

HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

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Interior of the Aztlán Theatre, 976 Santa Fe

50 ACTIONS FOR 50 PLACES ANNOUNCED

By Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

The wait is over! The 50 Places have been chosen for our *50 Actions for 50 Places* Campaign — part of our 50th anniversary celebration. Launched in March 2021, community members submitted over 100 nominations of places and spaces that matter. The intent of the campaign is to reignite energy and excitement across Denver for historic places, and catalyze grassroots action to support beloved places, as happened when Historic Denver was founded fifty years ago.

The campaign is a positive and proactive opportunity to develop partnerships, strategies, and preservation action. The campaign was intentionally broad in its scope and definition of historic places, and encouraged submissions of sites that are not already protected, recognized, or well-known.

As hoped, the submissions collected through a special on-line portal, helped identify the diversity in Denver history, and numerous sites on the final list tell the stories of places of those that have been under-represented in historic preservation efforts and programs in the past. Nearly half the sites on the list tell stories of Black, Indigenous, Latino/a, Chicano/a, Asian American and LGBTQ+ Denverites and communities. This is critical because nationally only 8% of sites on the National Register of Historic Places reflect such stories, and as reported in the Denver Post, initial estimates indicate that fewer than 5% of Denver’s landmark sites include diverse stories. The campaign marks an important opportunity to amplify these places and stories, and ensure that the work of Historic Denver reflects the full depth and breadth of our city’s past.

The final 50 sites are spread across several categories, including Iconic Architecture, Arts & Entertainment, Remarkable Residences, Civic Assets, Cultural Resources, and

Legacy Businesses, with some sites having cross-over appeal for their significance in multiple categories. Highlights include the Aztlán Theatre, Stedman Elementary School, the remarkable residence of African American attorney Irving P. Andrews, Sakura Square, the area where Denver’s Chinatown once thrived, the AIDS Memorial Grove, the famed My Brother’s Bar, and a collection of mid-century modern homes designed by Cliff May in Harvey Park.

Historic Denver’s Executive Director Annie Levinsky noted, “These 50 sites demonstrate the meaning, value and diversity of historic places in our city — we can’t wait to launch the partnerships and strategies that will amplify the stories and significance of each place in support of an inclusive, vibrant, and rooted city.”

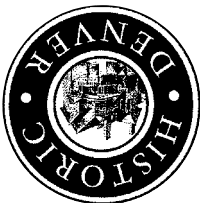
The action strategies for each of the 50 places will be customized to suit each site or place’s unique needs. Actions will range from research, storytelling, technical assistance, and in some cases, designation at the local, state or national level. Historic Denver is working with property owners and members of the Denver community to design these strategies. Historic Denver will implement each action in the coming years to boost awareness of all 50 sites and encourage proactive preservation in support of our city’s unique identity and cultural heritage.

**YOU CAN ENSURE THAT
RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE**
for the actions at specific sites by making a donation at
historicdenver.org/support-us/#donate.

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Cathy Prieto, LALP resident, testifies at City Council

CURRENT
ISSUES

DENVER’S SECOND HISTORIC CULTURAL
DISTRICT PROPOSAL IS APPROVED

LA ALMA LINCOLN PARK BECOMES FIRST DISTRICT TO RECOGNIZE CHICANO MOVEMENT HISTORY

On Monday August 2 Denver City Council approved the designation of the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District by a unanimous vote. Nearly thirty community members spoke in support of the district, telling personal

stories of the neighborhood’s role in fostering the Chicano movement and the strong cultural bonds that have existed in one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods for decades.

Among the many eloquent remarks, Tony Garcia, Executive Artistic Director of Su Teatro, stated, “This is a story about community, culture, and social justice...and also, its about place, who belongs here...and when those murals went up, when Teatro performed in the Park, it was a conversation that said we actually belong. This is a ratification of that concept.”

Councilwoman Jamie Torres, in her comments before the final vote, said “Historic designation is our human attempt to ensure our roots aren’t forgotten, erased, built over, and every day in Denver, I see our city disappearing. This is a deeply emotional designation, and one that I think we all take really seriously.”

Historic Denver dedicated significant financial resources, technical assistance and staff time over the last five years to support community members in the effort to garner the designation. The project was an early recipient of our Action Fund program, which paid for consulting, support for research, building inventory, outreach, and a context statement documenting over 150 years of history.

Three current Historic Denver Board members, John Lucero, Ean Thomas Tafoya, and Molly Urbina, penned an opinion piece for the Denver Post the week before the vote, writing, “This designation is a first step in recognizing a glaring blind spot and the decades-long neglect of the historic places of people of color...Integrating community development and culture in a meaningful way fosters a sense of belonging and healing and will have an impact on generations to come.”

In previous editions of our Historic Denver News, including the Winter 2021 cover story, “Honoring the Layers of History in La Alma Lincoln Park,” and the Spring 2021 “La Alma Lincoln

Park Historic Cultural District Application Update” we shared the history of the neighborhood, which is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Denver, with homes built as early as the 1880s and has close ties to the Chicano Movement, as these homes, streets, and park fostered leaders, artists and activists during Denver’s Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

“This designation is a first step in recognizing a glaring blind spot and the decades-long neglect of the historic places of people of color... Integrating community development and culture in a meaningful way fosters a sense of belonging and healing and will have an impact on generations to come.”

The outcome of the research, oral histories, inventory, and community meetings supported by the Action Fund eventually led to the La Alma Lincoln Park Historic Cultural District proposal. The designation makes LALP the second Historic Cultural District in the City, and the first to recognize Chicano history. It is also the first historic cultural district under the 2019 updated landmark criteria, and while this district would have been eligible under the old criteria, the updated criteria included cultural heritage language, which was a strong match for this neighborhood, also offering a path to customized design guidelines that can support equity and affordability. With leadership from the City of Denver’s Landmark Preservation Program, the flexible guidelines protect the aspects that make the neighborhood unique and convey its story, while recognizing the layers of history and the varied materials and

solutions that have been applied to the homes over time. As our organization worked on this effort and developed local partnerships, we also connected with preservationists across the country working on cultural district efforts or seeking to recognize neighborhoods with similar histories. From that research we know how special this designation is, making Denver a leader once again in preservation innovation and collaborative, grassroots action. 🌱

YOU CAN LEARN MORE
about this project at: [historicdenver/current-issues](https://historicdenver.org/current-issues).



