of Boulder. All schools and the university were closed. Every day the campus newspaper, the Daily Camera, posted the names and addresses of those who had become sick with the flu.

On September 27, Blanche Kennedy, a young Denver University student died of pneumonia after returning from a trip to Chicago. This was Denver’s first influenza related death. Dr. William H Sharpley, the Manager of Health and Charity, took action in Denver. He had proactively formed an influenza board on September 26 and he urged social distancing and other preventative measures such as covering coughs and sneezes and keeping homes and offices well-ventilated.

By October 4th, the number of cases and deaths had rapidly climbed. Denver Mayor W.F.R. Mills drafted an order closing all Denver schools, business colleges, Sunday schools, clubs, lodges, pool halls, movie theaters and any other building that encouraged public assembly. As a result, the population of Denver began to go outdoors, congregating in shopping districts and holding outdoor religious services. Realizing that gathering outdoors was just as harmful as being indoors, outdoor funerals and other outdoor assemblies were also prohibited. By October 15, the total number of cases stood at 1,440. Further restrictions were put in place including limited store and office hours and restrictions to the number of passengers on public streetcars.

According to the Municipal Facts published by the city of Denver, residents were not taking the epidemic as seriously as city officials and state health board had wished in the early stages. As the November issue stated:

People have a wholesome respect for typhoid, scarlet fever or smallpox signs and will, of their own volition, respect established quarantines... For some reason however, even the most enlightened citizens will not take the influenza epidemic seriously... They know that the disease is a deadly menace and snuffs out life almost before the victim realizes that he is ill. Yet when health officers try to impress upon the public the necessity of following essential rules and regulations, the average citizen simply refuses to heed these admonitions. Obviously, it is impossible to arrest the entire citizenship of the city and that is what health authorities would have to do if they attempted to enforce the rules to the letter.

By early November, the restrictions seemed to be working as the number of cases decreased. City officials met to discuss the end of the closures and began to allow some

movie theaters and other large gathering places to open as long as they were not in a neighborhood where the epidemic were still raging. The immigrant neighborhoods of Globeville and Little Italy were still suffering, leading to immigrant backlash and scorn. Although restrictions were lifted, the city still warned citizens to limit gatherings.

The restrictions in Boulder and Denver were lifted on November 11, 1918 for Armistice Day. Thousands of Colorado residents celebrated the end of war in the public auditoriums, hotels, theaters and movie theaters. In Denver, 8,000 attended the celebration in the city auditorium. An article in the November Municipal Facts, “The Day of World’s Liberty as Observed in Denver,” also describes the celebration:

The news reached Denver in the dead of night after the city had gone to sleep. Suddenly a great clamor broke forth; whistles blew, bells rang, and the harsh calls of newsboys brought citizens to bolt upright in bed with one word upon all lips—Peace! People poured from hotels and rooming houses downtown; automobiles, piled high with their shouting human freight, came honking from the residence districts into the business section, and a celebration had started that lasted with little intermission for forty-eight hours. Awakened by the tumult in the early morning hours, Mayor Mills proclaimed a public holiday and day of thanksgiving.

The celebrations resulted in an uptick in influenza cases as the desire for festivities superseded the need for caution. As the number of infected grew, doctors and nurses were soon overwhelmed with patients. At Denver’s St. Joseph’s Hospital, half of the nurses caught the flu and were taken to a separate ward. Buildings in towns across Colorado including schools, churches, rooming houses and city halls, were being repurposed into emergency hospitals. At the height of the epidemic, Denver reported as many as 200 deaths a week.

The city attempted to close public gathering spaces again, but the owners of the movie theaters and other public entertainment venues protested this plan. As a result, all Denverites were ordered to wear facemasks when leaving their house and entering any building. Due to confusion and a lack of masks, the general public, however, did not heed the order and many maskless residents conducted their business in downtown Denver. Threats of fines and arrest were impossible to maintain with a population of almost 250,000 people. By November 30, the mask order was annulled, and quarantine and isolation orders were made more robust.

Although new cases were reported through December, the infection rate was far less than in the previous months and life began to return to normal. Schools reopened in Denver on January 2, 1919.

