by Melanie Asmar, Guest Contributor, Chalkbeat

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50 YEARS AFTER KEYES,
A ONCE-SEGREGATED DENVER SCHOOL FIGHTS TO STAY INTEGRATED

by Melanie Asmar, Guest Contributor, Chalkbeat

Stedman Elementary is one of Denver’s most integrated schools. About a third of its students are Black, a third are Hispanic, and a third are white.

“That happened by accident,” Principal Michael Atkins said, “but we are keeping it by design.”

In the 1960s, Stedman wasn’t integrated at all — and it was no accident. In 1968, 92% of Stedman students were Black and the school was overcrowded. Rather than reassign some Stedman students to mostly white schools nearby, the district brought in trailers.

The segregation at Stedman and at other Denver schools spurred a group of families, led by Wilfred Keyes, a Black father and chiropractor, to sue Denver Public Schools in 1969.

The Keyes case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, the first desegregation case in a major city outside of the South to do so. This year marks 50 years since the high court ordered Denver to desegregate its public schools “root and branch.”

The 1973 ruling made history, even outside Denver. Keyes was what the Supreme Court called a “tri-ethnic case” and was the first to give Hispanic students the same rights to desegregated schools that the Brown v. Board of Education case extended to Black students 19 years earlier.

Keyes also set precedent with regard to intent. The Supreme Court found that the Denver school board's actions to segregate the schools in the Park Hill neighborhood, including Stedman, showed that the entire Denver district was de facto segregated.

The case also led to a federal consent decree requiring Denver to improve education for Spanish-speaking students, which led to the development of bilingual programming.

The aftermath of the case shaped generations of Denver schoolchildren who were bused in the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s. They included Atkins, who grew up in Park Hill and played basketball on the Stedman playground on Wednesday nights. But for school, the district bused him to schools located in whiter and wealthier neighborhoods.

Atkins said his educational experience was one of assimilation, tension, and hidden segregation. Even though his middle school was integrated in numbers, the white students were in honors classes and the Black and brown students weren’t.

“The way I lead today has a lot to do with my experiences from the outcomes of the Keyes case,” Atkins said. “I personally learn best in situations where not everyone speaks the same language as me, not everyone looks just like me — different backgrounds. That’s something I want to give my students and families in safe, facilitated ways.”

Park Hill was the epicenter of Denver’s school desegregation battle. Beginning in the 1950s and ’60s, Black families were moving east from Five Points to Park Hill, crossing Colorado Boulevard in search of bigger homes on tree-lined streets.

Housing integration could have led to school integration, but the Denver school board took steps to prevent that. It manipulated school boundaries and added temporary classroom trailers to predominantly Black schools. It studied educational equality, passed policies calling for its adoption, and then did nothing to put those policies in place.

In 1960, the district built Barrett Elementary School, just west of Colorado Boulevard from Park Hill Elementary. Denver funneled Black students into the new school, thus ensuring that Park Hill, which had been racially integrated, went back to serving mostly white students.

Rachel Noel’s daughter was reassigned from Park Hill Elementary to Barrett, which opened with an almost all-Black student body. Noel later testified in court that Barrett’s resources and academics were inferior. Her daughter, she said, was learning the same thing at Barrett in fifth grade that she'd learned at Park Hill in fourth grade.

In 1965, Noel became the first Black member elected to the Denver school board. Frustrated by the board’s inaction on integration and reeling from the assassination of
WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Historic Denver is pleased to welcome two new members to our Board of Trustees, Barb Pahl and Joe Halpern, both of whom joined the board this fall. Board members are nominated on an annual basis and serve as volunteers, overseeing the organization’s operations, staff, and mission — including the operation of our flagship property, the Molly Brown House Museum.

Before retiring, Barb Pahl was the Vice President for Western Field Services of the Mountains/Plains Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pahl had been with the National Trust in various capacities since 1984. Currently, Pahl is teaching at the University of Colorado – Denver in the College of Architecture and Planning with coursework including the Politics of Preservation. Pahl lives in the University Park neighborhood and is assisting in efforts to create a thematic historic district.

Joe Halpern is a semi-retired partner of the law firm Holland & Hart. Halpern served on the History Colorado Board of Directors for twenty-four years, including twenty as vice chair. He advocated for the Stephen H. Hart Research Center and helped create the Hart Library Acquisition Fund. Hart being a co-founder of Holland & Hart. Halpern is passionate about historic preservation. A few years after arriving in Colorado from New York, Joe took on preservation of the Seventeen Mile House in Arapahoe County, securing a preservation easement that still protects the property today. Halpern has also served on the Colorado Historical Foundation Board for 38 years.

