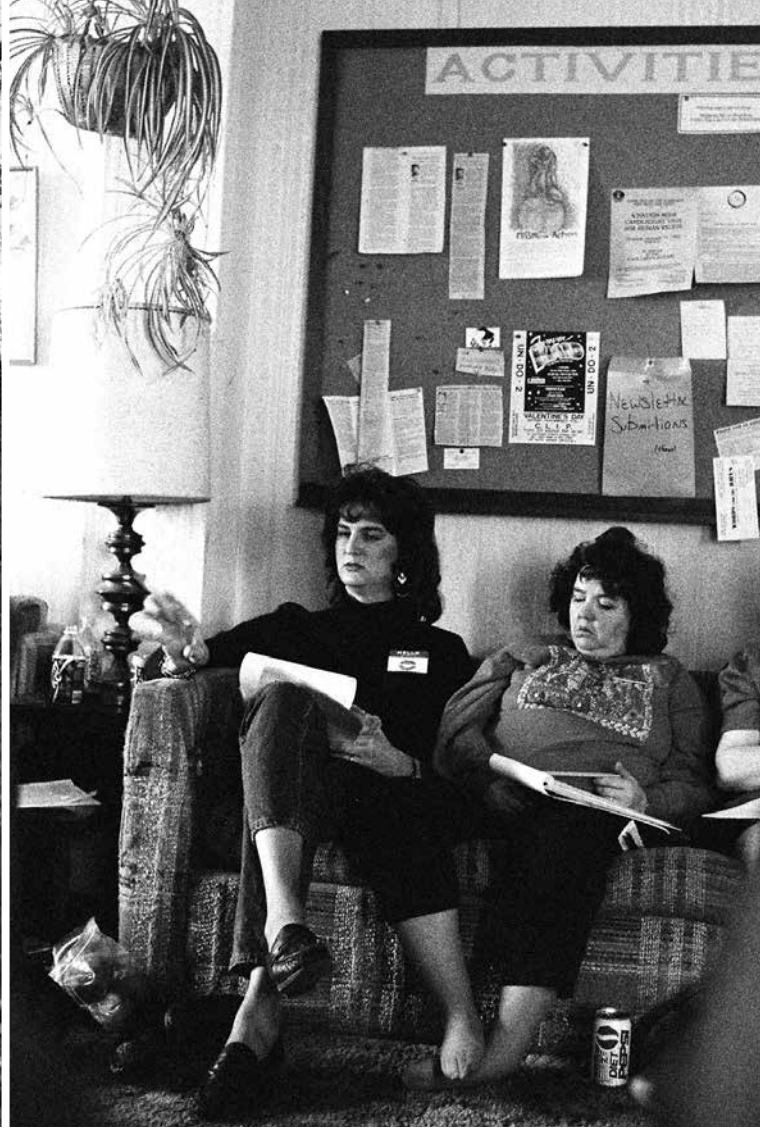


# HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

EST. 1970 • VOLUME 53 • NUMBER 3 • SUMMER 2024



Many trans and gender nonconforming Coloradans found community at the Gender Identity Center, which was housed in a single-family residence in the Highlands for more than a decade. The property recently sold in April 2024 to new owners who are thrilled to understand and honor its deeper history. Photos: Jay Homstad; Barbara Millma, Barbara Millman Collection, The Center on Colfax

## HIGHLAND HOUSE CONNECTION TO THE TRANS COMMUNITY

by Lee Bishop, Guest Contributor

*Author's note: I refer to the people I'm describing by the language they used to refer to themselves. As a result, some words used may now be considered outdated.*

"It's been three years since I walked through the door for the first time, and thanks to the GIC, I have finally found myself," wrote board member Donna R. in a 1989 Gender Identity Center (GIC) newsletter. "Most of these people spend a great deal of their lives fighting their feelings about themselves and if they're lucky, they find a support group."

With the founding of the GIC in 1978, transexual and transvestite people had a place to go to find themselves — and each other. For 40 years, the GIC provided information and affirmation to countless trans people. And from 1983 to 1994, it was located in the heart of the Highlands neighborhood at 3715 W. 32nd Ave.

"This invisible, but mammoth burden that I'd been carrying just lifted off my shoulders. It was a wonderful moment," Mia Peters told the *Estes Park Trail-Gazette* in 2003, describing the first time she set foot in the building.

