

HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

EST. 1970 + VOLUME 49 + NUMBER 4 + FALL 2020



Curtis Hall/Gaebe Hall on the campus. Photo: Jay Homstad

CHANGE IN STORE FOR FORMER COLORADO WOMAN'S COLLEGE CAMPUS

By Annie Levinsky, Executive Director and Jay Homstad, Research Intern

Sitting on the eastern edge of Park Hill, on what was once the vast open prairie, sits a campus that has endured ups and downs, and served generations of students, first as Colorado Woman's College and more recently as the Denver campus of Johnson & Wales University.

For nearly a century, the campus held its own with Colorado's other private colleges, a consortium that included Loretto Heights, the University of Denver, Regis University, and Colorado College. Its founders had an expansive vision for the school they hoped would be the Vassar of the West, and prayed would be "a blessing to all the Rocky Mountain Region for five hundred years to come."

This vision was bold, because it was uttered in 1908, twenty years after work began to build the college, and at a time when the City of Denver just barely stretched toward the campus, the location for which had been selected, and duly granted by Governor Job A Cooper in 1888. The idea for an institution of higher education for women in Denver was conceived by Baptist Reverend Robert A. Cameron, and it was the Baptist Association of the Rocky Mountains that gave their approval to realize Cameron's dream. Colorado Woman's College remained associated with the Baptist denomination throughout its nine decades in Park Hill.

Fundraising for the school was challenging, and while the architects Jackson & Bettes were hired to design the first building in 1889, and the cornerstone laid the next year, the building wasn't fully finished and occupied until 1908. This first building, in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, remains the dominant heart of the campus. It was eventually named Treat Hall in honor of Jay Porter Treat, the college's first President.

During the Johnson & Wales tenure it's been known as Centennial Hall in honor of JWU's centennial year.

The first class of 59 Colorado Woman's College students officially enrolled in 1909, and the first graduation was held in 1911. Fifty years later, CWC served more than 1,000 women and included nearly a dozen buildings designed by Denver's best architects.

While the campus' oldest structure reflects the institutional style of its era, Richardsonian Romanesque, the overall campus character was defined slightly later, and heavily influenced by one designer, Arthur Axtens. Axtens was active as a designer in Denver from 1927 until at least 1957, and during this time he designed six buildings for Colorado Woman's College, although one has since been demolished. Axten's buildings all follow the same general aesthetic, using the collegiate gothic stye, with some Tudor elements, and built of a blond brick that nods to the central wing of Treat Hall. The buildings are positioned carefully on the flanks of Treat Hall, and frame a large central open space, or quad on the campus.

Nearly all the buildings built at Colorado Woman's College, from the 1930s through the 1960s, were supported by the philanthropy of one family, that of William A. Porter. William Porter was the son of one of Denver's early entrepreneurial families. His father, Henry Porter, arrived in the Denver area in 1862, and built telegraph and railroad lines, and invested in real estate, largely in the Capitol Hill area. He helped to found and finance the sanitorium in south Denver that would grow into Porter Hospital. His son, William, followed his father's lead in supporting key Denver institutions and invested heavily in Colorado Woman's College for decades, always anonymously. However, it wasn't a

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Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

On December 11, 1970 Historic Denver, Inc. was formally incorporated after several months of meetings and planning. As we move through this anniversary season we too are making plans for the future, for the next fifty years of preservation in Denver.

To mark our 50th anniversary, Historic Denver will use this newsletter to document our own history over the course of the next several issues, sharing the stories of our founders, fantastic saves, and formative losses. We will also develop an exhibit about our early years at the Molly Brown House Museum for summer 2021, which will mark the museum’s 50th season of welcoming and engaging visitors after opening to the public in March 1971, and as announced on September 23, 2020, we will launch our Fifty Actions for Fifty Places Campaign.

The Fifty Action campaign will identify fifty places, historic resources, or artifacts that are under-recognized and essential pieces of our city’s story. The list of fifty will be compiled using Discover Denver data, Historic Denver Board and Staff recommendations, and public engagement beginning in early 2021.

Actions on behalf of the fifty resources will be customized for the circumstances and with community input, but will range from building awareness through published articles, media events and public relations, to training and building capacity within neighborhoods/communities seeking to care for a place or part of Denver’s story, to nominations for local, State Register or National Register listings, and in limited cases may include physical preservation or conservation action, performed by professionals or volunteers.

Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, who will match gifts made through December 11, 2020, we are raising \$50,000 to support this campaign- and you can get involved now by making a gift at historicdenver.org.

Stay tuned and be sure to join us in celebrating this momentous milestone! 🌟

50 Actions for 50 Places CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

Donate now through December 11 to have your gift matched dollar for dollar by a generous anonymous donor, up to \$25,000. The funds raised will support the Fifty Actions campaign in support of the places in Denver most in-need of preservation attention.

[Learn more at historicdenver.org/support-us.](http://historicdenver.org/support-us)



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Historic Denver News welcomes your letters, contents of which may be edited for length and clarity. Please include your name, address and telephone number in correspondence to:

Editor, *Historic Denver News*,
1420 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218



TYPOS:

In the Summer 2020 issue we mistakenly printed an incorrect address for the Denver Woman’s Press Club, which is located at 1325 Logan Street.

The Summer 2020 issue was also mis-numbered. It should have been Volume 49, Number 3

AN AWARDS EVENT LIKE NO OTHER

At a virtual 50th Annual Awards Celebration & Retrospective on September 23 we revealed the best preservation projects of the last five decades, selected from among hundreds of past Community Preservation Award recipients, with input from public polling that took place online over the summer.