When the dust from war and disease settled in 1920, it was a whole different world. “No more war, no more plague, only the dazed silence that follows the ceasing of the heavy guns; noiseless houses with the shades drawn, empty streets, the dead cold light of tomorrow Now there would be time for everything.” – Pale Horse, Pale Rider- Katherine Anne Porter

You can read additional details and learn where the members of Margaret Brown’s family were living in 1918 on the Molly Brown House Museum blog, Between the Lions, www.mollybrown.org/between-lions. 🌸



Photo: Scott Dressel-Martin.

2020 WALKING TOURS
TELL THE STORIES OF SUFFRAGE IN DENVER,
EXPLORE NEW NEIGHBORHOODS

By Alison Salutz, Director of Community Programs



What do Elizabeth Piper Ensley, Libby Byers and Ellis Meredith have in common? They are all extraordinary women who will be featured on Historic Denver’s newest walking tour for their contributions to women’s suffrage in Denver.

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this tour will include several significant women’s history sites in Denver and discuss how the buildings were used in the fight to secure voting rights. The Tour will launch

as a specialty tour when our season kicks off this summer. Come discover the remarkable contributions of women who worked to make Colorado women the first in the nation to earn the right to vote through a ballot referendum!

In addition to this new tour, we are working on bringing a historic walking tour to the Potter Highlands neighborhood. This tour will highlight the history and wonderful architecture found in what was originally its own town, Highland, and discuss several of the families who were seminal in its creation.

Tours of LoDo, Capitol Hill, Larimer Square and the Daniels & Fisher Clock Tower, Historic 16th Street, Mansions of Quality Hill, Five Points and Curtis Park will all be offered again this season. These tours are a great way to explore in your own back yard, or in a neighborhood about which you’ve always been curious.

WALK WITH US!

Experience Denver in a new and engaging way!
Tickets are available at historicdenver.org.



Continue your tour of Denver’s historic neighborhoods at
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JOIN OUR HISTORIC DENVER
HOME-OWNERS FACEBOOK GROUP!

This informal group includes owners of historic homes and buildings in Denver to ask each other questions, share lessons learned, resources and cool discoveries. Historic Denver also provides news and tips as well. Come join the conversation!

NEED HELP WITH HISTORIC HOME CARE?

Get answers online!

As part of our special members-only content in March Deputy Director John Olson did a live Q & A online to answer frequently asked historic home care questions. You can watch the recording on YouTube, just search for Historic Denver’s channel.

HISTORIC DISTRICT ROUND-UP JULY 21



In July 2019 Historic Denver hosted the first-ever historic district round-up, as invitations went out to all homeowners in Denver’s 55 historic districts to gather and learn about pressing preservation issues, attend how-to sessions, and share stories and successes. We will repeat this gathering in 2020, this time at the Central Branch of the Denver Public Library where sessions will include using the library’s archives for home research, ADU construction in historic districts, tips for design review, tax credits for historic homes, and more. This event is free and open to anyone interested in knowing more about living in Denver’s beloved historic districts.

RSVP to asalutz@historicdenver.org.

RESCHEDULED!