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Lawrence Halprin Fountain, Skyline Park

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

AZTLAN THEATRE, 976 SANTA FE DRIVE

This mission-style theater was constructed in 1927 and originally named the Santa Fe Theatre. It was built by W.J. Carter and included a full stage for roadshow attractions, vaudeville entertainment and projection for movies. The theater closed for a time before it was reopened in 1966 by Abel Gallegos, a musician and Chicano activist. Under Gallegos’ ownership the theater showed both American and Mexican films. Long-time and current owner Timeo Correa bought the building in 1972. Correa was also an activist in the Chicano movement and renamed the theater The Atzlan, in honor of the ancestral homeland of the Aztecs, a symbol of the community’s heritage and culture. For years the theater was one of the few in the Denver to show Spanish-language films. As in-home entertainment advanced, the theater saw declining attendance and Correa shifted focus to live entertainment. In 1987 the theater hosted the Red Hot Chili Peppers and became a well-known rock venue hosting other bands including AFI, Run DMC, Slayer, and Fishbone. The theater remains a symbol of Denver’s Chicano Heritage on Santa Fe.

BOB RAGLAND, HOME OF THE NON-STARVING ARTIST 1723 E. 25TH AVE.

This bungalow was the home of renowned Denver artist Bob Ragland also known as the “Non-Starving Artist.” Ragland was born in Cleveland, Ohio and spent several years in the Army. Using the GI Bill, he attended Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. During an art career that spanned 55 years, Ragland supported the arts in many ways including teaching, consulting, writing, publishing and more. He painted and sculpted, and provided career advice and resources for numerous artists with the philosophy of being a “non-starving artist”. He encouraged artists to put in the effort and make the necessary sacrifices to have an art career and also provided marketing and business techniques for artists to sell their work. A number of his works are featured nationally, including here in Denver at the Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art. Ragland not only created art in his Denver home, which was also his studio, he sold art from his porch. This home and studio tells the story of a truly inspiring and influential Denver artist.

OLD ELITCH GARDENS CAROUSEL HOUSE 3775 TENNYSON ST.

The stylized pavilion was erected in 1926 and housed the Elitch Gardens’ second carousel until the amusement park moved downtown in 1995 leaving it vacant. It is now used for events.

LAKESIDE AMUSEMENT PARK 4601 SHERIDAN BLVD.

An amusement park located in the small municipality of Lakeside, it opened in 1908 and has been in operation for over 100 years, with several intact early structures.

BEAR MOUNTAIN AND MONKEY HOUSE DENVER ZOO

Bear Mountain was the first “natural habitat” animal enclosure in the United States and was a prototype for habitats that would be implemented across the country.

STREET CLOCK BY E. HOWARD & CO. 770 S BROADWAY AVE.

A street clock located on Broadway Street designed by famous clock company E. Howard & Co. out of Massachusetts.

CIVIC ASSETS

STEDMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2940 DEXTER ST.

Stedman Elementary school was built in 1925 and designed by architect George L. Bettcher as part of a 10-year plan to address growing school demand after World War I. However, Stedman’s significant history lies not only in its construction as part of Denver Public School’s expansion or its neoclassical architecture, but for its role in the Civil Rights Movement and the landmark Supreme Court case *Keyes V. School District Number One*, which struck down de facto segregation in the Denver school system. In the *Keyes* case concerned parents sued the school system, arguing that Denver Public Schools had implemented an unconstitutional policy of racial discrimination by operating a segregated school system. As one of the schools segregated due to district practices, and located in the Park Hill neighborhood that was active on this issue, Stedman Elementary was vandalized in 1970 by a pipe bomb. After the *Keyes* decision Denver was required to implement busing for integration, which influenced Denver neighborhoods and schools until the late 1990s, and still today. Stedman represents the important role local schools played in the fight for social and racial justice in Denver.

NATIONAL HUMANE ALLIANCE WATERING TROUGH, TREMONT PL. AND W COLFAX AVE.

This watering trough was presented by the National Humane Alliance to the city of Denver in 1907. It was designed to provide a place for horses and other animals to have access to clean water.

BENEDICT FOUNTAIN 475 E 20TH AVE.

This fountain was dedicated by JB Benedict as a gift to the children of Denver for the Christmas of 1932. It was designed to be a pool where children could enjoy wading and sailing toy boats.

GARDEN PLACE ELEMENTARY 4425 LINCOLN ST.

Garden Place is one of Denver’s oldest continuously operating schools, having opened its doors in old Globeville in 1904.

HALPRIN FOUNTAINS AT SKYLINE PARK 1110 17TH ST.

Renowned landscape architect Lawrence Halprin designed Skyline Park during Denver’s Skyline Urban Renewal project. It was redesigned in 2003, but only two fountains from the original design remain.

WELLSHIRE INN 3333 S COLORADO BLVD.

The Tudor style Wellshire Inn was built in the 1920s to serve as the club house for a private golf club. The city eventually acquired it, making the course public and the Wellshire Inn is now an events center.

EISENHOWER PARK PICNIC PAVILION 4300 E DARTMOUTH AVE.

A unique park pavilion in the “modern” style, it is adjacent to the 1950s recreation center in Eisenhower Park.

REMARKABLE RESIDENCES

IRVING P. ANDREWS HOUSE 2241 YORK ST.

Irving P. Andrews was a prolific and talented trial attorney in Denver with a career spanning over four decades. He served as an ensign in the U.S. Navy before becoming the first African American graduate of both Colorado College and the University of Denver Law School. Andrews served on the legal team that won the landmark *Brown V. Board of Education* Supreme Court case, which struck down school segregation. In 1963 he set up a law practice with U.S. District Judge John Kane. Andrews both lived in and practiced law out of his Denver home from the 1970s until his retirement. Even though he had an excellent reputation as an attorney, many office buildings would not rent him space in downtown Denver due to racial discrimination. Andrews was awarded the Jonathan Olom Award, the Colorado Criminal Defense Bar’s highest honor, and the Anti-Defamation League’s Civil Rights Award.

JULIA GREELEY BOARDING HOUSE 2911 WALNUT ST.



While hard to recognize today, this commercial building was once the boarding house of Julia Greeley, known as Denver’s Angel of Charity in the 1870s and 1880s. Greeley had been enslaved until Missouri’s Emancipation Act of 1865. Greeley came to Denver in the 1870s and worked for white families, giving all she could to assist poor families in her neighborhood. If her own resources were not adequate, she spent time begging for food,

fuel or clothing for those who needed it. Julia conducted most of her charitable work at night to avoid embarrassing those she helped. She was also a member of the Catholic Church and was known for her enthusiastic devotion. She became a member of the Sacred Heart Parish in Denver in 1880 and joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901, where she was active until her death in 1918. When she died, her body was laid out at Loyola Chapel, located at 2536 Ogden St., and hundreds came to pay their respects.