More than 300 people participated in the live-streamed event, which also included entertainment by historic district resident Wesley Schultz of the Lumineers and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, a fellow cultural institution celebrating its 50th year this year. During the event Robinson noted, “It gives me great joy to congratulate Historic Denver on its 50th anniversary, a celebration we share as both organizations achieved this extraordinary milestone in 2020. Our city is fortunate to have such a dedicated organization committed to the preservation and advancement of our richly diverse history.”

“Anniversaries are a time for reflection and celebration, but also an opportunity to look forward and to make plans. We’re proud of the tremendous preservation work that has taken place over the last five decades, and we’re energized to continue these efforts so that Denver’s historic places reflect the full breadth of our city’s story,” Historic Denver Executive Director Annie Levinsky said. “From our first effort to save the Molly Brown House Museum, to our more recent successes, our work ensures that Denverites can actively experience and thoughtfully maintain the places we all love, and together we’ll chart a path forward for the next fifty years of preservation in Denver.”

The honorees included seven projects, one from each of Historic Denver’s five decades, and two all-time fan-favorites. Congratulations to the leaders, visionaries, and property owners that made these award-winning projects among our city’s favorites.

A special thank you to our Silver Sponsor: Capital One Café. **And our Bronze Sponsors:** Craine Architecture, Kirkpatrick Bank, Ratio Design, Sprung Construction, Tryba Architects, ZF Capital, and GBX Group LLC.

1970s

9TH STREET HISTORIC PARK, AURARIA CAMPUS



The second major undertaking of a young Historic Denver, this project saved an entire block of what was once the Auraria neighborhood before transitioning to the shared higher education campus we know today. Historic Denver convinced the authorities to allow this undertaking and raised the dollars to do the preservation work before turning the properties back over to the

state for campus use. The remaining block includes the Casa Mayan House, which is both one of the oldest and most layered historic places in our city, also serving as a cultural center through the mid-20th century in an area with strong ties to Mexican American and Chicano culture.

1980s

MAYAN THEATER, SOUTH BROADWAY



Photo: Denver Public Library

Few now realize that the Mayan Theater was almost lost to the wrecking ball in 1984, but the passionate efforts of community activists, such as Christine Citron, saved the day. After months of effort, and with the help of then Mayor Federico Pena, the group was able to convince the Canadian owners to stay demolition of the landmark and to consider alternative development options that kept the theater and adjacent

bank building in place.

1990s

HOTEL TEATRO, DOWNTOWN



While the 1990s began with heart-breaking preservation losses, including the Central Bank building demolition, the decade closed with the opening of the Hotel Teatro in the most significant adaptive reuse project of the decade, which converted the former headquarters of the Denver Tramway Company into a hotel serving the arts complex next door, further demonstrating preservation’s potential to reinvigorate downtown Denver.

2000

FIVE POINTS HISTORIC CULTURAL DISTRICT, FIVE POINTS



Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage

In 2002 neighborhood leaders and preservationists worked to recognize several blocks along Welton Street in Five Points as the city’s first Cultural Historic District, protecting several key historic structures that anchored the long-time heart of Denver’s African American business district, including the famed Rossonian Hotel. The area was historically referred to as

the Harlem of the West and home to many notable Denver leaders, and a stomping ground for Black entertainers throughout the 20th century. The district provides the physical reminder of this rich heritage so that the stories are not lost.

2010s

BROWN PALACE HOTEL, DOWNTOWN



A two-time past award winner, in 1980 and 2015, the Brown Palace is a beloved Denver landmark that has been restored by each generation of ownership, most recently receiving careful exterior stone restoration. The building holds myriad famous Denver stories, from Margaret “Molly” Brown’s yodeling lessons, to the Beatles stay, and the prize Stock Show bull. The hotel has also been the site of Historic Denver’s annual

awards event for fifty years, and we plan to return there in 2021.

FAN-FAVORITE

UNION STATION, LOWER DOWNTOWN



photo: Scott Dressel-Martin

It’s nearly impossible to find a more popular preservation story than that of Union Station, which reopened to the public in 2014 as a hotel and gathering space, while remaining true to its original role as a throughfare for travelers. From the carefully restored front canopy to the terrazzo floors, the details in the station remain exquisite and the station has been restored to its proper status as a downtown focal point and

the link between downtown and its surrounding neighborhoods.

FAN-FAVORITE

LARIMER SQUARE, DOWNTOWN



The street that started it all remains the number one most beloved historic place in the city, as evidenced by the community’s on-going support for its preservation in recent years as pressure for redevelopment has mounted. Saved by Dana Crawford in the late 1960s, the 1400 block of Larimer became the city’s first locally designated Historic District in 1971. It has

continued to evolve into a place that anchors a changing downtown and tells the story of how our city came to be at a crossroad of rivers and roads. 🍷



TO VIEW THE AWARDS

If you’d like to watch the video again or share it with friends you can simply search Historic Denver on YouTube and find it anytime.



Deputy Director John Olson accepted a new position with the Park Service over the summer.

A GOOD-BYE, AND SOME HELLOS

This year has been marked by many changes for our organization and countless others, but in addition to the unusual changes brought on by COVID-19, we’ve also said goodbye to some long-time staff and welcomed new colleagues.