Despite its revolutionary role in Denver's gender community, the house on 32nd Avenue had more conservative beginnings. When the town of Highlands incorporated in 1875, its residents placed a high value on temperance, upstanding moral behavior, and a clean environment. There were no bars, as the fee for a liquor license was \$5,000 — about \$142,000 today. Highlands was ultimately annexed by Denver in 1896, but still remained upwind from the city's stockyards and smelters, continuing to expand as the country recovered from the Panic of 1893 and Colorado began bouncing back from the silver crash.

When the Preston family built 3715 W. 32nd Ave. in 1900, their Packard's Hill neighborhood was primarily a streetcar subdivision, sharing the pleasant reputation of the wider Highlands area. The house is now part of the Packard Hill's Historic District, a residential-only historic district whose boundary is roughly Lowell Boulevard to Osceola Street, and 32nd Avenue north to the south side of 35th Avenue. The author of Packard Hill's Landmark District Application theorized that this reputation is partially what attracted a large number of independent women to the area. A "disproportionately high

number," of women owned property here, whether they be single, widowed, or married, the application noted. The GIC carried on this tradition when it moved into the house in 1983.

Since the first known meetings of the gender community in Denver began in 1966, members had been meeting in cafeterias, motels, private homes, an erotic-goods shop, or churches, depending on where they felt safe. The GIC was formally established in 1978 and began holding regular board meetings before applying for nonprofit status in January of 1983 (which was denied). They also began searching for a permanent location. When Anne Bolin and Sonja Smith, two GIC founding directors, found 3715 W. 32nd Ave., they hoped to develop a "home-style" meeting space where new members would feel comfortable quickly.

The entire GIC community had to work together to afford such a large expense. Community ally D. Corliss and founding director Tomye Kelley, a cisgender woman and licensed therapist, purchased the building. Corliss's name went on the title, while the GIC took on the responsibility of renting a portion of the house for \$200 a month. This expense was significantly larger than the \$23 a month they were paying to rent a room in a church basement. Still, by charging door fees and member dues to cover the extra costs, the GIC moved in on June 28, 1983. They began to hold meetings there immediately despite the necessary renovations actively being carried out by members and directors. Members donated all furnishings and performed cleanup of both the outside and inside on a volunteer basis.

Throughout its time in the house, the GIC offered a number of vital services to its members. Most prominent of these were weekly support group meetings which allowed transexual and transvestite members alike a place to receive information and find community. Information was also available from the GIC library of resources and their volunteer-staffed phone line. Members converted the kitchen into the Gold Key Club, where they could store their clothes in lockers to change into before meeting without the fear of being discovered by family. Kelley became the GIC's executive director in 1983 and also offered counseling services through her newly formed Institute for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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## FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

You may notice that the summer edition of Historic Denver News is a little different, incorporating our new logo and design guidelines. The design motivations that informed the logo are described in a standalone piece on the next page. Suffice to say that I am very proud of how the final product reflects the process we worked through with the board and key stakeholders, and of the depth of conversation that took place. Preservation retains the past for the benefit of the future — all our futures — and I hope that this spirit is embodied in the new logo.

This spirit is certainly embodied in the recently negotiated outcome of our work at the former home of legendary jazz bar El Chapultepec. Upon learning in March that the property owner, Monfort Companies, intended to apply for permission to demolish the building at 1962 Market St., Historic Denver filed an application for landmark designation with the City and County of Denver. Several months of negotiations ensued and the outcome became public on June 18.

A substantial part of the 130-year-old structure will be retained at the corner of Market and 20th streets, including the iconic neon sign, awning, and door, where performers such as Etta James, Harry Connick Jr., Sting, and Ed Sheeran passed through. To either side of the original brick walls, a new glass structure will continue the height and footprint of the original building, with the brick pattern reimaged in etching on the glass.

Historic Denver commends Monfort Companies for their commitment to delivering a high-quality contemporary design that incorporates part of the original building's fabric. Good outcomes happen when we talk to one another, and I hope this spirit of collaboration and camaraderie will become a model for future developments. The legend of The 'Pec lives on.

Turning to the digital world, we recently kicked off a redesign of our online resources. Did you know that we currently operate four websites: One each for Historic Denver, the Molly Brown House Museum, Discover Denver, and Denver Story Trek? Our new website will integrate each of these sites into one, providing a more streamlined and intuitive experience. Each site will still retain and be searchable using their current URL. I'm excited to see this initiative move forward, integrating our new logo and graphic identity.