BARNEY FORD HOUSE 1569 N HIGH ST.

Barney Ford lived in this residence on High Street. Ford had been enslaved, and after moving west, became an influential and wealthy businessman in Colorado as well as a figure in civil rights.

GEORGE MORRISON SR. RESIDENCE & WHITTIER HOMES 2500 BLOCK OF GILPIN ST.

This block of Gilpin Street contains a number of unique homes, including the residence of George Morrison Sr., an influential jazz musician, and two houses designed by David W. Dryden, an influential architect.



The AIDS Memorial Grove, Commons Park

JUDGE RAYMOND JONES HOUSE **780 STEELE ST.**
The former home of Judge Raymond Jones, a Pueblo native who became the first African American appellate judge in Colorado. Jones lived in the house for over forty years and was a community leader, helping to found Cleo Park Robinson Dance, among other achievements.

ALBERT WHITAKER HOUSE **3656 BRYANT ST.**
Albert Whitaker was an influential businessman in early Denver. Whitaker and his businesses associate Marcus “Brick” Pomeroy developed the town of Highland where Whitaker served as mayor of the town before Highland was annexed into Denver.



The Robinson House was constructed in 1889 in the John Cook Jr. addition on speculation. It is the oldest extant house in the Park Hill Neighborhood.

FRANK EDBROOKE HOUSE **1825 E 25TH AVE.**
The former house of influential architect Frank Edbrooke, who designed the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver as well as other notable landmarks.

MCDONOUGH RESIDENCE **3939 W 46TH AVE.**
Constructed in 1910, this home is the earliest known work by famed architect J.B. Benedict in Colorado.

FORMER GENDER IDENTITY CENTER **3715 W 32ND AVE.**
This Victorian cottage was the Gender Identity Center from 1980-1993. During its operation over 10,000 transgender people found resources and were welcomed by the Center’s community.

ROSEDALE HOUSE **2199 S BANNOCK ST.**
This 1887 Queen Anne home is one of the few remaining homes original to the former town of Rosedale, in a development built by George Timmerman.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

THE GROVE, COLORADO AIDS MEMORIAL **COMMONS PARK**
Dedicated on August 12, 2000, The Grove is a memorial to Colorado victims of AIDS. The memorial not only remembers those lost in the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and 1990s, but all those lost to the disease. The memorial is located between the Platte River and Little Raven Street near 15th Street in Commons Park. It was dedicated as part of the wishes of Doug McNeil, a Denver realtor who died of AIDS in 1993. McNeil wanted a place in Denver where people could go and meditate on those lost, a quiet place. McNeil’s idea was inspired by “The Grove” National AIDS memorial in San Francisco. His wishes were realized seven years after his death due to laborious efforts of a group of McNeil’s friends and supporters. The memorial was designed to be a space of reflection, and a quiet spot as McNeil originally envisioned. In an effort to raise awareness of this space and its meaning, The Grove was rededicated in 2016 but many are still unaware of its existence or history.

DENVER’S CHINATOWN, LOWER DOWNTOWN
Denver’s once-thriving Chinatown was mostly destroyed in an 1880s Anti-Chinese Riot, in which one Chinese American was killed. The Denver Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission is working with community members to re-envision how Chinatown’s story can be brought forward in today’s LoDo.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY **5201 BRIGHTON BLVD.**
Founded in 1876, Riverside is Denver’s oldest operating cemetery. More than 67,000 people are buried at the culturally significant site.

FORMER NAVAJO ART DISTRICT **NAVAJO ST. & W 37TH AVE.**
At one point the 3600 block of Navajo St. housed four art galleries along with the Bug Theater. While many of the galleries and art-based businesses have moved to other locations in Denver, this block remains significant as a place that cultivated a thriving and influential art scene.

LITTLE ITALY OF DENVER **MULTIPLE PROPERTIES, NORTH DENVER**
North Denver was once home to sizeable Italian community and a part of it was once referred to as “Little Italy”. The area has undergone considerable change, but many commercial buildings, homes and sites associated with the Italian community remain.

LEGACY BUSINESSES



Heralded as the oldest bar in Denver, My Brother’s Bar has had many names throughout the years but got its start back in 1873 as the Highland House. The Schlitz Brewing Company owned it for a stint, and it has also been known as Whitie’s Restaurant and the Platte Bar before it was renamed Paul’s Place. During this era, Neal Cassaday and Jack Kerouac were frequent patrons. A letter from Cassady to a friend while he was in the Colorado State Reformatory references an open tab he hoped his friend would pay. That letter is framed on the wall inside the bar, accompanied by a picture of Kerouac and Cassady. For the last forty years, this local watering hole was run by Angelo and Jim Karagas as “My Brother’s Bar.” Now under new ownership, this iconic spot has no plans to close and is a special part of Denver history.

LAKE STEAM BATHS **3540 W COLFAX AVE.**
Founded in 1927 by Russian Jewish immigrants Harry and Ethyl Hyman, this “Turkish bath” has served the Denver community for almost 100 years.

BAIL BOND CORNER **ROUGHLY 1303 DELAWARE ST.**
This row of houses near the corner of Delaware and 13th has housed a set of bail bond businesses for decades, keeping the Queen Anne structures safe from demolition as the area has changed.

EL CHAPULTEPEC **1962 MARKET ST.**
The former site of El Chapultepec, a famous jazz club that operated in Denver for 87 years. Now under new ownership, the iconic spot looms large in Denver lore.

THE SHOPS AT EAST COLFAX & QUEBEC **7232 E. COLFAX AVE.**
Home to small and local businesses, this one-story Art Deco commercial building is a remnant of Denver’s streetcar history. A number of commercial buildings once served the “Poplar Loop.”





50actions50forplaces

Cliff May homes in Harvey Park

- MERCURY CAFÉ

The Mercury Café has been a welcoming community space for people of all walks of life for nearly 30 years.
- 2199 CALIFORNIA ST.
- BEN'S MARKET

This neighborhood staple was built on a streetcar line and later operated by the Okubo family for decades. The Okubos were interned at Camp Amache during World War II and purchased this building to operate as a store after the war.
- 2301 E 28TH AVE.
- LA CASA DE MANUEL

La Casa De Manuel was founded in 1958 and is Denver's oldest surviving Mexican eatery. Though it is not in its original location on Larimer Street, a mural from the original building was brought to the restaurant's current location.
- 3158 LARIMER ST.
- WELTON ST. CAFÉ


The Welton St. Café has been a staple in the Five Points community since the 1970s. It moved to its current location in 1999 and continues to serve the tasty island-inspired southern food it is known for.
- 2736 WELTON ST.
- BASTIEN'S RESTAURANT

Constructed in 1958 on the former site of the Moon Drive Inn, Bastien's restaurant is a significant representation of the Googie style in Denver. The restaurant has been operated by the Bastien Family at the East Colfax site since 1937.
- 3503 E COLFAX AVE.