Over the summer we bid farewell to John Olson, our Deputy Director, as he accepted a position as a Historical Architect for the National Park Service, serving the western region. John began working at Historic Denver in 2008 as the Director of Preservation Programs, taking on grant project oversight, easement management and key advocacy assignments. John quickly proved his value and became a go-to resource for building owners, especially among our sacred landmark partners, and for community members. With a background in architecture, John’s technical knowledge solved many preservation dilemmas and led to creative solutions for historic buildings and sites. Major achievements during John’s 12 years at Historic Denver include his leadership in helping to save the Cathedral High School/Seton Hall building at 18th & Grant, saving the key historic structures at the National Western Stock Show site, supporting restoration planning at the Golden Hill Cemetery, informing the process on the 16th Street Mall, and serving as the liaison on several successful historic district efforts, including the Packard’s Historic Hill District and the 200 S. Lincoln Historic District. We are grateful for John’s years of service with Historic Denver and he will be missed by staff, board members, volunteers and members. Fortunately, John’s new position at the Park Service is based in Denver, and we look forward to working with him in his new role. John can be reached at the Park Service at john_p_olson@nps.gov.

In July we welcomed Chris Geddes to our team as the Discover Denver Survey Coordinator. Chris is no stranger to Denver’s preservation community. While working on her master’s degree in History/Historic Preservation at CSU, she obtained a job at the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office entering thousands of architectural survey forms. From there she moved into the National & State Register program listing such resources as the Sno-go Snow Plow in Rocky Mountain National Park and one room school houses in multiple rural communities. After leaving the SHPO, she served a term on the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission and assisted preservation consultants on a variety of interpretive and nomination projects. She currently serves on both the Aurora Historic Preservation Commission and the Littleton Historical Preservation Board, focusing on local landmark designation for resources in these communities. She is thrilled to be the new Survey Coordinator for the Discover Denver project at Historic Denver, where she will manage the project’s field-survey work, manage the volunteer corps, and help research and evaluate properties.

Taylor Herbst joined Historic Denver as the Visitor Experience Coordinator for the Molly Brown House Museum in June 2020. She oversees daily operations of the museum store and assists all our guests with ticketing and day-of-visit procedures. Taylor was born and raised in Denver and attended college in a small town in Wyoming. She discovered her passion for serving visitors while working at the local art museum during her college years. Taylor has continued to work in visitor services and gift shops in a variety of museums for the past ten years. She is especially interested in creating and fostering relationships with small and local businesses and enjoys introducing the work of local vendors. In her life outside of museums, she enjoys reading, baking and spending time with her partner, dog and two cats. 🌿

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Pictured Above: The Richthofen Castle in Montclair, Sold by Casey in 2012.



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IN MEMORIA

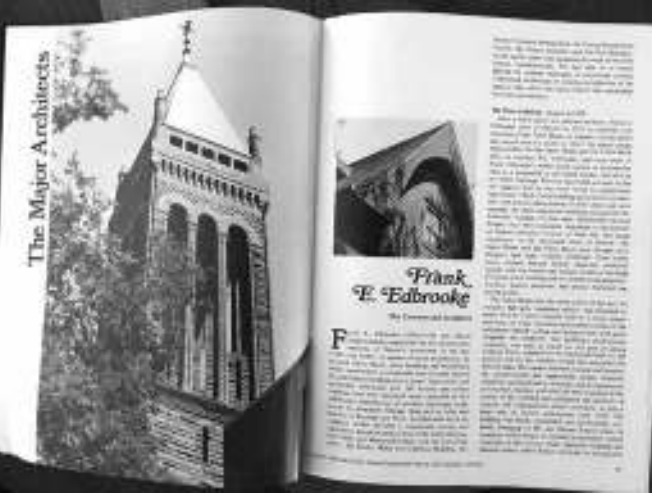
ANNIE OPPLIGER



On September 6 we learned of the sudden and unexpected loss of Annie Oppliger, lovingly known at the Molly Brown House Museum as “Annie O.” since she began volunteering more than fifteen years ago. Annie was sweet, kind, and tough as nails. She brought a unique brand of calming enthusiasm to her hundreds of tours, often donned a thoughtfully crafted costume, and graciously volunteered for countless special projects, including frequently serving as a media spokesperson to promote museum activities and functions. Annie is survived by her husband of 25 years, Don, and will be missed by all those who were lucky enough to work alongside her.

Annie would sign off her emails “LL&P”. Asked what it meant and she said “love, light & peace.” She then gave a sly smile and said that it tickled her that it could also mean “live long and prosper,” the Vulcan farewell from Star Trek—Annie was a devoted Trekkie. So, in her honor, LL&P.

RICHARD BRETTELL



Historic Denver was sad to learn of the July death of Richard Brettell at age 71. Professor Brettell moved to Denver when he was in the second grade, and graduated Denver Public Schools before heading to Yale. While he had moved away from Denver many years ago, he left an enduring legacy in the city through his book Historic Denver,

the Architects & Architecture, 1858-1893, published by our organization in 1973. The book helped to define Denver’s unique architectural legacy and inspire the burgeoning preservation movement in our city.

At the time of his death Professor Brettell was the Margaret McDermott Distinguished Professor of Art and Aesthetics at The University of Texas at Dallas. He earned his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Yale University. Prior to joining The University of Texas at Dallas, Professor Brettell taught at Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Yale University, and Harvard University. Professor Brettell was the founding American director of the French Regional and American Museum Exchange, designed to promote the exchange of art and information between regional museums in France and the United States. He served as the McDermott Director of the Dallas Museum of Art and advised and consulted for museums such as the Portland Museum of Art and the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. 🌿



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!