A Titanic Dinner with the Unsinkable Mrs. Brown

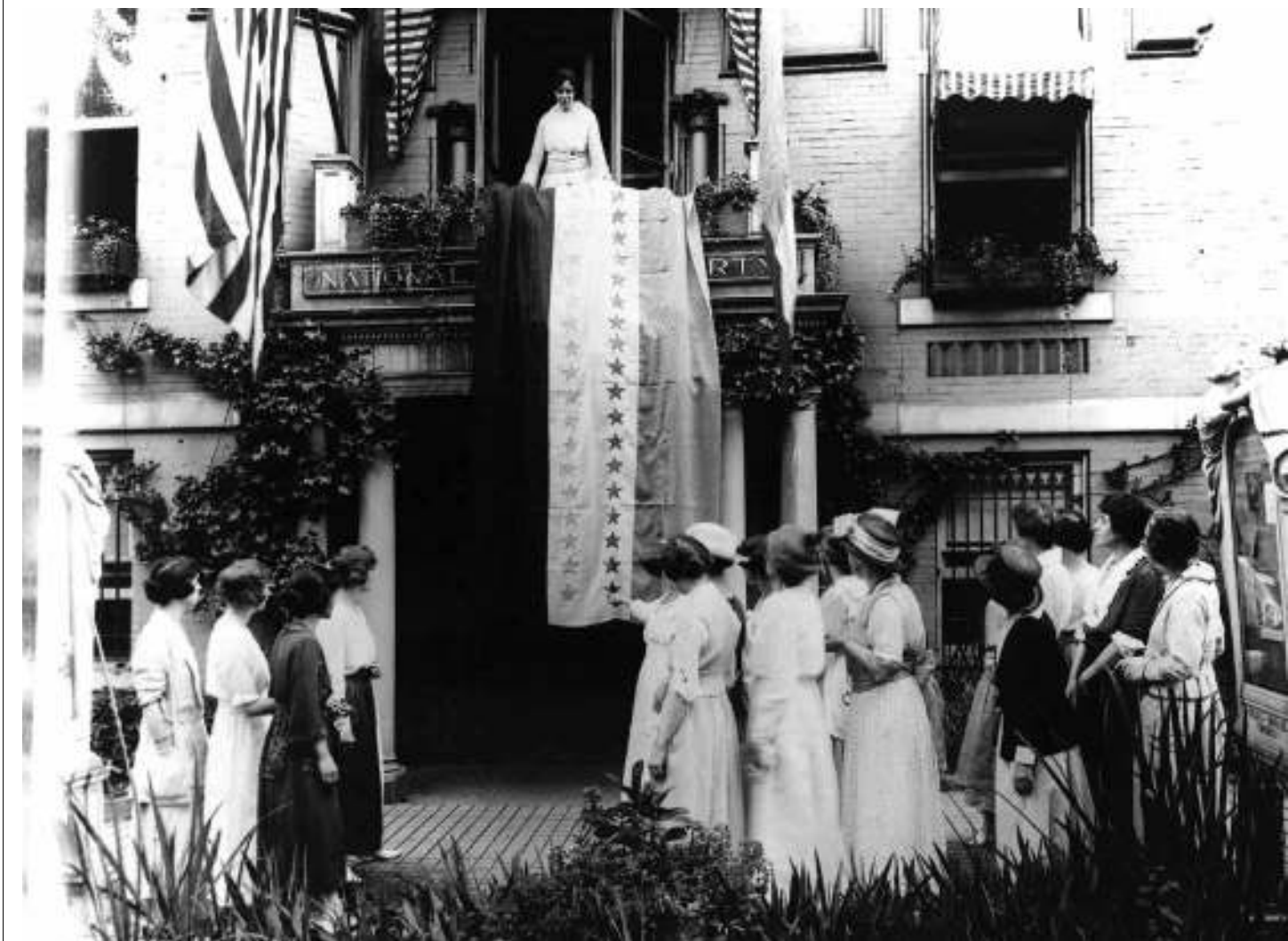
July 17
7-10 p.m.

Avoca Lodge, 7595 West Yale Ave.

Join us for a unique opportunity to visit the Browns’ country home, Avoca Lodge, where we’ll Greet “Mrs. Brown” upon her return to Denver and meet her special guest, great-granddaughter Helen Benziger McKinney. A delicious dinner of Mrs. Brown’s favorite dishes will be paired with good company and live music from the Gatsby Gang Jazz Band, which will play a toe-tapping combination of ragtime and jazz! With this new summer date, we’ll be able to take full advantage of the grounds at Molly Brown’s Summer House and celebrate Margaret’s birthday (July 18) in style!

Visit historicdenver.org to buy tickets.

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM



When Tennessee, the 36th state, ratified the 19th Amendment on Aug. 18th, 1920, Alice Paul, Chairman of the National Woman's Party, unfurled the ratification banner from the Suffrage Headquarters. Image courtesy Library of Congress.

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM: MARGARET BROWN SET HER SIGHTS ON A SENATE SEAT TO PUSH FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

By Andrea Malcomb, Molly Brown House Museum Director

One way in which Margaret Brown did her part for suffrage was to aim for one of Colorado's U.S. Senate seats – a bold step for a woman in 1914 – Jeanette Rankin wasn't elected to the U.S. House until 1916 and Hattie Caraway to the U.S. Senate in 1932. To a New York City Mail reporter Brown said, "The right woman in Washington would do more to convince men of her ability to stand beside them in the Senate than twenty men favorable to suffrage."