ICONIC ARCHITECTURE

- SAKURA SQUARE

Sakura Square was dedicated in 1973 and has been a downtown hub ever since. In 1966 the Denver Urban Renewal Authority (DURA) developed plans to demolish older parts of the area now known as LoDo, which included the block where Sakura Square is located. The Tri-State Buddhist Temple bought the block so that the Japanese community could develop the culturally significant area themselves, rather than leaving it up to the Urban Renewal Authority. They hired architect Bertram Bruton, one of Colorado's first licensed African American architects, to design the project. Included on the block with the Buddhist temple is a residential high rise and commercial space. Bruton designed the high rise, Tamai Tower, to include Asian-inspired motifs, with elements of the Brutalist style in keeping with the Modern architecture of the Skyline Renewal project. The site includes a garden plaza that honors key figures in Colorado's Japanese American history. Sakura Square remains a cultural center for the Japanese American community and helps to tell the story of the Japanese American experience in Denver.
- 1255 19TH STREET
- MOORISH REVIVAL HOUSE BY GONZALEZ BROTHERS



they created a one of a kind house that features a parapet, stucco walls, Moorish windows, terra cotta surrounds and elaborate features all around the exterior. This is a rare example of this style of architecture on a residential structure in Denver.
- 1585 GLENCOE ST.
- The home at 1585 was built in 1938 by Jose and Ramon Gonzalez, brothers that served as the designers and contractors for the unusual home. The Gonzalez brothers studied printing, photography, industrial art, and architecture at the City College in Chihuahua, Mexico. They were members of the same Gonzalez family that owned and operated the Casa Mayan Restaurant at 1020 9th Street in the Auraria neighborhood, which became an important artistic and cultural hub in Denver for the Chicano community in the 1940s through the early 1970s. Casa Mayan would eventually close when the family was displaced by the Auraria Higher Education Campus, but the legacy of the Gonzalez brothers lives on in their community impact, artwork and architecture. This home is a perfect example. Borrowing from both Moorish and Spanish influences,

- CLIFF MAY HOMES

The Rocky Mountain Cliff May Homes are a development of 170 mid-century modern prefabricated and modular post-and-beam tract homes built between 1954-56 in Denver's Harvey Park Neighborhood. The homes were designed by California designer Cliff May and architect Chris Choate. Cliff May Homes were built in several states, Denver having the largest such tract outside of California. Locally, the Cliff May Homes were built by D.C. Burns Realty & Trust, a home developer founded in 1899 that was committed to building affordable homes for working families in the Denver area. D.C. Burns was seen as an innovator in the industry. Burns also developed the adjacent tract to the east, Burns-Brentwood, in the late 1940s. At the time the Cliff May Homes were built, the firm was under the leadership of Franklin L. Burns, who was an influential home builder, locally and nationally. Local realtor Atom Stevens has conducted significant research on the history and design of the homes, which are gaining popularity as mid-century modern architecture comes of age.
- HARVEY PARK
- BIG TOP AUTO MART BUILDINGS

Big Top Auto Mart was a former chain of auto stores built primarily in Denver in the late 1950s and 1960s. A number of these Googie style buildings have been reused for other retail ventures, though some have been lost.
- VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- WHATLEY CHAPEL



Located on the former Colorado Women's campus, later Johnson and Wales University, Whatley Chapel was designed by Stanley E. Morse and constructed in 1962 with stained glass by French artist Gabriel Loire.
- 1800 PONTIAC ST.
- J. SOLF BUILDING /BROOKLYN'S

Located on old West Colfax, the Brooklyn's building is one of the last remaining buildings of a long-time Jewish enclave, annexed into Denver in 1897. The building has been home to the popular Original Brooklyn's restaurant since 1983.
- 2644 W COLFAX AVE.
- SHANGRI-LA

This unique streamline modern style home was commissioned by Denver movie theater magnate Harry E. Huffman and designed by Raymond Harry Ervin to be a replica of the monastery in the 1937 novel Lost Horizon.
- 150 S BELLAIRE ST.
- FIREHOUSE 13

This firehouse was originally built in 1890 to serve the town of South Denver, but was annexed into the City of Denver by 1900. This historic gem no longer serves as a firehouse and is under private ownership.
- 600 S BROADWAY AVE.
- ART MODERNE BUILDING

A unique example of the Art Moderne style of building in Denver, located on Champa Street near Broadway.
- 2101 CHAMPA ST.
- FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Built in 1913 by the Ford Motor Company, this building was the company's first plant west of the Mississippi. The building was later purchased by the Gates Rubber Company and eventually served as their corporate headquarters after a major renovation in 1980.
- 900 S BROADWAY AVE.
- DENVER'S ROW OF PAINTED LADIES

A collection of painted Queen Anne Style homes, often referred to as painted ladies, on 34th and Wyandot. 🌸
- 2250 W 34TH AVE.

PRESERVATION BRIEFS



Board members of the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center in front of the restored building. Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage

BLACK AMERICAN WEST MUSEUM WINDOW AND MASONRY RESTORATION SHF PROJECT UPDATE

by Shannon Stage, Manager of Grants and Preservation Services

The restoration project at the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center (BAWMHC) wrapped up last month. The BAWMHC is located at 3091 California Street, in the historic Dr. Justina Ford House in Five Points. The project included the restoration of the windows and masonry, and removing the paint to reveal the historic (and newly restored!) brick facades. These restoration projects have breathed new life into the building and the BAWMHC Board is excited to reopen the museum later this year. The project is a partnership with the BAWMHC Board, Historic Denver, History Colorado's State Historical Fund as well as with the National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners in Preservation grant.



The Coach shop, likely the oldest extant building at Burnham Yards.

C-DOT BUYS BURNHAM YARD

In May the Colorado Department of Transportation announced its acquisition of the Burnham Yards. Situated in an industrial corridor, near the S. Platte River and I-25, the Burnham Yards operated as one of the city's most significant rail yards for more than 150 years, first as the primary facility for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, and much later for Union Pacific, which acquired the D&RG. The use of the yards pre-dates Colorado statehood, but Union Pacific closed the yards in 2016 and began seeking a buyer. C-DOT has not announced specific plans for the land, but has indicated it will be used to help solve a pinch-point on I-25 and for commuter rail, with the balance for development yet to be determined.