Historic Denver relies on the volunteer services of generous community members to deliver our core programs, from tours and events at the Molly Brown House Museum, to Walking Tours, and Discover Denver field-survey teams. We are grateful for this essential support. In 2019 this included hundreds of individuals, donating 7,218 hours of service.

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- Sharon Morgan
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- Celest Menendez
- Adam Peters (already on list)
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- AJ Nedzesky
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- Tom Sanders
- Diane Sanelli
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- Diane Travis
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- Ruth Vanderkooi
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- Grant Simon
- Jamie Anderson
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- Sean McCaw
- Shirl Kasper
- Stacey McDole
- Stephany Brown
- Susan Grey
- Suzanne Larimer
- Suzy LaViolette
- Tammy White
- Yolita Rausche



Photos: Jay Homstad

tightly kept secret, as most of the building constructed with Porter money bear the name of a Porter family member.

After the Axtens era, the school turned to architects versed in the modernist styles, with Stanley Morse, Victor Hornbein and Edward White Jr. working on five additional campus buildings in the 1960s. Interestingly, each of the three had connections to one of Denver’s most respected architectural firms, Fisher & Fisher, although Morse worked at the firm two decades before Hornbein and White came on the scene.

Few CWC buildings have been demolished, although Axten’s science building, Hutchinson Hall, is gone, and Morse’s Fine Arts Building was converted into the Denver School of the Arts and has been heavily altered. A few buildings were constructed after the close of the CWC-era, as investments by the University of Denver and JWU. However, the integrity of the campus remains highly intact, with the core buildings all present and in good condition. Several of the buildings have potential eligibility to be individual Denver Landmarks or to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, while the collection of buildings and the spatial arrangement also has strong potential for historic district status.

In September, Historic Denver prepared a preliminary assessment of the campus architecture for use by JWU as the property is listed for sale. This assessment can help inform potential purchasers about the campus history, and encourage reuse and rehabilitation, and tax credits and other financial incentives that are available. Historic Denver intends to remain in communication with JWU throughout the disposition process, and we know the larger community is also keenly interested in finding a future that honors the special qualities and history of Colorado Woman’s College, where generations of women lived and learned.

1. Foote/Founders Hall

Constructed in 1929, Foote Hall is the first CWC building to be designed by Arthur Axtens, who would come to dominate design on the campus for over twenty years and offer its cohesive, collegiate gothic meets emerging modern movement dynamic. The building was originally named for Ira Foote, a board member and donor to the college, and renamed Founder’s Hall during the JWU years.

2. Porter/Triangolo Hall

While similar to Foote Hall in style, Axtens-designed Porter Hall was constructed nearly ten years later and its refinement landed it in the 9th position on the Architectural Record’s finest examples of architecture in Denver. The building was named for Laura W. Porter, the mother of CWC’s greatest benefactor of the era, William Porter. This marks the first in a string of buildings to be named for Porter family members.

3. Treat/Centennial Hall

The south wing was constructed in 1890, but not occupied until 1909, when the central section was also completed. A planned Richardsonian Romanesque north wing was designed, but never built. The building served as classrooms, a dormitory, and held an auditorium for larger gatherings, providing all the functional services of the college for its first twenty years of operation. The building was named for Jay Porter Treat, the first president of CWC, who was recruited to come to Denver for the position after serving as the superintendent of schools in Trinidad, Colorado. Unfortunately, after CWC

merged with the University of Denver in the 1980s, Treat Hall was vacated and remain unused until Johnson & Wales launched a major rehabilitation effort, reopening the building in 2014. The rehabilitation was funded in part by the Colorado State Historical Fund, and in 2015 Historic Denver accepted an easement on the building to provide perpetual protection from demolition or insensitive alteration.

Pulliam/President’s Hall

Another Axtens design, Pulliam Hall continues to employ the collegiate gothic style of its predecessors, and was completed in 1947.

Mason Hall/Wildcat Center

Also completed in 1947, Mason Hall too employs elements of the collegiate gothic, but begins to tip its hat to the emerging modern sensibility as the first flat-roofed structure on campus. It was named for Dora Porter Mason, sister of William Porter.

Curtis Hall/Gaebe Hall

Curtis Hall was the last campus building designed by Axtens, and has a number of strong similarities to Pulliam Hall. It was named for the family of William A. Porter’s wife, who was a Curtis before her marriage. A fun fact about this structure, mortar used during the cornerstone ceremony was mixed with water sent to the college by parents of girls from 33 states and 2 foreign countries

Whatley Chapel

In 1962 CWC realized a dream in finally building a dedicated chapel, as the school remained closely associated with the Baptist denomination. Arthur Axten’s era was over, but his successor’s built on his legacy, employing the blond brick that came to dominate the 20th century campus, and incorporating gothic elements in increasingly modern designs. Stanley Morse was hired to design the chapel, and it includes 39 stained-glass windows by French artist Gabriel Loire.

5. Dunton & Dunklee Halls/Johnson & Wales Halls

Likely commissioned at the same time, Stanley Morse also designed two large new dormitories on the north eastern edge of the campus, known as Dunton & Dunklee Halls during the CWC years. These dorms use a formalist style, but the verticality and the stained-glass windows still nod to the collegiate gothic setting. Together, the building housed nearly 400 students.