The Board of Trustees strives to represent a variety of community interests and provide the organization with the diverse skill sets necessary for any successful non-profit organization, as well as guidance on important preservation matters.

Historic Denver seeks new board members each year during the summer months. To express interest, please contact Andrea Malcomb at (303) 832-4092 x.15.

HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

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Submit a volunteer form on the Support Us section of the Historic Denver website to volunteer with Discover Denver, Molly Brown House Museum, or our Walking Tours.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs were taken by Jay Homstad.

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Please include your name, address and telephone number in correspondence to:
30 YEARS AFTER KEYES: A ONCE-SEGREGATED DENVER SCHOOL DISTRICT FIGHTS TO STAY INTEGRATED

Martin Luther King Jr., Noel introduced a resolution in 1968 — now known as the Noel Resolution — that called for “a comprehensive plan for the integration of the Denver Public Schools.”

In response to community activism and a new sense of urgency around racial equality, the school board adopted the Noel Resolution 5-2 in May 1968. The board passed three more resolutions in the winter and spring of 1969 that, according to court documents, would have redrawn boundaries to relieve segregation at Barrett, Stedman, and other schools in Park Hill, and established voluntary busing to integrate some schools.

The resolutions sparked a fierce and swift backlash that led to the election of new school board members opposed to integration in May 1969. They promptly voted to repeal the resolutions.

In June, eight families — five Black, one Hispanic, and two white — sued Denver Public Schools. The case became known as Keyes v. School District No. 1.

Racist retaliation soon followed.

Opponents bombarded the houses of lead plaintiff Wilfred Keyes, whose family was home but not injured, and of federal Judge William Doyle. About a third of the buses at the district bus depot were destroyed by dynamite.

After the Supreme Court ruled for the families in 1973, Denver created a complex, cross-city system of busing aimed at ensuring each school’s population looked racially similar to the district as a whole. Many white families reacted by leaving for the suburbs and private schools. According to a 1976 report, the number of white students dropped 22% in two years.

But busing did increase integration. Despite the turmoil, some children now say they benefited.

“It enriched my life because I became friends with many people from different cultures and socioeconomic statuses,” Jayne’ Lewis, who is Black and was bused with nearly 700 students and where the PTA raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

When Atkins arrived as principal four years ago, she said he saw at Stedman what he’d seen at his own middle school during busing: The school was diverse, but the students were separated. Most white students attended the Spanish immersion program, while most Black and Latino students stuck to the traditional classes.

Atkins set out to change that by going to Black churches on Sundays, visiting Mexican cultural arts centers, and talking to Stedman families “about the power of language and how this opportunity is built for them as well.” That push, he said, helped desegregate Stedman’s programming so that more Black and brown families are now choosing Spanish immersion.

Stedman also is trying other ways to keep its diversity.

Colorado’s Constitution prohibits assigning students to schools “for the purpose of achieving racial balance.” (Denver’s busing was an exception due to the federal court order.) So schools use other measures. Stedman prioritizes students who qualify for subsidized school meals, an indicator of poverty, or who live in a neighborhood where 75% to 100% of children do.

Atkins also tries to make the school a welcoming and affirming place. All Stedman teachers are pushed to examine their biases, and they do training in equity every Friday.

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“I personally believe the work that I do is to push the Keyes case forward in a way that is building the capacity of our educators and creating safe spaces for students,” Atkins said.

Parents like Williams help too. Even though her son is now in high school, she continues to recruit for Stedman, where she said Jakhi got an excellent education, despite some of the bumps along the way. She meets with Atkins every year to hash out a game plan for talking to parents at recreation centers, libraries, and the Boys & Girls Club.

Most parents of color are concerned about gentrification, she said, and rising rents have forced many out of Park Hill. But they continue to bring their kids to the neighborhood rec centers, and Williams encourages them to do the same with Stedman. She has confidence it will pay off.

“I see Stedman going up,” she said. “All the way up.”