Fortunately, many of the news reports also included details on the history of the yard and the remaining "shops," citing as a source Historic Denver's 2017 report that compiled much of the history and included an inventory of the buildings and site features. The full

report is available at www.historicdenver.org/current-issues.

As noted in the report, "The six surviving historic buildings and three historic site features at Burnham Yards, and their associated relationships, create a highly unusual and significant surviving industrial historic district in Denver." The six contributing railroad buildings date from at least 1901 to 1943, with additions through 1965, and were built foremost as utilitarian industrial facilities to house the bustling activities of the D&RG/D&RGW's operations. The size and height of the 1901 Coach Shop, the 1924 Steel Car Shop, and enormous 1924 Backshop all reflect their uses to construct, repair, and maintain massive railroad equipment.

Historic Denver has advocated for the adaptive reuse of some of the buildings, and even creative use of extant site features that tell the story of the place. It is an opportunity to reconnect with the adjacent neighborhoods, like La Alma Lincoln Park, that once provided laborers to Burnham Yard, weaving a piece of the city back together. The historic buildings can help inform and compliment new development and uses, including passenger rail, and evoke the important history of this place.



Tears McFarlane House, a Historic Denver easement property

CHUN'S TEARS-MCFARLANE HOUSE ENTERS NEW ERA

Earlier this summer Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods, City Street Investors and Semple Brown Design announced big plans for the historic Tears-McFarlane Mansion, the non-profit's longtime home, Denver Landmark, and Historic Denver easement property. The project is part of a non-profit/private partnership between CHUN and City Street Investors.

"The Tears-McFarlane Mansion will be transformed into a space that captures the spirit of Cheesman Park, the people who live in the surrounding neighborhoods and visitors who want to enjoy part of Denver's history," said Travis Leiker, President and Executive Director of Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN). "CHUN is thrilled to work with Semple Brown Design and City Street Investors—two firms perfecting adaptive reuse of historic properties and customized placemaking in many of Denver's neighborhoods."

As the first step in the eventual full renovation of the historic mansion, Semple Brown has designed a new café in the style of a conservatory that will replace the 1980s "Annex" that sits adjacent to the historic home. The new building will include a place to enjoy coffee and pastries, a healthy lunch, or a glass of wine with a casual dinner. The renovation of the historic Tears-McFarlane Mansion will feature important upgrades with the goal of providing updated interior spaces that allow others to gather or meet on the main and lower levels. Historic Denver and the Denver Landmark Commission have reviewed and approved the plans for the Annex and will remain engaged as the renovation continues. Work on the mansion is anticipated to begin later this year.

HOME OF RAYMOND D. JONES INCLUDED IN PROPOSED NEW HISTORIC DISTRICT

Residents of the east side of the 600 and 700 blocks of Steele Street in Congress Park are pursuing recognition as Denver's 58th historic district this fall. The proposed new district is immediately adjacent to the existing boundary of the East 7th Avenue Historic District, and includes 19 homes, mostly in the Bungalow style. The one exception is also the blocks' most notable historic residence as the long-time home of Judge Raymond D. Jones. Jones was the first African American appointed to the appellate court in Colorado and had a long and notable career in law. He was born and raised in Pueblo, Colorado, graduating as class president at Pueblo South before attending Colorado College and



Harvard Law School, where he was also class president. Jones returned to Colorado in the early 1970s and while clerking for a Colorado Supreme Court Justice he purchased the Denver Square at 780 Steele. Jones was very intentional in his choice of home and location, having been told that Congress Park, and particularly E. 7th Avenue, was the most desirable spot in the city. Jones, now retired, recounted the discrimination he faced as a Black attorney in those years, as well as the harassment dealt by members of the Denver Police force when he first moved into his longtime home. Jones was a fixture on the block for more than forty years, finally selling the home in 2017. During those years he was also influential in civic and philanthropic endeavors, helping to found the Cleo Parker Robinson Dance company.

The other homes on the block have notable histories as well, including the owners of Swenson Motors, an early auto company in downtown Denver, and the owners of a well-known furniture business. The homes are also excellent examples of the bungalow style, all built between 1912 and 1924 and the block retains very high integrity, reflecting the City Beautiful concepts that shaped its development, with gracious sidewalks, the classic “Denver Hill,” street-trees and consistent open porches that have long encouraged neighborliness. 🌿



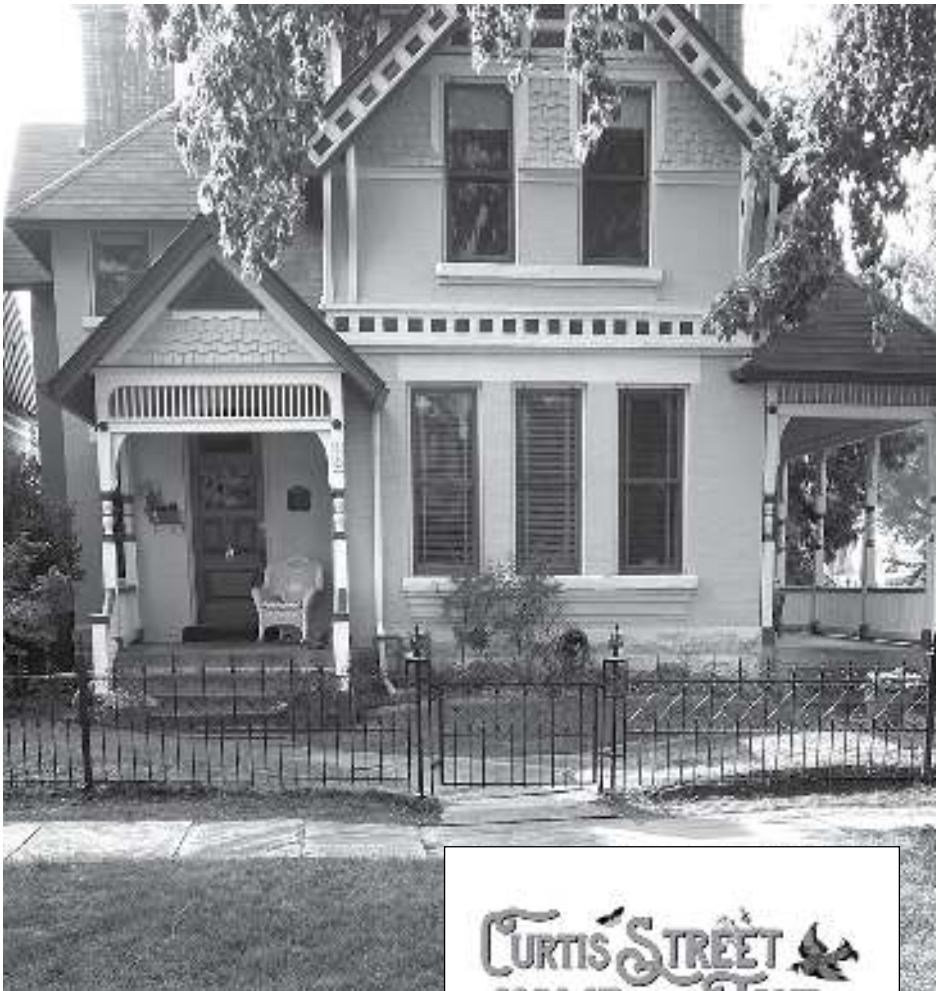
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Visit denverarchitecture.org to learn more.