Porter Library/Aspen Hall

In 1963 CWC hired a new set of architects, a team with a growing reputation for iconic modern designs and innovation, Victor Hornbein and Edward White Jr. Interestingly, Edward White Jr. was married to Ann Porter Waring at the time, and his association with the college’s major donors may have introduced the opportunity to design this structure early in his partnership with Victor Hornbein. Ed White went on to be a founder of Historic Denver and a leading preservation architect in the city. Both Hornbein and White attended Denver East High School. The library was named for Permelia Curtis Porter, the wife of William A. Porter, and is the last campus building paid for by the Porter family.

PRESERVATION BRIEFS



Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage

PARTNER PROJECT UPDATES

As the colder weather is slowly creeping upon us, several of our partner projects, funded by the State Historical Fund, are moving closer to their finish line, while others are just in the planning stages. Historic Denver applies for grants on behalf of historic structures across our city, and provides technical assistance and grant management services from start to finish.

Trinity United Methodist Church 1820 Broadway, Denver

The Trinity UMC project involves the restoration of the stained glass and window frames, along with new protective glazing, on the primary façade, facing Lincoln. The construction drawings outlining the work are nearly complete, and then restoration will begin shortly after approval. Trinity UMC’s congregation is among the oldest in Denver, the building was designed in 1888 by Robert S. Roeschlaub in a Gothic Revival style with local Castle Rock rhyolite. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a local landmark. Having worked on Trinity in the past, Watkins Stained Glass Studio and Spectrum General Contractors will perform the restoration work, along with drawings by Eppstein Uhen Architects.

First Unitarian Society of Denver 1400 N Lafayette St

In August our team met with the building owners and the State Historical Fund representative to initiate another phase of restoration on this Capitol Hill landmark, which was the first landmark in Denver designated specifically for its association with the LGBTQ rights movement. The project involves roof replacement and gutter rehabilitation work.

Black American West Museum & Heritage Center (BAWM) 3091 California St

The board of the BAWM and the project team spent the summer preparing for the masonry and restoration work, funded by the State Historical Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Partners in Preservation program. After a bidding project the board has selected a contractor and work will begin this fall. Because of the approaching winter weather the windows will be restored off-site in a workshop and then returned to the building. At this time the museum remains closed given COVID-19 constraints and precautions, but you can still support their efforts with donations and follow the project’s progress on our social media accounts.

First Church of Divine Science (Althea Center) 1400 N Williams St

This project is the second major State Historical Fund grant project for the Althea Center in recent years. Hoehn Architects have completed the construction drawings for the restoration of the roof on the 1955 addition to the historic structure.

Fitzroy Place/Accelerated Schools 2160 S Cook St

In August the project team completed the front porch restoration project just in time to welcome students back to the school when conditions permit. Prior to its life as a school, the structure was a single-family home, and the site is still home to a large stone barn, creating a feeling that hearkens back to a different era in Denver’s history.

Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church 1100 Fillmore St

The roof and parapet restoration at this Congress Park landmark also wrapped up last month. Just in time, as winter is around the corner, completing this project will ensure a dry interior after the church experienced active leaking in recent years. Ensuring a properly sealed and water-safe building envelope, from foundation to roof, is the most important aspect of historic building maintenance.

We will keep you updated on all of our partner projects through our publications and our social media channels.

ADVOCACY UPDATES

Stahl House at 1272 Columbine Set to Become a Denver Landmark



Photo: Scott Crozer

In September, property owners JoVonne and Gerald Fitzgerald submitted an application to designate 1272 Columbine, one of the most intact William Lang-designed homes in Congress Park. Historic Denver prepared the nomination after identifying the building during Discover Denver survey work in the area. The Fitzgeralds had also previously completed their own research about the home, which they purchased from the second owner in the 1980s for use as a rental property. The home now has two units, and both the interior and exterior retains key Lang features, from the arched front window, the Queen Anne

styling with Richardsonian Romanesque flare, and the intricate front staircase. The home was originally constructed for John S. Stahl, who moved to Colorado to start a hardware business with his partners. He later moved to Denver and launched an influential type-writer business, which provided the machines to produce most local newspapers. Stahl was also active in civic and political matters, as were his children. The family lived in and owned the home even after John’s death, through the early 1940s. The house is significant for its architecture, its architect, and for the influence of John S. Stahl. The designation must go through a public hearing at the Denver Landmark Commission and ultimately City Council, which we hope will happen before the end of 2020.

Carmen Court Designation Delayed in Search for Compromise



Carmen Court, c. 1926, Denver Public Library

In early September City Council urged the property owners, the developer seeking to purchase the building (Hines), and community members to keep working toward a compromise regarding the debate about saving the 1925 Pueblo-Revival style multi-family structure. A period of mediation began in April after the owners filed for a Certificate of Demolition

Eligibility status in March 2020. Hines has shared that they plan to build a five-story luxury senior housing facility on the site, also using three adjacent parcels. Historic Denver has been participating in the mediation as a resource to try to find a win-win alternative, including seeking an alternative buyer for the parcels or identifying design solutions to incorporate the historic structure into a larger new development. City Council is now set to consider the matter in late October or early November.

Carmen Court, located at the corner of 1st and Emerson in the Speer Neighborhood, is a rare example of Pueblo-Revival style architecture and a distinctive landmark due to its prominent and visible location adjacent to the Hungarian Freedom Park and Speer Boulevard, one of our city’s National Register-listed parkways. The six-unit complex was constructed in 1925 just as the Bungalow Court form made its way to Denver from the west coast. It represents what is commonly referred to now as “missing-middle” housing, an option in between single-family living and large-scale apartment complexes and was traditionally viewed as a naturally affordable housing option.