Stepping away from the computer, if you have been to Molly Brown House Museum recently, you will have noticed that the landscaping requires a little tender love and care. The setting of a historic building is as important as the building itself and I do not think that Margaret would approve of the current state of her former home's garden. We have launched a fundraising campaign to upgrade the landscape at the front and rear of the house, integrating drought resistant planting and sustainable irrigation. If you wish to support the campaign financially, please check out [historicdenver.org/supportus](http://historicdenver.org/supportus).

As you can see, we are busy and that is just the way we like it! Change is inevitable, so the saying goes, and Historic Denver's role is to respond to that change in a collaborative and informed manner which also recognizes the pressures faced by other stakeholders in our built environment. I hope you have a great summer!



John Deffenbaugh  
President & CEO, Historic Denver

P.S. When you next see Andrea Malcomb, please congratulate her on 25 years with Historic Denver and Molly Brown House Museum! We are so grateful for her deep knowledge, incredible dedication, and vibrant spirit.



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



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## NEW LOGO, CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO CHAMPIONING DENVER HISTORY

By John Deffenbaugh, President and CEO, and Andrea Malcomb, Museum Director

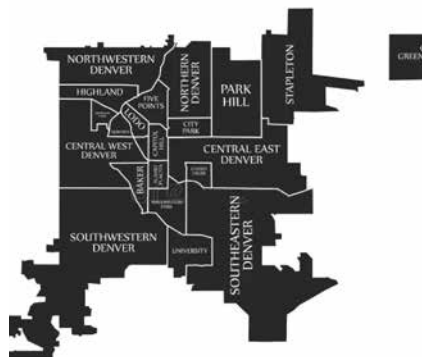
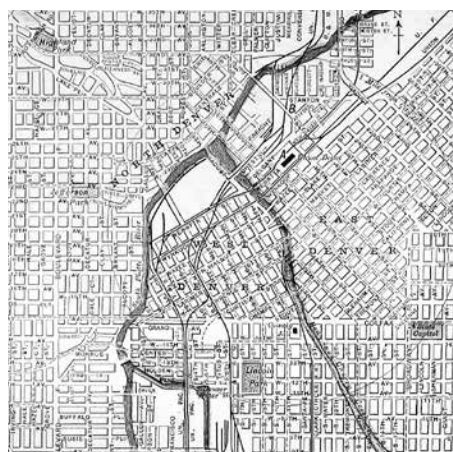


**AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS,** Historic Denver introduced a new logo in June 2023. Inspired by the shape of the city itself, the new logo — only our fourth in our 54-year history — is intended to show that Historic Denver exists to champion the stories of all of Denver’s diverse communities. Our original 1970 tagline states, “preservation for the people,” which also includes those communities that have been historically underrepresented in Denver as well as in preservation.

The pattern within the city outline is an abstraction of the city grid featuring the South Platte River, the Cherry Creek, and Park Avenue as Denver’s first parkway. The confluence of the river and creek is celebrated to acknowledge the peoples and nations who inhabited this land for generations before the establishment of the city that has come to be known as Denver.

The logo also unites Historic Denver’s preservation advocacy work with the reason for its founding, the Molly Brown House Museum. The colorful panes evoke the stained-glass windows at the Molly Brown House, and illuminate how the museum and preservation teams work in tandem to interpret the stories of the past that shape our world today. Overlaying the modern city outline with the classic building element of a stained glass window also illustrates that existing buildings, and the stories they tell, remain hugely relevant in modern Denver.

The logo was designed by locally-based graphic designer Zach Kotel of Ashton Design. You will already see this new logo in use in our weekly email newsletters, staff email signatures, and on our social media channels. We will continue to roll it out in the coming months to replace the previous logo across all of our print and online materials. ■



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GENDER IDENTITY CENTER CONT.



Gender Research and Treatment, which moved into one of the office spaces in the building. Her services allowed members convenient and necessary referrals to gender-affirming treatment.

Though the GIC continued to grow, it ran into conflict. At the end of 1986, members were concerned about Kelley's sole authority over the GIC, especially because she also held so much power as the sole access to medical referrals. Around the same time, previous owners Gerald and Gina Bryant foreclosed on the house and ownership transferred back to them. The Bryants asked the GIC to stay and take over the entire building, though for a much higher rent. The GIC agreed, simultaneously

breaking ties with Kelley and forming a new board of directors.