CURTIS STREET HOME, GARDEN AND WALKING TOUR



In 1870, the year the railroad arrived in Denver, the population of the city was 4,759. Twenty years later, its population was 106,713, a growth rate that one historian says was “faster than that of any other city in the country.” Needless to say, as sure as thunder follows lightning, there was a building boom following the population explosion needed to provide the city’s burgeoning population with places to live. Along the streets of the original townsite that had been pushed out onto the treeless prairie that surrounded the city — notably California, Stout, Champa, Curtis, and Arapahoe — there arose hundreds of houses built in the colorful styles of the late Nineteenth Century.

The largest period of growth for Curtis Park was between the arrival of the railroad in 1870 and the Silver Crash in 1893. For this reason, many of the homes in Curtis Park were constructed between 1885-1890, making it one of the city’s oldest neighborhoods. Common architectural styles in the neighborhood include Italianate and Queen Anne. Due to the efforts of early preservation proponents, over 500 houses in the neighborhood are protected by the Curtis Park Historic District.

To celebrate the history of Curtis Park, the Curtis Park Neighbors and Historic Denver are partnering to present a house tour on September 18th and 19th from 10am to 3pm. The 8 houses that will be open for the house tour represent a sampling of Curtis Park’s riches, and offer a unique opportunity to explore both the interior and exterior of these historic homes. 🌿

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MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

NEW NATIONAL VOTES FOR WOMEN TRAIL MARKER AT THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

During her summer 1914 campaign for U.S. Senate, Margaret Brown remarked to a reporter that, “Our men out in Colorado do not question our right to vote. They realize our right to have a speaking part in the affairs of the country in which we, as well as they, must live.” Margaret Brown’s firm belief in the right to access the ballot was shared by scores of women involved in state-by-state and national suffrage battles to enfranchise half of the population. Today we acknowledge that, while the 19th Amendment did finally give women the right to vote, women of color were still denied access well into the 1960s. And today we still see restrictive voting bills continuing to be passed and access to the polls difficult at best for segments of the population.

This National Votes for Women Trail Marker, made possible by the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites and the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, not only honors Margaret Brown’s contribution to equality and representation, it puts Denver on the map as a state pivotal to achieving the passage of the 19th amendment. This marker can also remind each and every visitor and passerby that there is still work to be done and we cannot take our American democracy for granted. Margaret Brown can inspire us all to participate in civic life when she says, “I believe that to be happy one must serve humanity.”

Sponsored by the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites, the National Votes for Women Trail, as stated on their website, seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women’s suffrage. The Trail consists of a database with digital map and a program of historical markers for about 250 women’s suffrage sites across the country, funded by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the federal Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission.

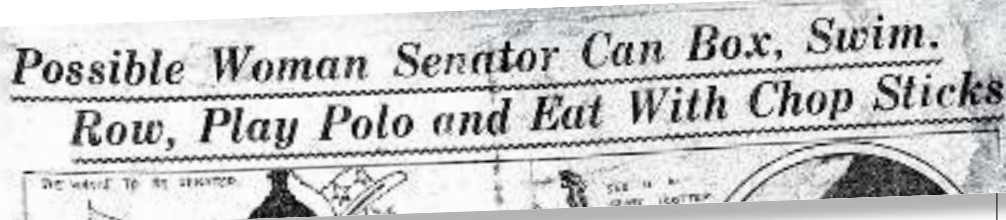
Since 2006, when Bill Pomeroy established the Foundation’s first marker program, they have awarded more than 1,400 grants for roadside markers and plaques nationwide to help educate the public, encourage pride of place, and promote historic tourism. Deryn Pomeroy, Trustee at The William G. Pomeroy Foundation shared that:

“Denver joins a select group from across the United States with Pomeroy Foundation funded markers. These markers are well-researched with primary sources reviewed by professional historians. That is what sets your marker apart and makes it the gold standard of historic markers. The Pomeroy Foundation is proud to help you preserve the legacy of women’s suffrage in Colorado. We know this marker will ensure the contributions and legacy of Molly Brown will be celebrated for generations to come.”

Through crowd-sourcing, the database and digital map collects sites from all over our country to tell the story of suffrage for all women, of all ethnicities, classes, and geographic areas, from the colonial period to the present. The National Votes for Women Trail currently has over 2,100 sites on its database. In partnership with The William G. Pomeroy Foundation and the federal Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission, the National Votes for Women Trail also promotes a program of historical markers to commemorate the people, places, and events important to passage of the Nineteenth amendment in 1920. These markers are based on extensive research in primary sources and represent the diversity of places, events, and people of the suffrage struggle.

During the summer of 1914, suffrage leaders, including Brown, gathered from across the U.S. for a “Conference of Great Women,” held at the Newport, RI home of Alva Belmont. Notable leaders in social reform attended, including Senator Helen Robinson from Colorado, who stayed with Brown, and the Duchess of Marlborough, Belmont’s daughter. Brown hosted several events and speeches by friend Judge Ben Lindsey.

Competing approaches split suffragists between the National American Women’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA) and the Congressional Union (CU). Alice Paul and Lucy Burns’ CU followed the British approach to “punish the party in power” by ousting all Democrats in the forthcoming election for not supporting suffrage. Coupled with CU



meetings, the “Marble House” conference solidified the decision to agitate for a constitutional amendment by flipping congressional seats. Despite Colorado Senator Charles Thomas being pro-suffrage, he served as chairman of the Committee on Woman Suffrage, this “punish the party in power” tactic meant that as a Democrat his seat too was being eyed by the CU.