Margaret Brown's campaign to take U.S. Senator Charles Thomas's seat illustrates the nuanced final push for national woman's suffrage. Despite Democratic Senator Thomas serving as chairman of the Committee on Woman Suffrage, Alice Paul's Congressional Union (CU), later known as the National Women's Party, maintained a "punish the party in power" tactic. In a letter to CU's Doris Stevens, Colorado suffragist Ellis Meredith replied, "Now about Mrs. Brown... She is a good sort... only please refrain from campaigning against Senator Thomas; he was our friend before we had the suffrage, when friends were scarcer and more valuable." Dr. Anna Shaw, President of the National American Women's Suffrage Association (NAWSA), told reporters that Brown's bid was nothing short of treason, and that "Miss Paul and Miss Burns have the greatest lack of political sagacity."

Ultimately, Brown decided not to run. Her political advisors, including Senator Robinson, listened to Meredith's advice to not upset the applecart back in Colorado. Senators Thomas and Shafroth were friends to suffrage and were sponsors of suffrage bills: The Bristow-Mondell, nicknamed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment as it had been drafted by Anthony in 1874, would directly grant the vote by act of Congress. The Shafroth-Palmer Amendment left the power to enfranchise women with the states.

This was all unfurling in the summer of 1914 as suffragists, including Brown, gathered in Newport, RI for a "Conference of Great Women." It was at this conference and subsequent meetings that the CU/NWP finalized their course from then on - the push for a national constitutional amendment. Paul's tactics were too extreme for Shaw and NAWSA's leadership however, and the CU split from NAWSA.

By 1915 Carrie Chapman Catt again took up the NAWSA presidency and devised the "Winning Plan," which carefully coordinated state-by-state suffrage campaigns. Catt also supported Wilson's war effort, and in the end it seems that her more diplomatic approach appealed to the President's sense of reason. In a 1918 letter to Catt, President

Wilson stated that he agreed with her views for, "...democratic reconstruction of the world for which we are striving, and which we are determined to bring about at any cost, will not have been completely or adequately attained until women are admitted to the suffrage."

Catt's support of Wilson during the war was in contrast to Paul and the NWP. The Silent Sentinels protested in front of the White House to criticize Wilson's lack of support for suffrage and his war policies. Police arrested protesters throughout 1917 on charges of obstructing traffic, including Colorado's own Caroline Spencer. Protesters were sentenced to either jail time or a fine - they all chose jail. Police arrested Paul in October, 1917, while she carried a banner that quoted Wilson's position on entering the war: "The time has come to conquer or submit, for us there can be but one choice. We have made it." She was sentenced to seven months in prison at the Occoquan Workhouse. Paul began a hunger strike, and others joined her. In response, the prison doctors forced the women by putting tubes down their throats. One physician reported that Paul had "a spirit like Joan of Arc. She will die but she will never give up."

By 1918, the House of Representatives narrowly passed the Susan B. Anthony amendment but the Senate refused to

debate it until October, where it failed by two votes. In 1919, the House and the Senate both passed the suffrage amendment, sending it on to the states for ratification. On August 26, 1920, the needed three-quarters of the state legislatures ratified the 19th Amendment granting women full voting rights. This was a huge win for generations of women who had boldly marched, been arrested and suffered, and persevered to gain women's suffrage.

The Molly Brown House Museum's summer 2020 exhibit, "Fierce Foremothers, Steadfast Suffragists," will highlight the stories of all of the women, including Margaret, who were forces in the national suffrage movement, and connects with statewide and national efforts to commemorate the women's suffrage centennial. Follow us on Facebook and check our website often for exhibit updates and to discover ways to explore this century-old story empowers us to meaningfully champion democracy today. 🌸

TAKE NOTE!

The Museum is currently closed as a result of COVID-19, so visit [MollyBrown.org](https://www.mollybrown.org) or the Museum Facebook page often for updates on when we will reopen to the public.



Suffragists protested outside of the White House in 1917-18. Image courtesy National Archives.