Under this new management, the GIC continued to prosper. Despite the odds, the IRS approved the GIC's second application for nonprofit status on September 20, 1987. They continued to host support groups and publish a monthly newsletter. They also began to hold major events, such as the Fifth Annual International Foundation for Gender Education's Coming Together Convention, which the GIC hosted at The Regency Hotel in nearby Globeville in 1991. This was vital in connecting the GIC with the national gender community. By the end of that same year, the GIC had also organized chapters in both northern and southern Colorado.

The GIC purportedly had a great relationship with the Bryants, who offered to sell the house to them multiple times. But in 1994, the Bryants sold 3715 W. 32nd Ave. to another buyer, forcing the GIC to move. The GIC briefly moved to a much smaller location in Lakewood, but the landlord canceled their lease after calling their open house a "circus." From there they settled at 1445 Ammons St., also in Lakewood. After that, they were housed in at least two more locations. The GIC ultimately closed in 2019 due to the loss of their clinical director. This loss meant they could no longer offer counseling services — a major loss of revenue — and despite community fundraising efforts, the GIC closed its doors before a new clinical director could be hired.

Over its 40 years of existence, the GIC served a major role in Colorado's gender community. By having a stable physical location in its early years, it was able to survive and thrive despite variable financial conditions. The GIC also offered safety and community to trans individuals and in later years engaged in activism for the LGBTQ+ community.

As new member Val F. said in 1988, "Since I've first arrived at the GIC, I've made some friends that have helped me feel better about myself and my gender conflict. I am still, at times, having a problem liking myself. However, with the support and caring that I receive from everyone at the Center, I, too, am able to offer the same friendship and support to others." ■

*Lee Bishop (they/them) is an Educator Performer at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. They are pursuing a Master's Degree in Public History from the University of Colorado Denver. They research through a gender history lens with a focus in Colorado transgender history. You can contact Lee at lebishop01@gmail.com*

*The former home of the Gender Identity Center located at 3715 W. 32nd Ave. is one of Historic Denver's 50 Actions for 50 Places sites. During its operation as the GIC, this Victorian cottage supported more than 10,000 transgender people.*



Over its 40 years in existence, the Gender Identity Center served a major role in supporting the gender community, including providing gender affirming care. Photos: Barbara Millman, Barbara Millman Collection, The Center on Colfax

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# MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

## NEW ACQUISITION ADDS DETAIL TO BROWN FAMILY HISTORY

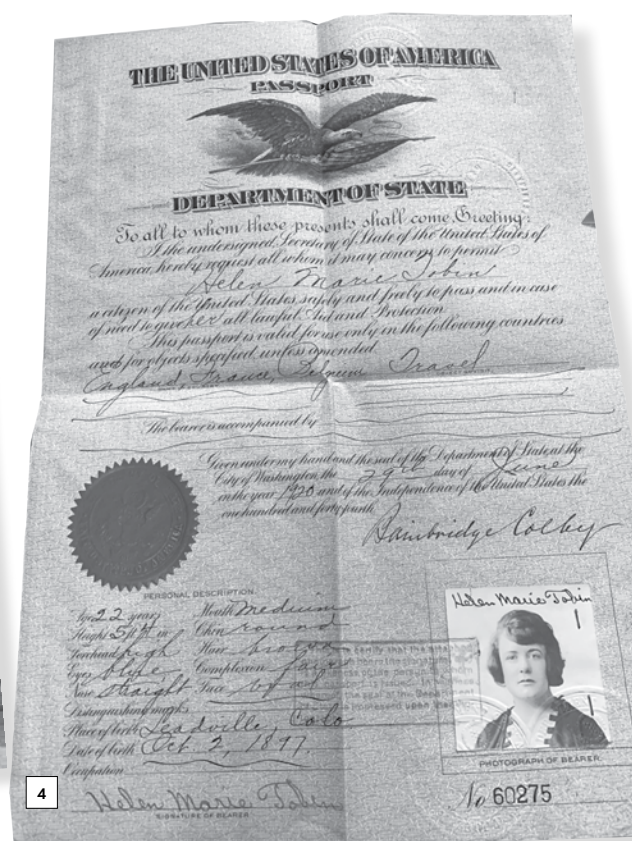
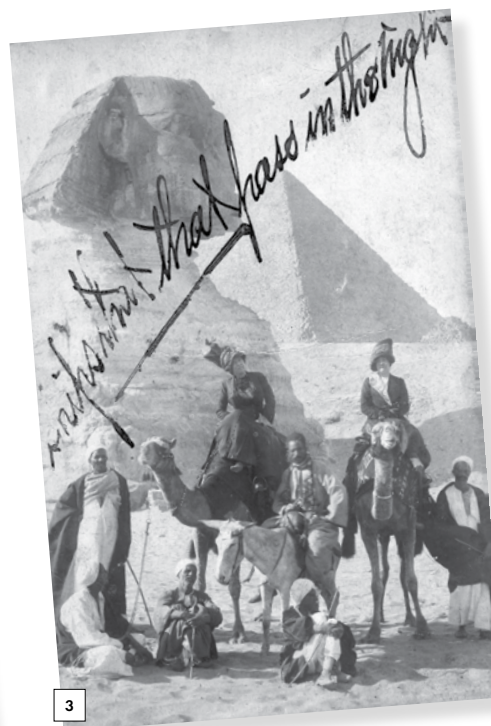
by Stephanie McGuire, Curator of Collections