Our guest contributor for this story is Melanie Asmar, a senior reporter with Chalkbeat Colorado. Chalkbeat is an independent non-profit news organization committed to covering the effort to diversify public schools for all children. They are partnering with Historic Denver to examine the legacy of Keyes v. School District No. 1 to assess where Denver is 50 years after this landmark case, and how our built environment can tell the stories of past and present.
We tend to know the famous names among the Titanic passengers — Margaret “Molly” Brown, John Jacob Astor, Benjamin Guggenheim — but what about the not-so-famous? Who else was traveling on Titanic and what happened to those who survived?

In 2022, the Molly Brown House Museum added another theatrical event to our slate of immersive experiences. Through Titanic Memories, actors portray lesser known Titanic survivors to share their tales of hope and loss.

Just as the ever-popular Victorian Horrors has actors portray authors of Gothic literature to bring their tales of terror to life, Titanic Memories similarly uses the home as a theatrical backdrop. Now entering its second year, Titanic Memories leads small groups of guests through the house and has the audience stop in certain rooms to witness actors portraying a Titanic survivor and telling their story.

Visitors can expect to come face to face with someone like Annie McGowan, a young Irish girl traveling with her aunt Catherine. Catherine had lived in the U.S. for many years, doing well for herself, and returned home to escort Annie from her County Mayo village, Addergoole. Channeled through our actress, you’d learn that 14 of the approximately 115 Irish aboard Titanic were people whom Catherine had recruited to join them on the voyage to a new life in America. Well-established pipelines like Catherine’s lured people from a poverty-stricken Ireland. Families and communities pooled their meager resources and even took out loans to send a loved one to the U.S. for work. Of the 14 from Addergoole, only three, including McGowan survived. One, Delia McDermott, jumped 15 feet down into one of the last lifeboats.

In an interview with a Chicago newspaper, fellow survivor Annie Kate Kelly recounted, “As the ship was sinking, women and children were evacuated first. They formed a line. A young bride refused to leave the ship without her husband. I was given the bride’s place. As I was lowered into the lifeboat I looked up and saw my cousin Pat watching, holding in his hand his rosary, which he raised to bless me.” Her cousin Pat Caravan did not survive.

Like Margaret Brown’s differing accounts in the days, months, and years afterward, the story told by Irish passenger Ellen Shive O’Callaghan makes it hard to determine events during the sinking. In some articles she is quoted by reporters as saying, “I saw one of the lifeboats and made for it... In it, there were already four men from the steerage who refused to obey an officer who ordered them out. They were, however, finally turned out.” But other news services had this quote instead: “... in it were four men from the steerage. They were ordered out by an officer and refused to leave. And then one of the officers jumped into the boat and, drawing a revolver, shot the four men dead. Their bodies were picked out from the bottom of the boat and thrown into the ocean.”

Expect to hear stories like these brought to life at Titanic Memories on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Performances are every 15 minutes beginning at 6 pm. An accessible performance is offered at 5 pm. $20/Member, $25/Non-member. Find tickets at mollybrown.org.
Surprising discoveries are made in every area of the city surveyed by Discover Denver. Project volunteers worked their way across two neighborhoods in 2022, South City Park and Westwood. Work is expected to wrap up in Westwood during the early part of 2023. These neighborhoods have very different buildings and histories, but both have proven to be interesting in illustrating the diversity found across the city.

Today, South City Park is considered central Denver, though that was not always the case. Prior to 1889, the area was just outside Denver’s eastern city limits. Construction of the Colfax Avenue Railway in 1887 spurred residential development in South City Park, soon followed by the construction of commercial buildings along East Colfax Avenue.

The development of the neighborhood, from west to east, is easy to see in the changing architectural styles. Stately Queen Anne residences give way to Denver squares, and then modest homes of a multitude of shapes and sizes were constructed across Westwood. A large number of “basement houses,” homes built into the earth with just a half story rising above the ground, were documented by Discover Denver volunteers. After annexation, small-time developers built clusters of Minimal Traditional and Transitional Ranch homes.

In 2023, Discover Denver will move to northeast Denver, documenting the buildings of the Five Points, Skyland, Clayton, and Whittier neighborhoods. The project team is excited to learn about another area of the city with a completely different story to tell.