The original developer was also the designer, Burt L. Rhoads. Rhoads was born and raised in Denver and served for a time as the chief engineer for the Gates Rubber Company. He is listed on the building permit for the now-demolished 999 S. Broadway, one of the long-recognizable buildings on the former Gates site. Rhoads was also brother to Harry Rhoads, the prolific photographer and to Hazel Rhoads Gates, wife of Charles C. Gates. The Rhoads family grew up near 13th & Logan, and its members lived intermittently in the West Washington Park area for decades. ❁

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM



VICTORIAN HORRORS IS COMING TO THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE, AND TO YOUR HOME!

“But sleep? On a night like this? What an idea! Just think of how many thoughts a blanket smothers while one lies alone in bed, and how many unhappy dreams it keeps warm.”
Franz Kafka

Victorian Horrors at the Molly Brown House Museum is fun and safe for 2020! In-Person experiences begin in the museum with a live-stream transmission from one of our Gothic horror authors returned from the grave. Come for one — or come each night— if you dare! Then, revel in the atmosphere of the decidedly spooky nighttime environment of the Molly Brown House as you creep from room to room hearing tales of Hallowneas gone by. Your ticket to this one-of-a-kind event also gives you access to six of our favorite Victorian Horror actors presenting tales to be viewed at home. Virtual At-Home only tickets are also available for only \$8 per family with access to six stories! TICKETS ON SALE NOW for October 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, & 30. Entry times with small group sizes are offered between 6:00 and 9:00 pm. \$16 members, \$18 non-members, and \$8 At-Home only access.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
For October 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, & 30.
Entry times are offered between 6:00 and 9:00 pm.



COME VISIT THE MUSEUM WITHOUT THE CROWDS!

The Molly Brown House Museum is open and welcoming visitors five days a week. Come visit the museum this fall, and you'll experience it at your own pace and in your own small group. We've been getting rave reviews on our new self-guided tour program, which includes audio and visual material. Tickets must be reserved in advance — if you're a local resident receive a discount as our way of thanking our SCFD community!

HERE ARE SOME OF THE STEPS WE'VE TAKEN TO PROVIDE THE SAFEST POSSIBLE MUSEUM AND TOUR EXPERIENCE:

- Adopted new health and safety protocols for staff and volunteers
- Limited our tour capacity, with very small groups entering the Museum at specific times
- Created a fully self-guided tour so you can move with plenty of personal space
- Set-up sales for pre-purchased, timed ticket sales only, to ensure a no-touch check-in
- Required all guests, staff, and volunteers to wear face coverings
- Posted signage to remind visitors about social-distancing, hand-washing, and other safety measures
- Increased cleaning regimens

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM PRESENTS

VICTORIAN HORRORS

OCTOBER 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30

\$16 MEMBERS

\$18 NON MEMBERS

\$8 AT-HOME EXPERIENCE

6~9 PM
ENTRY EVERY 20 MINUTES

PRESENTED BY
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tickets at: **MOLLYBROWN.ORG**

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MUSEUM STORE SUNDAY® BE A PATRON

**NOVEMBER 29,
2020**

Shop at the Molly Brown House Museum Store this holiday season for all your gifting needs! We are offering a variety of gift sets throughout the shopping season to make your shopping experience as easy as possible. The gift sets will

be available beginning November 15th in the store and on our online shop where you can choose to have your items shipped directly to you or you can choose an easy and convenient pick-up time.

From elaborate tea gift sets to sets of books on Denver’s history, you will be sure to find the perfect gifts for your entire family and all your friends.

Celebrate and support Museum Store Sunday with us by stopping by on Sunday, November 29th to receive at least 15% off your entire purchase, if not more! Visit museumstoresunday.org to learn about this special day and see which other local museums shops are participating and make it your official shopping day.

Supporting local businesses in your community has always been important but this year is especially important.

You do not need to purchase a tour ticket or admission to visit the Molly Brown House Museum Store in the historic Carriage House at 1340 Pennsylvania during regular hours.

Be on the lookout for giveaways on our social media pages throughout the season. Happy shopping and we are truly grateful for your continued support. 🌸





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We are so pleased to have moved to the historic Denver Rowing Club Building
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HISTORIC TO DIGITAL

By Heather Pressman, Director of Learning & Engagement

Each year, Historic Denver’s Molly Brown House Museum sees nearly 10,000 students on field trips and in-classroom outreach programs. Spring 2020 was looking to be one of the busiest on record. Then suddenly everything came to a screeching halt as schools closed due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. Without skipping a beat, staff pivoted to developing educational content and activities for families to use at home as students began virtual classes. The life and times of Margaret Brown may seem far removed from current times, however, students discover through our programs/tours that their lives, in many ways, are no different than hers. Many of the topics people were wrestling with in the early 1900s, we are still wrestling with today, such as voting rights and immigration.