One appealing candidate came to many minds, Mrs. James J. Brown of Denver. Brown had been in the news all spring of 1914 for her offer to lead a regiment of fighting women in the impending war with Mexico, then for responding to the miner’s strike that had turned deadly in southern Colorado. CU leaders and friends Judge Lindsey, Senator Robinson, and Belmont, as well as many in Colorado, New York, and Rhode Island supported her run for Senate.

Brown campaigned on the mine labor issues and a need for improved conditions and better pay. When asked if she could win as a woman candidate, Brown stated, “If I go into this fight I am going to win. There will be no mincing matters- no pink tea policies. It will be a regular man’s kind of campaign, stump speaking, spread-eagle and all.”

Ultimately, Brown dropped her bid in the fall of 1914. With the Bristow-Mondell and Shafroth-Palmer bills up for vote, she decided to not upset the applecart back in Colorado. And, with the onset of World War I, her desire to aid the Red Cross became undeniable, so she volunteered for the Ambulance Corps in France. Brown’s Senate run and direct involvement in Marble House and the Congressional Union meetings demonstrate the role western women played in the passage of the 19th Amendment.

For the Votes for Women Trail, each state has a coordinator who works with local people to research sites significant to the story of women’s suffrage at the national or statewide level. Markers represent the geographic, ethnic, class, religious, and gender diversity of the suffrage movement in each state. All marker nominations must be approved by coordinators for each state, by the National Votes for Women Trail’s scholarly advisory committee, and by the Pomeroy Foundation. Here in Colorado, that post is being filled by Jillian Allison, Director of the Center for Colorado Women’s History who also served on the Colorado Centennial Vote Commission, created by outgoing Governor John Hickenlooper and Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne in advance of 2020 commemorations.

Anchoring the story of women’s suffrage in specific historic sites brings to life the enormous grassroots commitment all across this country to voting rights for women as citizens of the United States. Women’s suffrage was indeed a national struggle, part of the ongoing struggle for voting rights for all U.S. citizens, including

African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos/as, indigenous people, people from farms as well as cities, rich as well as middle class and working class, people of all religions, men as well as women. By honoring the work of hundreds of thousands of participants in the movement for women’s suffrage, this project shows how social change happens through citizen action and inspires future generations to treasure their right to vote. 🌱



Museum Director Andrea Malcomb, Historic Denver Board Chair Stockton Baker, Long-serving volunteer Pamela Mahonchak, and Executive Director Annie Levinsky.

LEARN MORE



Information about the National Votes for Women Trail was pulled from the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites website which you can explore here: ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail-2/



Learn more about the William G. Pomeroy Foundation’s national historic marker program here: wgpfoundation.org/



DISCOVER DENVER

Discover Denver is a citywide building survey focused on identifying the buildings that help tell Denver’s story. While the histories of some of the city’s buildings are well known, most have stories still waiting to be discovered. The following are a few of the interesting buildings documented by Discover Denver in its recent survey areas.

VAGABOND HOUSE

5120 Quitman Street // Regis Neighborhood



This brick Tudor-style home at 5120 Quitman Street was built in the mid-1930s for real-life Indiana Jones-style adventurers Roy and Verona “Brownie” Adams. Brownie’s parents founded the Pure Foods Manufacturing Company, based in Denver, which sold jams and jellies to retail stores including the Morey Mercantile Company and Safeway. Roy Adams served as secretary and treasurer of Pure Foods beginning in the mid-1930s, around the time this house was constructed.

The Adams named their home Vagabond House. The couple loved to travel, and after Roy’s retirement spent the following decades traveling the world, making films, and photographing sacred sites. They periodically returned to the U.S. where they gave lectures on their experiences. In 1964, a book was written about them by acclaimed author Dawn Langley Simmons. The book was called “Dear Vagabonds: The Story of Roy and Brownie Adams.”

THE STUDEBAKER BUILDING

1156 Broadway Avenue // West Capitol Hill Neighborhood



Frank C. Cullen built the three-story commercial building at 1156 Broadway in 1921 as the Automobile Sales Corporation, a Studebaker dealership. This temple to the automobile was designed by architect J.B. Hyder and included a concrete viaduct that connected the

rear of the building’s second floor to an entrance on Lincoln Street. At its opening, reporters marveled at the engineering of the roof, which was constructed so that it required no interior supports. Four years later, Cullen built the Cullen-Thompson Chrysler dealership at 1000 Broadway. The Cullen-Thompson Building later became known as the “Sports Castle.” 1156 Broadway was home to a number of auto dealerships through the years, including Marcus Motors, Capital Chevrolet, and Russ Vento Chevrolet. In 1978

a furniture dealer, Howard Lorton Galleries, purchased the building. Howard Lorton president Bill Cook, a trained architect, worked with California-based architect Jim Bischoff to design a modern addition to the old dealership, insisting that the addition meld into the existing one. Howard Lorton Galleries are still the owners and occupants of these buildings.

SPIVAK INSTITUTE

1456 Lowell Boulevard // West Colfax Neighborhood



The one-story red brick building at 1456 Lowell Boulevard was constructed in 1935 by the local branch of the Arbeiter Ring (Workmen’s Circle), a fraternal organization for socialist secular Jews. The building was dedicated as the Dr. Charles D. Spivak Educational Institute in honor of the nationally-renowned physician, humanitarian, author, and the prominent leader in Denver’s Jewish community who passed away in 1927. Spivak was one of the founders of the Jewish

Consumptive Relief Society (JCERS) in 1904. The Spivak Institute celebrated Jewish culture by hosting lectures, classes, plays and art and science events, meant to inspire a sense of pride in the community. The building included a library comprised of books that had once belonged to Dr. Spivak himself. The institute closed its doors in 1961, and after brief ownership by the Beth Israel Hospital & Home Society, was sold to the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Today, it continues to be home to a church. 🌟

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:
STEPH MACCARTER



Our volunteer spotlight this edition is focused on Steph MacCarter. Steph began volunteering at the Molly Brown House Museum in 2003. During her 18 years with our organization, she has served in almost every role imaginable. She has guided tours of the house, worked with school groups, assisted at events like our Titanic Dinners and Victorian Horrors, greeted guests, and worked on our archives.

Her most recent work is a major accomplishment. This July, after eight years of effort on the project, Steph completed digitizing the Molly Brown House Museum archives. Since volunteering to help she has digitized over 14 file boxes, each with approximately 60 folders, which now live in a digital format on our server and can be made more accessible to staff and researchers.