A partnership between Historic Denver and the City and County of Denver, Discover Denver is a citywide building survey focused on identifying the buildings and areas of the city that are historically, architecturally or culturally significant. Community volunteers are key to the success of the project — visit discoverdenver.co for more information and to find out how you can get involved!
In 2021, Denverites nominated dozens of sites for Historic Denver’s 50 Actions for 50 Places. The campaign is designed to identify the places our communities cannot imagine Denver without, especially those that have been under-recognized in the past and those that reflect the full depth and diversity in our city’s story. After the submission period, the list was narrowed to 50 sites for which we have been actively working with community members and property owners to develop preservation actions of all kinds, from research projects, to interpretive plans, to publicity efforts, to local and National Register designation applications. As actions get underway or are completed, we will report the news in these pages and on our social media accounts.

**LANDMARK PROCESS UNDERWAY FOR IRVING P. ANDREWS HOUSE**

by Leah Charney, Historic Denver News Managing Editor and Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

After the home of Irving Piper Andrews was nominated to 50 Actions for 50 Place by Liz Andrews to honor her father’s legacy, Historic Denver provided the financial support and technical assistance to prepare a local landmark designation for the house. Initial drafts of the designation application have been submitted to Landmark Preservation staff at the department of Community Planning and Development and are in the commenting and review stage. After the staff completes their review, the application will next go to the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC), who will determine if the Andrews house meets the criteria for landmark status. Following this step, the application is then sent onto City Council where it is scheduled into a future meeting for review and approval. As the Andrews family is fully behind the designation and is the current owner of the property, we expect that support for the designation request will continue moving forward toward a successful outcome.

Irving P. Andrews was a prolific lawyer with a remarkable career linked to the fight for social justice and civil rights. Though Andrews received the highest mark on the Colorado Bar Exam in 1951, as an African American, he struggled to secure employment due to discrimination. Andrews worked as a janitor at the YMCA’s Glenarm Branch as he built his own practice but was also a champion of the people. It was not unusual for his firm to take on cases for defendants who could not afford a lawyer. He established the first integrated law office in Colorado and earned a spot on the legal team for the plaintiffs in the landmark 1954 Brown v Board of Education case. The resulting win ruled that separate but equal educational facilities for racial minorities was inherently unequal and began the process of school desegregation. Andrews moved into this eclectic/craftsman style duplex on York St. in 1972. The downstairs served as his primary residence and the upstairs as his law offices until his death in 1998. We anticipate the house will receive local landmark designation in spring or early summer. Along with the Andrews family, we look forward to seeing Irving P. Andrews’ legacy as a champion for social justice and his impact on northeast Denver recognized in this much-deserved manner.

**NEW DETAILS UNCOVERED ABOUT BARNEY FORD HOUSE**

by Alison Salutz, Director of Community Programs

One of our 50 Actions for 50 Places sites is the Barney Ford house at 1569 High St. Barney Ford was a successful African American businessman in early Denver. Ford was born into slavery in 1822 and freed himself from bondage, ultimately arriving in Chicago, where he met his eventual bride, Julia. The Fords arrived in Denver in 1860, after facing prejudice in attempts at mining in Central City and Breckenridge. Ford opened a barber shop on Blake Street, the success of which enabled him to purchase the building. He was one of the many victims of the April 1863 Denver fire but the insurance money he received from the loss allowed him to build 1514 Blake St. in its place, which still stands. The two-story building held several of Ford’s businesses, including the glamorous People’s Restaurant, a bar, and a new location of the barber shop. By the 1870s, he was well known as a prominent businessman and was nominated to the Colorado Territorial Legislature, where he served one term.

The home at 1569 High St. has been associated with Ford for years, but there were few details on the exact dates during which he owned and lived at the home. Research...
undertaken as part of our action on this site revealed several pieces of information. We were able to track down the deed for the property, which shows that the home was purchased in 1890. Ford’s wife, Julia A. Ford, is the owner according to the deed. It is quite common in Denver to find women’s names on housing records, as there were tax advantages to having a woman own the property.

Ford lived at the home until 1900, at which point ads in local papers helped us recognize that he still owned the property, but was using a real estate agent to rent it out. We can tell there were renters in the home because Denver City Directories from the era list several different families during the next few years. The next time the property changed hands was in January of 1902, when it was sold to Sarah E. Wormeley for $2,000. Searching Denver marriage records we were able to confirm that Sarah Wormeley’s maiden name was Ford, and that she is Barney and Julia’s daughter.

Barney Ford died in December 1902 and is buried at another 50 Actions for 50 Places site: Riverside Cemetery. His legacy is part of our city’s earliest history, and he is one of a select few with a stained glass window in the Colorado State Capitol building.