As the pandemic dragged on and schools moved online, we moved online with them, converting several of our much-loved classroom programs into digital programs that could be completed at the home. As the pandemic’s impacts on school budgets for the current school year became clear, we worked to move as many of our programs online as we could, allowing us to continue to help teachers engage students in the history of Denver and the stories of the people who lived here, including Margaret Brown. For teachers, whether students are learning remotely or in person, we offer: Virtual House Tours, a slate of Digital Outreach programs, and our newest program, *Post from the Past*, a curriculum-based, content-rich program delivered to the classroom by mail. The Museum’s outreach programs cover topics such as early Colorado, historic preservation, the suffrage movement, and the lasting impacts of the Titanic disaster on our history. Learn more by visiting: mollybrown.org/learn/school-programs/

In addition to supporting teachers, we are continuing to develop engaging activities for students at home and for families who are home-schooling. These programs include:

HISTORY @ HOME

This program brings history alive at home! In these downloadable mini-lessons students and families learn about Colorado’s history and then create, draw, and experiment in related activities. Past activities include Denver Then/Now, Create Your Own Walking Tour, Titanic: Sink or Float, and more! New lessons are released the first Wednesday of each month

HISTORY @ HOME LIVE

Go even deeper in this interactive, live-led program featuring stories, activities, and demonstrations you can easily follow along with at home. You can do this program on its own or in conjunction with History @ Home. In September we explored the places and ways Margaret travelled; in October, we have a kid-friendly Victorian Horrors reading; in November, we will explore Colorado’s mining history. History @ Home LIVE takes place the third Wednesday of each month. Advanced registration required.

JUNIOR HISTORIAN

For the kid who loves history, these programs offer stories, lessons, hands-on activities, games, demonstrations and more. These short video lessons and activities are available on the second Saturday of each month.

(HI)STORY TIME!

A monthly history-inspired story-time paired with activities for you to use with learners at home or in the classroom. Learn about Margaret’s contemporaries and other forward-thinking women of the late 1800s and early 1900s. (Hi)story Time! episodes are released the last Saturday of each month on our website and YouTube channel.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND BY VISITING:

mollybrown.org/learn/digital-resources-kids/

While 2020 has been a very unusual year, we hope to inspire students to know and love their local history and historic places. By engaging with not only the past, but the present and future as well, Historic Denver connects Denverites to what makes Denver, Denver. 🌸



Photo: Scott Dressel-Martin

WALKING TOURS TO CONTINUE THROUGH WINTER

Historic Denver’s walking tours will continue offering a variety of tour options through the rest of the year, rather than ending our season on October 1. There is a tour option for everyone’s comfort level, from our in-person to virtual tours, to our Dial-A-Docent model, where guests can call an expert and be led through a tour via phone. Our tours use Denver’s buildings to tell the story of our city’s past and the people who were instrumental in building our city.

Our newest tour this year is our Women’s Suffrage Tour. We will be offering this tour virtually on Sunday November 8th at 11am, and you can find other scheduled dates on our website. This is a wonderful overview of how Colorado women won the vote locally, and went on to use that experience to influence the passage of the 19th amendment.



DO YOU HAVE A SMALL GROUP INTERESTED IN A PRIVATE TOUR?

We are setting up tours with our guides, with advanced notice. This is a great way to experience our walking tours with your family, book club, or friends. To set up your tour, email asalutz@historicdenver.org.



Continue your tour of Denver’s historic neighborhoods at urbandenverhoods.com

DENVER’S CITY-LIVING EXPERTS LIVEURBANDENVER.COM 303.455.LIVE



A house surveyed in Regis over the summer. Photo: Discover Denver

DISCOVER DENVER UPDATE- NEW SURVEY AREA, FIELD WORK BEGINNING AGAIN



Despite challenges posed by the pandemic, Discover Denver volunteers made amazing progress this summer as they worked their way through the Regis neighborhood. Project staff and volunteers had just begun documenting buildings in the neighborhood when the city’s stay-at-home order was implemented. After a pause of several months and the implementation of safety procedures, volunteers resumed their work in July. Fieldwork is expected to be complete in Regis at the end of September, though research on the history of individual neighborhood buildings will continue for several months.

Thus far, research has revealed surprising discoveries in the Regis neighborhood. The former home of the Meeker School for Defective Children, an early school for the intellectually disabled, sits at 5187 Lowell Boulevard. Just a few blocks south, research found that a grand residence across from Regis University served as an early dormitory for the school and later as the first site of the J. K. Mullen Home for Boys, the precursor to today’s Mullen High School.

Work in Discover Denver’s next survey area, the Cole neighborhood, is expected to begin in early October. Located in the northeastern part of the city, the neighborhood is named for Carlos M. Cole, superintendent of Denver Public Schools from 1915 to 1920. Cole is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Denver, with a wide variety of building types and styles ranging from Queen Anne, foursquare, and bungalow homes to large industrial structures such as those found on the former Denver Rock Drill Manufacturing Company campus. The neighborhood is bounded by Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (south), York Street (east), E. 40th Avenue (north), Walnut Street (northwest), and Downing Street (west).

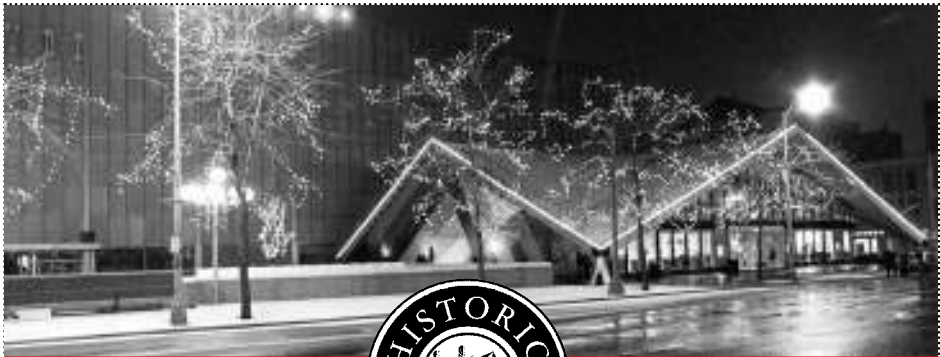
The Discover Denver citywide building survey is a partnership between Historic Denver and the City and County of Denver. The goals of the project are to identify buildings throughout the city having historical, architectural, or cultural significance, and to educate the public about the city’s history. The project has documented buildings in neighborhoods across Denver, most recently in the Congress Park and West Colfax neighborhoods. Recent discoveries include the homes of Colorado’s first female airplane pilot, Angela Joseph, noted photographer Charles Nast, and Nona Brooks, a founder of the Divine Science Movement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DISCOVER DENVER, or to learn about opportunities to volunteer with the project, visit DiscoverDenver.co.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit:
mollybrown.org or historicdenver.org

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM PRESENTS VICTORIAN HORRORS OCTOBER 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, 30

VICTORIAN HORRORS

October 16, 17, 23, 24, 29, & 30

Entry times are offered between 6:00 and 9:00 pm.