Students exploring the Molly Brown House in February 2020.
Photos: Scott Dressel-Martin.

THE ‘MAZEWAYS’ OF OUR LIVES: CONNECTING KIDS TO A TANGIBLE PAST

By Heather Pressman, Director of Learning & Engagement

Every year, the Molly Brown House Museum educates 8,000-10,000 school kids on field trips and in-classroom programs. You may wonder why these programs are so popular - what is so important about teaching kids about historic places?

We all have connections to historic places and, according to scholar Mindy Thompson Fullilove, these places are the “mazes” of our daily lives. Dr. Fullilove spoke in Denver at the National Trust conference in October, and her decades-long analysis of the connections between people and place hits at the heart of the purpose behind the museum’s education programs.

To paraphrase Fullilove’s words, buildings, neighborhoods and cities are not simply bricks and mortar; we dance in a ballroom, parade in a street, smell chalk on the chalkboard, meet friends at a bar - these cues from place dive under conscious thought and awaken in our sinews and bones. When a place is ripped away, we don’t simply see it, we FEEL it. This importance of place is a key element of all of our education programs. By engaging with not only the past, but also the present and future, the Museum connects young Denverites to what makes Denver, Denver.

Students today may feel like the life and times of Margaret Brown are far removed from the times we live in; however, our programs and tours show students that their lives, in many ways, are no different than those of past generations. Issues such as voting rights and immigration were just as much a part of dinner conversation in 1920 as they are in 2020. Preserving historic places is a way of keeping the connections—the sinews that hold our city together intact, and restore the threads that have broken as we seek to understand the full and diverse story of our city.

Through our outreach programs and tours of the Museum, the Molly Brown House works to inspire students to know and love their local history. In addition to learning about historic preservation and mining, students dig deeper into Margaret’s history as an activist, and learn about other important and influential people in Colorado’s history.

A frequent comment we hear from visitors is, “I remember coming to the Museum on a school field trip!” Do you think those same visitors can name anything about the War of 1812 or remember exactly what President Monroe is best-known for during his presidency? Chances are, even if they are history buffs, probably not. Experiential,

place-based learning, where history actually happened, is so much more memorable.

While we weren’t able to host students at the Museum in April and May school visits, our education team has worked hard to provide teachers with digital resources, a virtual tour of the Molly Brown House Museum, and even facilitated on-line programs usually presented in the classroom. Looking for something for your students to do for the remainder of the school year? Follow the Molly Brown House Museum Facebook page or send a note to education@mollybrown.org to get access to content and activities for your young preservationists.

By inspiring the students of today to recognize the importance of place, we are creating the historic preservation stewards of tomorrow, ensuring that the places that are important to the history of a community - whether it’s a house, an old department store, or even a restaurant - will remain for the next generation. ❁

ENGAGE WITH US ONLINE!

We know our city’s students are learning at home right now, so check-out the content we’re creating just for them, including a virtual tour of the Molly Brown House and craft and activity suggestions — available on Facebook and mollybrown.org/learn-with-us.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
DISCOVER DENVER VOLUNTEERS

By Leslie Krupa, Survey Coordinator



Discover Denver volunteers Susan Grey, Kevin Kelly, Judy Trompeter.

DID YOU KNOW?

Discover Denver has more than 70 volunteers who help with building research and documentation of buildings? Many have been involved for years.

Judy Trompeter (photo, right) has been volunteering weekly since the project’s inception five years ago, fulfilling her love of architecture and gardens. Susan Grey (photo, left) has an architecture degree from the University of Colorado at Denver and has also been volunteering since the beginning of the project. She has surveyed weekly as a way to put her architecture degree to unique use. Kevin Kelly (photo, center) signed on to volunteer after Discover Denver project director, Beth Glandon, spoke to the Capitol Hill United Neighborhood Preservation Committee about the program. He was drawn to surveying because of his background in environmental design.

Judy, Susan, and Kevin recently sat down with us to discuss what keeps them involved in the project and to share some of their favorite experiences.

Q: Why do you continue to survey?

Judy: It’s a puzzle and interesting! It is also outdoors. And I like to see a neighborhood up close and not from a car.