THANK YOU

We want to thank all the sponsors of our 52nd Annual Dinner, held October 13, 2022. We are grateful for your support and commitment to save the places that tell Denver’s diverse history.

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RESTORATION GRANT PROJECT UPDATES

by Shannon Stage, former Manager of Grants and Preservation Services

We continue to support several projects restoring and rehabilitating key landmarks in our city. In addition to this work, Historic Denver recently secured an additional grant on behalf of a partner organization. These efforts are funded in large part by the Colorado State Historical Fund (SHF) and managed by Historic Denver.

ROOF REHABILITATION: PEOPLES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2780 YORK ST.

The roof rehabilitation project at Peoples Presbyterian Church is wrapping up after a little more than a year. Founded in 1906, the church is Denver’s oldest continuously active Black Presbyterian congregation. This church, located in the Skyland/North City Park Neighborhood, has a small but mighty congregation who are determined to maintain their historic building and sustain the longtime African American community.

PORTICO RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION: BENNETT FIELD HOUSE, 740 N CLARKSON ST.

The purpose of this project is to complete phase two of the historic portico restoration and stabilization at the Bennett-Field House and address critical masonry deterioration in select locations at the chimneys and parapets.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

IN MEMORIAM: JOE SOKOLOWSKI

by Leah M. Charney, Historic Denver News Managing Editor and Tour Guide

Anyone who had the pleasure of knowing Joe Sokolowski was lucky enough to take one of his walking tours which merrily rattled off the following adjectives: smart, loyal, warm, generous, funny.

That last one served him well — the Sokolowski family is Denver's oldest continuously active African American family.

The congregation listed their 1920s Mission-style building on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in 2016, completing a Historic Structure Assessment (HSA) later that same year, which was also funded in part by SHF. With the assistance of the SHF grant, the church has sealed their roof to protect the building from deterioration and water damage. This roof rehabilitation is the largest restoration project they have undertaken yet, and they are looking to undertake additional restoration projects identified by the HSA soon.

The Neoclassical Revival style home, designed in 1905 by William E. Fisher, is a contributing structure in the local East Seventh Avenue Historic District and is also listed on the National Register. This SHF grant will ensure the continued use of the home for the LightHouse program, a transformational housing program designed to assist men in recovery operated by Open Door Ministries. Residents find safe housing in a sober living facility and are able to access support with employment and vocational training.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
CROWThER HOUSE, A PIONEER IN CLIMATE-FRIENDLY CONSTRUCTION, ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF DEMOLITION ELIGIBILITY

by Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

Denver may soon lose a one-of-a-kind house with significant history. On December 12, the Richard Crowther House at 401 N. Madison was issued a Certificate of Demolition Eligibility after City Council voted against an owner-opposed landmark designation.

The house, constructed in 1979, was architect Richard Crowther’s personal residence and laboratory. Crowther was a pioneer in passive solar and sustainable design and this house was used to test some of these theories as well as the latest sustainable technology at the time. It has sat vacant since Crowther’s death in 2006. Under private ownership, it was neglected and deferred maintenance led to a number of condition issues. Those issues factored in the council decision not to landmark it, despite many council members agreeing it met the criteria.

Despite the cruel reality of economics in Denver’s housing market, it remains that Denver stands to lose this unique and historically significant property—a property no other city in the country can claim to have, Richard Crowther’s personal experiment.

Richard Crowther was born in 1910 in Newark, New Jersey. He relocated to San Diego when he was 21. He began his career in design working with neon lights, something that would often be emphasized in his early career. Crowther received some formal training, but learned much about design while on the job. His interest in sustainable design began in 1943 when he built his first passive home near San Diego’s Balboa Park.

Crowther made his way to Denver in 1948. His first prominent project involved designing a number of signs, ticket booths, and ride entrances during a partial remodel of Lakeside Amusement Park in the late 1940s. Lakeside was just the start of a long and influential career in Denver. He designed buildings for well-known businesses such as Juslin’s and Fashion Bar department stores and King Soopers grocery stores. A few of his iconic restaurants designs were the Holiday Drive-Inn, Golden Lantern, and at least one White Spot. He was known for his theater designs too, such as the Esquire and the Cooper Cinerama theaters.

Many of these early Crowther designs have already been lost to demolition. In 2021, his former office building at the southwest corner of 3rd and Steele streets was issued a CDE, further indicating that Crowther’s legacy here in Denver may be in jeopardy.