\$18/\$16/\$8

This annual favorite is back, and you can enjoy a visit to “creep” through the spooky environs of the Molly Brown House at night, and also enjoy your own cache of recorded horror stories at home. “In-Person” admission to the museum will include a live-streamed performance and plenty of social distancing, as well as six additional stories to view independently. Virtual “At-Home” only tickets are also available. Visit: mollybrown.org for more information.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE WALKING TOUR

November 8, 11:00 am (Virtual)

\$9

This is a wonderful overview, and visit to the places where Colorado women won the vote locally and then used the experience to influence the passage of the 19th Amendment. Your expert guide is live on the screen as you explore, and you can invite friends to join from afar for this engaging experience. Small group in-person tours of this same program are also available. Tickets at historicdenver.org.



ANNUAL ORGAN TOUR

December 5, 9:30 am :: Capitol Hill Locations

Tickets \$20-\$30

Every year Historic Denver partners with the American Guild of Organists Denver Rocky Mountain Chapter, to present a morning of history, architecture and beautiful organ music. This year we are touring some of Capitol Hill’s largest venues to create a wonderful event, with ample space for safe social distancing. Our tour will begin at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, then visit the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and First Baptist Church. At each site we will hear about the history and architecture of the church, as well as be delighted by live organ music. Tickets are currently available at historicdenver.org, with both member and early-bird pricing.

REALTOR SEMINAR

Wednesday, December 9

12:00 pm – 4:30 pm (Virtual)

\$45/member, \$60/non-member

Historic Denver’s popular Realtor Seminar, Understanding and Selling Historic Homes, will be offered once again on Wednesday December 9th, from 12 to 4:30pm. This 3 credit course covers 150 years of Denver Architecture, an exploration of the various types of historic protections, maintenance pointers and sales tips. We are offering the course digitally, in order to join us and receive all 3 of the education credits you must have video capability and remain present for the entirety of course.

HISTORY @ HOME LIVE: VICTORIAN SCARY STORIES

October 21, 10:00 am (Virtual)

\$5/Household

Scary stories aren’t just for grownups! Join us for a not-too-scary story read by Bram Stoker himself, followed by a fun Halloween-inspired activity. This program brings history alive at home!



HOMESCHOOL DAY: QUEST FOR GOLD!

November 10, 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30

\$10/student, \$5/Adult (one adult free)

Visit the Museum to learn about life in the mining industry, the history of mining in Colorado, and how mineral wealth changed the Brown’s future forever.

HISTORY @ HOME LIVE: QUEST FOR GOLD

November 18, 10 am (Virtual)

\$5/Household

Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania Street

This month we’ll be digging into Colorado’s mining history. This program brings history alive at home! In these mini-lessons students and families learn about Colorado’s history and then create, draw, and experiment in related activities.



1340 PENN/AFTER HOURS:

VA-VA-VOOM VICTORIANS

November 19, 7:00-8:30 (Virtual)

\$13/Member, \$15/Non-Member

Welcome to the Victorian Era, where sexual restraint was in high demand! Join us as we take a look at the art form known as burlesque. From comedy routine to striptease to modern female-empowering performance art, we’ll have some laughs and maybe lose some feathers along the way.



GIRL SCOUT VICTORIAN HOLIDAY PARTY

December 5, 4:00-6:30 pm

\$18/Scout, \$10/adult

Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania Street

Join us for a special Girl Scout Victorian holiday party at the Molly Brown House Museum! Learn about the Browns and Christmases of the past while exploring games, crafts and yummy treats throughout the Brown’s home decorated in its Victorian finery. Recommended for ages 6+.

HOMESCHOOL DAY: DECK THE HALLS

December 8, 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30

\$10/student, \$5/Adult (one adult free)

Molly Brown House Museum, 1340 Pennsylvania Street

We’re decking the halls Victorian-style! Have you ever wondered where some of our most beloved Christmas traditions come from? Come find out as we explore what Christmas was like for a Victorian family like the Browns!

COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB: SISTERS IN SPIRIT

December 13, 12-1:30 pm (Virtual)

Free



A collaboration between the Molly Brown House Museum and the Center for Colorado Women’s History, this book club reads and discusses books related to women’s history, western expansion and Denver’s early days. Bring your book and share your insights! RSVP to Mike Erickson at michael.erickson@state.co.us to be sent a Zoom link to participate.

HISTORY @ HOME LIVE:

VICTORIAN HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

December 16, 10am (Virtual)

\$5/Household

This month’s History @ Home LIVE will explore holiday decorating traditions of the Victorian Era and then you will get to try your hand at making some of your own decorations. This program brings history alive at home! In these mini-lessons students and families learn about Colorado’s history and then create, draw, and experiment in related activities.



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