The boxes contained house history and restoration archives such as work plans for the second floor bedroom restoration and invoices for carpeting and drapery. They also included events and exhibits archives such as old museum brochures and photographs of past events like Victorian Horrors and teas. There were also documents and photographs from other institutions' archives, such as copies of Brown family archives from Denver Public Library and History Colorado Center. This is the kind of work that can often seem mundane; can definitely feel tedious; but is absolutely invaluable for the museum and future researchers.

You can also view Steph's handiwork as a part of our current exhibit, *Looking Forward/ Looking Back*, on display through September 19, 2021. Due to her longevity with the museum and her intimate knowledge of the archives, Steph was the perfect person to pull together the massive volunteer collage that can be viewed in the 3rd floor exhibit space at the museum. The collage features volunteers going back to the very founding of Historic Denver 50 years ago. Steph's reflections on being a part of Historic Denver's Molly Brown House Museum can be seen nearby.

Historic Denver has always depended on our volunteers. Without them it would have been impossible to imagine the Molly Brown House Museum thriving as it does today, or that Historic Denver would have grown into the trusted resource for local historic preservation concerns. Steph is a prime example of the dedication and time our volunteers give to the organization. It would be impossible to overstate their importance to our past and continued success. 🌸

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11

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit:
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Empowered by Place: Five Points Historic Cultural District
September 2 ➕ 7pm to 8:30pm ➕ Free

Join us as we explore the history and evolution of the Five Points Historic Cultural District with Terry Nelson, Senior Special Collection and Community Resource Manager Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. We'll discuss what such a designation means as well as the impact it has had on the neighborhood.



Homeschool Day: J.J.'s Story
September 14 ➕ 9:30-11:30; 11:30-1:30; 2:30-4:30 ➕ \$12 per child ➕ \$5 per adult (one adult is free)

We all know about Margaret "Molly" Brown, but what about her husband JJ? Learn about JJ's life in the mine industry, the history of mining in Colorado, and how mineral wealth changed the Brown's future forever.

1340 Penn/After Hours: The Scrapbookin' Lawman

September 16 ➕ 7pm
\$17/non-member ➕ \$15/member

He was the fastest scrapbookin' lawman in the West! Well, at least the first. Sam Howe made order out of criminal chaos and mayhem, tracking crimes and their perpetrators through notes, photos, and newspaper articles, all compiled in scrapbooks, an early predecessor to rap sheets. Meet the man himself, and one or two of the criminals he was able to stop.

Girl Scout Cream Tea
September 18 ➕ 1pm and 3pm

Join us for a Girl Scout Cream Tea! Enjoy a guided tour of the house followed by tea. Scouts will also take home a goody bag with a special Molly Brown House Museum patch! \$20 for scouts and adults. Email education@mollybrown.org to register

Curtis Park Home Tour
September 18 and 19 ➕ 10am to 3pm
\$25/non-member ➕ \$20/member

Many of the homes in Curtis Park were built between 1885 to 1890, and it is considered Denver's first streetcar suburb. The Curtis Park Neighborhood group has organized so that we will enjoy the interiors and exteriors of several historic homes on either Saturday September 18th from 10am to 3pm or Sunday September 19th from 10am to 3pm

Landscape of Market Street Madam, Denver's Red-Light District Walking Tour

September 25 ➕ 6-7pm
\$21/non-member ➕ \$17/member

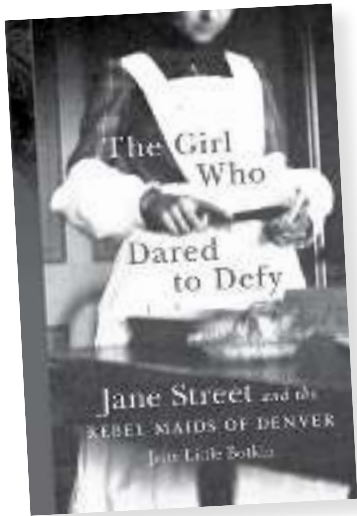
Join us for a walk through Denver's former Red Light District with the author of Market Street Madam, Randi Samuelson-Brown. She will talk about the industry's past in Denver and explore the buildings that were part of this story.



Doors Open Denver
September 27 - October 17

Enjoy a virtual tour of the Daniels and Fisher Clock Tower with our guides Robert Ehmann and Diane Travis. We also collaborated to feature a virtual tour of the newly landmarked Bitman-Hower House.

More info at www.denverarchitecture.org



Community Book Club
October 3 ➕ 12:30-2

Join the Center for Colorado Women's History and the Molly Brown House Museum online for a collaborative book club hosted by two treasured Denver house museums. For our fifth meeting in 2021, we will read and discuss *The Girl Who Dared to Defy: Jane Street and the Rebel Maids of Denver* by Jane Little Botkin. We hope you can join us online. Please register for our free book club here: <https://bit.ly/housemuseumbookclub>

Architecture of a Haunted House

October 7 ➕ 7-8pm
\$10/non-member ➕ Free for members

When you imagine a haunted house, what do you see? A Mansard roof? A widow's walk? Join us as we investigate architecture types, styles, and features common in depictions of haunted houses. We'll also explore how and why haunted houses began to look a certain way in popular culture. This virtual evening will be paired with a driving map, so that you can motor about on a moonlit night and find these classic styles among Denver's historic homes.



Victorian Horrors

October 14, 15, 16, 21*, 22*, 23, 28, 29, and 30 ➕ Entry times from 6-9 pm ➕ \$20/non-member ➕ \$18/member

"I have love in me the likes of which you can scarcely imagine and rage the likes of which you would not believe. If I cannot satisfy the one, I will indulge the other."

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

The ghosts of Victorian Horrors past are rising as we return to an evening of "in-person" visits from both the spirit and mortal worlds. Join us in creeping from room to room hearing tales directly from gothic greats. We'll be limiting group size for each entry allowing for a more meaningful communion with the departed.

*Special accessible shows at 6pm on these nights.



Historic Denver Annual Dinner & Awards Program

October 28 ➕ 5:30-9:00pm
\$195/individual ticket
\$250 Patron Ticket

Sponsorships Starting at \$3,000

Back at the Brown Palace for the 51st time, Historic Denver will celebrate the individuals and preservation projects that make historic places succeed in the 21st century. The evening includes a popular cocktail hour, followed by a three-course dinner, award presentation, and live auction. Tickets and sponsorships now on sale.