As Crowther’s career continued, he implemented passive solar energy systems and holistic designs into his architecture. He became sought after in Colorado and across the Southwest for this work. Crowther wrote papers, articles and books on the topic. He authored the textbook Sun/Earth: Sustainable Design, which is considered a benchmark in holistic architecture design. The textbook contains arguments outlining economic and environmental benefits for passive design. Crowther lectured at conferences, universities and the Smithsonian Institution. Seen as an expert on the topic, Crowther laid the groundwork for the green building field, which did not come together formally until the 1990s.

Crowther was at the forefront of sustainable design in our built environment. He correctly believed that buildings were going to play a prominent role in the environmental movement. Today we have programs such as LEED and a massive movement for passive house design, including technology like solar power and heat pumps, but it’s hard to imagine these innovations without pioneers like Crowther.

The Certificate of Demolition Eligibility for the Crowther House does not mean immediate demolition, but is typically the first step in a scarp and rebuild project, and is the expected outcome considering MAG Builders has already indicated they want to build two duplexes on the site. Even if the home does not remain, we will continue to share and remember the innovations and legacy of Richard Crowther.

At the Crowther House, even the garages were designed intentionally to act as both noise and thermal buffers. Photo: Kathleen Roche, reprinted from our 2006 Historic Denver Guide. The McKeen Modern House in Denver

PRESERVATION BRIEFS

The White Spot Drive-Inn (nonexistent) opened in the early 1950s at Sheridan Boulevard and Alameda Avenue. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, WHIT04-2016-541
LANDMARK STATUS EXPECTED FOR SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN NEAR NORTHEAST DENVER

by Michael Flowers, Director of Preservation Action

A small church building at the corner of 38th Avenue and Franklin Street in the Cole neighborhood is on its way to becoming a Denver Landmark. This chapel was constructed in 1888 by the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church to serve Swedish immigrants in the neighborhood at that time. Early residents of the neighborhood were Northern European immigrants, and many of the Swedish immigrants in Cole would have come from communities where walking to the local church was customary. Working-class houses and neighborhoods often were designed to be utilitarian. The buildings were functional, though they carry their own charm, and this building embodies that reality. While it does not have the same features as churches of the high style, the church reflects an appreciation of both neighborhood development and the congregants it served with its simple architecture. Considered “vernacular Gothic,” there is little in the way of ornamentation save for cosmetic buttresses, arched windows, and a prominent vestibule. Often vernacular buildings are altered because they are not seen as significant but a photo from 1928 shows that this church has undergone only minor changes since then.

The former church at 1618 E 38th St. was the second Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denver; the first was located at 19th and Welton. Property records show that Gustav A. Brandelle, the pastor of the congregation and future president of the Augustana Synod — one of the churches that merged into what is now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ECLA) — purchased the land before it was turned over to the congregation; a common practice back then.

The chapel was sold to the Scandinavian Seventh Day Adventist congregation in 1916. Records show that Swedish immigrants still attended service here. Though it remained working class, the neighborhood saw shifts in its demographics and would see a sizable Latino and African American population move into the area. The congregations that served the neighborhood shifted with these trends and so did those who operated the churches located at 1618 E 38th St. In 1954 it was owned by the Spanish Seventh Day Adventist Church, and then later would be the first permanent home of the Rising Star Baptist Church, which served a largely Black congregation and is still an active congregation today.

It was sold in 1986 and turned into a private residence, which likely saved this little church and helped it survive with few exterior alterations. As a residence, the church ultimately came to be the home of local photographer John Schoenwalter in 2001 and remained his home until his death in 2019. Though outside the period of significance as a church, Schoenwalter was a well-known photographer for publications such as Colorado Statesman and Westword.

The Landmarking Designation of 1618 E. 38th Ave. is part of a rezoning project where the new owner plans to construct townhomes on a vacant lot to the west of the property. The church sits on a spacious lot, and, while currently a planned unit development (PUD), there is always threat to properties like this when they reside on a larger lot. In exchange for support of the rezoning, which will see both preservation of the church and new housing units constructed, the owner initiated the landmark process and Historic Denver drafted the designation. The landmark designation, along with the rezoning proposal, will find its way to city council in 2023 for final approval.

LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE BUILDING NOW A DESIGNATED LANDMARK

by Alison Salutz, Director of Community Programs

The Livestock Exchange Building has its roots in Denver’s earliest history. Built in 1886, with additions in 1916 and 1919, the building is the oldest and most striking on the National Western Center campus.

Strategically located near rail lines, and in the early years surrounded by livestock pens, the building served as the heart of Denver’s livestock center. The building housed the offices of the Denver Union Stock Yard Company, the first place behind the National Western Stock Show. The building also housed the Denver Daily Record-Stockman newspaper, a restaurant, a cigar store, the Stockyards National Bank, the Colorado State Farm Bureau, and the local office of the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The elaborate details of the building, which remind us that there was big money to be made in livestock commodities at the turn of the century, are largely intact, like the terrazzo flooring and a large chalkboard where livestock prices were listed.

In 2011, the National Western Stock Show began to consider moving the annual show to a location with updated facilities. We were one of many organizations who did not want to see that happen. Today’s Stock Show builds upon a rich history, and there are several significant structures and features on the site. Historic Denver participated in the conversations surrounding creation of the Master Plan for the site. We helped identify sites of historical significance, including the Livestock Exchange Building. We also participated in the National Western Center Citizens Advisory Council, to ensure that the plan included community voices.

In 2020 the building was sold to a partnership that includes the Stock Show owners, the National Western Center Authority. The new owners submitted a nomination for landmark designation, following what was outlined in their plan for the site. That nomination was approved by Denver’s City Council on November 22, 2022. This designation provides protection from demolition, creates an approval system for all exterior changes, and officially recognizes the building’s historical importance to Denver.

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The exterior Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church building near 38th Avenue and Franklin Street has changed very little since it was originally constructed. Photos: Nathan Beal and Denver Public Library Special Collections, X-25702

The Livestock Exchange building was home to the Denver Union Stock Yard Company. Note the proximity to rail to easily move animals in and out. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, NICE-1644

This photo was taken in the stockyards surrounding the Livestock Exchange building to mark the millionth head of cattle to arrive at the Denver Union Stockyards. Photo Donated to the Denver Public Library by the Rocky Mountain News

HISTORIC DENVER NEWS
New and Renewing Members 9/20/2022 to 12/23/2022

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Gail Anderson
Manute Alubris
Mary Beth Armbruster
Polly Baron
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Sue Baird
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Mark Barthman
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Brandon Benson
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit: historicdenver.org/event
Make sure your membership is up to date to get member pricing.

EMPOWERED BY PLACE.
KEYES V. SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

History by diving into decades at our Clothworks, Cocktails, and Corsets event. Join us for cocktails or mocktails and some chocolate by diving into decadence at our Chocolate, Cocktails, and Corsets event. Explore the timeless beauty of the natural world. The ancient art of Japanese ink painting, sumi-e captures, in a pure and simple way, the timeless beauty of the natural world. We will be taking a closer look at the Sumi-e scroll paintings: ART ON PENN: A CLOSER VIEW - INK PAINTING

Thursday, February 2 • 7:30-9pm • Virtual • Free, Donations appreciated
Fifty years ago the U.S. Supreme Court made a landmark decision regarding segregation in Denver Public Schools. Keyes v. School District No. 1 led to district-wide busing to integrate schools. We’re partnering with the nonprofit education news organization Chalkbeat to explore the key cases and continue our virtual tour of the Center for Colorado Women’s History • Free

VICTORIAN VALENTINES HOMESCHOOL DAY
Tuesdays, February 7 • 9:30-11:30am or 11:30am-1:30pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $14 Student, $5 Adult (limit 2 adults per family group)
Join us as we take a look back at the origins and history of Valentine’s Day in the United States. Explore holiday traditions, the popularity of giving and receiving valentines started with the Victorians. Join us to explore the beginnings of this holiday, learn secret codes, and even make your own valentine to take home! Homeschool Day offers non-traditional students the same opportunities to come visit the museum as our more traditional school visitors. Homeschool programs are a specialized tour and hands-on activities.