The Molly Brown House Museum is excited to announce the acquisition of an important Brown family artifact! The museum is tremendously grateful to descendants Scott and Lisa Vollrath and Carol Marenholz for donating a photo album made by Margaret Brown's niece, Helen Tobin Kosure. It contains mostly photographs, plus letters, calling cards, and newspaper clippings of the Brown and Tobin families — including Margaret, of course — illustrating their lives and important moments.

The album is truly one-of-a-kind. No where else can you find photos of Margaret delivering wreaths to the Halifax *Titanic* graves, on a camel in Egypt before boarding *Titanic*, and posing at a family wedding. Calling cards from Newport's famous families

like the Astors and Vanderbilts paint a picture of Margaret's social life, including a letter from Vincent Astor and his then-wife, Helen. Photographs of family homes, trips, and outings give us a glimpse into their personal lives.

In 2020, the Vollrath and Marenholz families donated another scrapbook made by Helen Tobin Kosure, which was mostly made up of newspaper clippings. Now, both of these significant primary sources will be preserved for generations in the Museum's archives. These scrapbooks uncover missing details of the life and family of Margaret Brown, and now with more pieces of the puzzle, the museum can share deeper and more accurate histories with our visitors. ■



- 1 Margaret's Newport cottage, "Mon Etui."
- 2 Madeleine Astor's calling card, circa 1914.
- 3 Margaret and daughter Helen Brown on camels in front of the Egyptian pyramids in 1912.
- 4 Niece Helen Tobin's passport from 1920.
- 5 Margaret with her nieces Grace and Florence at an outdoor event.
- 6 Nieces Helen and Florence Tobin.
- 7 J. J. Brown with granddaughter Elizabeth "Betty" Brown.
- 8 The 1911 announcement of son Lawrence's first baby, Palmer Brown.
- 9 Son Lawrence's home in Victor, CO.
- 10 Margaret and nieces delivering wreaths to the Halifax *Titanic* graves.



# DISCOVER DENVER



## NORTHEAST DENVER: UNDERSTANDING DENVER'S RACIALLY DIVIDED PAST

by Beth Glandon, Director of Research and Engagement

For the past nine months, Discover Denver's volunteers have been documenting the buildings of the Skyland, Clayton, Whittier, and Five Points neighborhoods. One of the most fulfilling parts of Discover Denver's work in any neighborhood is uncovering the stories of people who played significant roles in the history of Denver.

In northeast Denver, many of these stories involve individuals who overcame systemic racism to break barriers and more fully integrate our city. In these past months, Discover Denver has surveyed the homes of notable Denverites like Sam Cary, the first Black attorney in Colorado; Dr. Rachel Noel, who was instrumental in the integration of Denver's public schools; the homes of two of the first Black architects in Colorado, John Henderson, whose self-designed home became a landmark in 2018, and Bertram Bruton, who designed Sakura Square; and the home and business of Shizuo "Frank" Yamada, who, because of his Japanese American heritage, was forcibly incarcerated during World War II.

As in every other part of the city, this area's stories and history have been shaped by the experiences of the groups that have lived here over time. The homes of these important figures are clustered in northeast Denver because of something necessary to discuss when exploring neighborhood histories: redlining.