Susan: I spent 30 years working in offices and at a desk. Now I just want to be outside. Other retirees will understand!

Kevin: I love the architectural connection to old Denver and I just love houses.

Q: What are some of the favorite discoveries you found while surveying?

Judy: I loved finding the little frame homes with unique dormers in Globeville and Elyria-Swansea. Even though the homes were modest, these details reflected their Eastern European roots.

Susan: In Globeville, there was an owner whose grandfather owned his house and became the unofficial banker of the neighborhood because the residents didn’t trust banks at the time. He even built a vault into the house, eventually, to safeguard the money.

Kevin: A house on the 1200 block of Pearl that turns out was a Fisher & Fisher house, and the owners even had the original plans framed on the wall!

Q: What is your favorite building form and style that you’ve encountered while surveying?

Judy: Early 20th century, like Edwardian. Victorian too. Anything not plain.

Susan: I like big, rambling Arts and Crafts bungalows with lots of bays and projecting parts.

Kevin: Edwardian (1900-1910) and Tudors.

Q: What advice do you have for prospective or new volunteers?

Susan: It is great to walk around and be outside. And sharing and socializing is a big part.

Kevin: I can now give tours to friends! It makes you also get involved in the community where you live.

Susan: It also will change how you explore the city outside of survey. You can also do as much or little as you want. It is flexible, and being retired you want something to do without a full-time commitment.

Judy: Do it!! You’ll love it! 🌸

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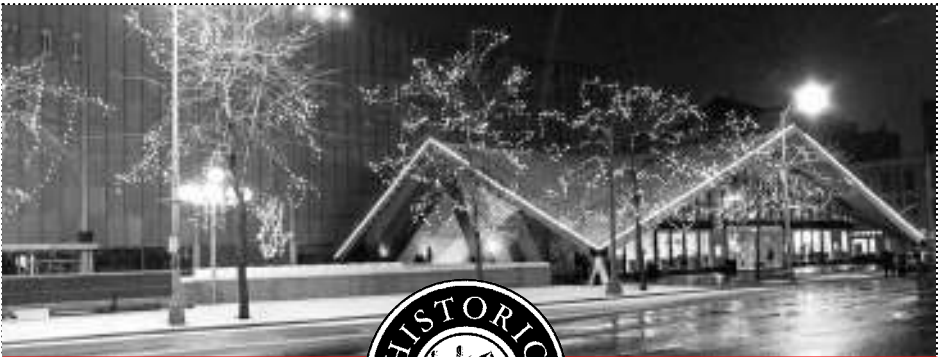
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Our city’s landmarks have borne witness to our trials and triumphs before, and they will still stand to tell
Denver’s stories tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond.

Historic Denver and the Molly Brown House Museum will also be here tomorrow, as we have been for 50 years,
as advocates, educators and stewards for the places you love.

We are grateful for the many ways you support Historic Denver as members, volunteers, friends and citizens.

But with the Museum currently closed, and having cancelled spring events and tours,
we can use your support now more than ever.



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- Become a member** or upgrade your membership today, and receive special members-only content
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- Donate your state tax refund** to Historic Denver when you file your return, using our registration number 20033002551.
- Order your Amazon deliveries** through Amazon Smile and pick Historic Denver as the beneficiary of your purchases.
- Pre-purchase tickets for a summer walking tour**, a visit to the Molly Brown House Museum, or our fall line-up of events.

Keeping You Connected

- We know you miss getting out** to the places you love as much as we do, which is why we’ve created this opportunity for you connect to our work and the stories that matter to you and our city.
- Our social media @HistoricDenver** and **@Molly Brown House Museum** is full of fun trivia, engaging content, and interactive activities, including Find it Friday.
- Plus, we’ve recently added virtual tours** to our website and YouTube Channel, just search for Historic Denver.

For Students & Teachers

- Are the students in your life** missing out on the flurry of spring fieldtrips?
- Check out our new Digital Resources page** at www.mollybrown.org/digital-resources to find hands-on activities, word searches, coloring pages and our brand-new virtual tour.
- Know teachers hunting for engaging online** learning options? Our education team is ready to help with virtual outreach programs about Denver history, preservation and Margaret Brown. E-mail education@mollybrown.org for details.

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