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CHOCOLATE, COCKTAILS AND CORSETS
Thursday, February 9 • 6:30-8:30pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $22 Member, $25 Non-member
Melt in your mouth chocolate, fizzy and refreshing beverages, and an outfit to make you feel as good about yourself. Let’s celebrate celebrating yourself this February by diving into decades at our Clothworks, Cocktails, and Corsets event. Join us for cocktails or mocktails and some chocolate by diving into decadence at our Chocolate, Cocktails, and Corsets event. Where in the world is Margaret Brown? Homeschool Day
Tuesday, March 7 • 9:30-11:30am or 11:30am-1:30pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $14 student, $5 adult (limit 2 adults per family group)
How did Margaret Brown travel? How long did she travel, how those technologies, and the world she lived in, changed over time, and what the societal motivations were for anyone traveling during this time. Community Book Club: Spoil Quilts
Sunday, April 2 • 12:30-2pm • Virtual or in person at the Center for Colorado Women’s History • Free
Join the Molly Brown House Museum (MBHM) and the Center for Colorado Women’s History (CCWH), as we read and discuss books related to women’s history. In the past, books by women authors from Colorado! Book titles, dates, and locations can be found on the Adult Programs section of our website, mollybrown.org. Meetings are held in person and online via Zoom. Let’s read!

1540 PENN AFTER HOURS: ESCAPE THE TITANIC
Thursday, March 16 • 6-9pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $16 Member, $20 Non-member
It’s 1:20am, April 15, 1912. You are locked in the bowels of the ship with your fellow 3rd class passengers as the Titanic begins its descent into the ocean. Can you solve the puzzles to travel from deck to deck and get on a lifeboat before the ship becomes fully submerged? Entry times every 15 minutes beginning at 6pm; last entry at 8pm.

SINKING OF THE TITANIC HOMESCHOOL DAYS
Mon, April 2 • 9:30-11:30am or 11:30am-1:30pm
Tues., April 4 • 9:30-11:30am, 11:30am-1:30pm or 1:30-4:30pm
Molly Brown House Museum, $14 student, $5 adult (limit 2 adults/family group)
Travel along with the Titanic, from inception to scabeg. Learn the history of the ship and that fateful night through the people aboard the Titanic. What can the objects and documents tell us about their world? Homeschool Days offer non-traditional students the same opportunities to come visit the museum as our more traditional school visitors. Homeschool Day programs include a specialized tour and hands-on activities.

DEEPER DIVE: THE TITANIC EXPERIENCE
Thursday, April 19 • 6:30-8pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $19.12
Whether you had a first class, second class, or third class ticket to the RMS Titanic, White Star Lines promised first accommodations on Titanic’s maiden voyage to New York City. From spacious dining salons specific to class, to the Turkish baths and promenade decks, the Titanic was meant for much more than travel. Join us in the historic home of Margaret “Molly” Brown as we explore what the Titanic experience was like before it tragically sank on April 14, 1912.

TITANIC MEMORIES
Saturday, April 15 • 6-8 pm, 5 pm Accessible Performance • Molly Brown House Museum • $20 Member, $25 Non-member
The tragic story of the Titanic resonates with people all around the world. Accounts of survivors garnered intrigue in 1912 and continue to do so today. You may know of the Titanic’s famous passengers and their stories, but what about the not-so-famous passengers? Experience these heart-wrenching survivor stories in this one-of-a-kind theater experience within the historic walls that once belonged to Denver’s Titanic survivor, Margaret “Molly” Brown. Performances are every 15 minutes beginning at 6 pm.

ART ON PENN: TITANIC AT NIGHT
Saturday, April 22 • 5-7pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $20 Member, $25 Non-member
Participants will learn the history of the Titanic within the context of Margaret Brown and then create an engaging acrylic painting of the Titanic at night. A little nervous? Don’t worry! Instructor Amy will guide every student step by step to have fun creating and learning! Amy Marsh, instagram.com/amymarshart, has taught art for 19 years to all levels of students. She is now painting and teaching as a member of Arts Student League of Denver and working at the Molly Brown House Museum.

DEEPER DIVE: REACHING NEW YORK CITY
Thursday, April 27 • 6:30-8pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $19.12
The Titanic Programs
Thursday, April 27 • 6:30-8pm • Molly Brown House Museum • $19.12
Much of Titanic’s tragic history focuses on the moment the Titanic sank into the Atlantic Ocean. While that topic understandably garners the most attention, the hours after the sinking, up to the Carpathia’s arrival to New York City offer us a glimpse into the survivors stories of strength and compassion, the immense public intrigue after the disaster, and how the Titanic tragedy shaped how we sail the seas today. Let’s explore the experiences after the Titanic sank in the historic home of Margaret “Molly” Brown.