The term redlining originated from federal home loan programs established in the 1930s on the heels of the Great Depression and was later taken up by private banks and real estate boards. The government used color-coded maps to rate neighborhoods under four loan risk categories - green ("best"), blue ("still desirable"), yellow ("definitely declining"), and red ("hazardous"). Factors such as the age of buildings, proximity to industrial areas, and yes, the race of the residents, contributed to an area's rating. Between 1935 and 1940, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, an agency of the federal government, published maps showing the perceived home loan risk in areas of most major American cities, including Denver.

This exclusionary practice led to marginalized groups being restricted in where they could live and own property. In Denver, redlining forced many minority groups, especially the city's Black residents, to mostly reside in the Five Points and Whittier neighborhoods until well into the 20th century. Northeast Denver residents shared with Discover Denver volunteers and staff the challenges their families faced in securing home loans and in moving outside the boundaries of redlined areas. Other formal

policies that prevented people of color from renting or owning property across the city included racial covenants written into leases and deeds.

Into the early 1930s, the eastern "race line" across which marginalized groups had trouble crossing was Downing Street. Those that did settle east of Downing faced resistance, discrimination, and even violence from their white neighbors. Before his death in 2015, George Morrison Jr., son of the jazz great George Morrison Sr., often spoke of awakening to a cross burning on the lawn of the family's newly built Gilpin Street home. The home, built in 1921, is a Historic Denver 50 Actions site that still stands today across the street from Manual High School. Others attempted to appease these rules, written and otherwise, by entering and exiting their homes only through the alley and never through the front door.

Because of these restrictions, the Five Points neighborhood became a self-contained community with minority-owned businesses, including taxi companies, barber shops and beauty salons, restaurants, pool halls, dentists, doctors, lawyers, morticians, hotels, and real estate agencies. While most residents of Five Points were Black, members of other marginalized groups, including those with Chinese and Japanese heritage, lived among their Black neighbors.

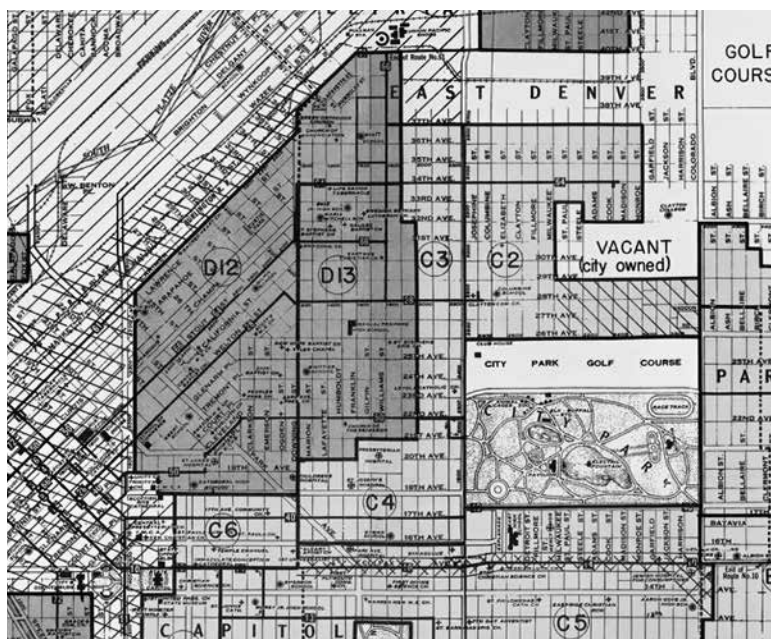
Over time and block by block, the invisible "race line" crept eastward — first to Race Street, then to York Street, and later to Colorado Boulevard. More people of color gradually moved eastward, purchasing homes, and opening businesses in areas that were previously inaccessible to them. The Skyland and Clayton neighborhoods, both east of York Street, were the last of these four neighborhoods to develop, with many homes dating from the mid-1950s and later.

Both redlining and restrictive racial covenants were finally outlawed after the passage of the 1968 Fair Housing Act. To learn more about redlining and

to see how your own neighborhood was rated, visit the Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America website at [dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining](https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining). The Mapping Inequality website is a project of the University of Richmond. ■

*A partnership between Historic Denver, Inc. and the City and County of Denver, Discover Denver is a citywide building survey focused on identifying places throughout the city that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. Volunteers play a significant role in Discover Denver, helping to document buildings, research building histories, and collect stories from members of the community.*

Visit [discoverdenver.co](https://discoverdenver.co) for more information on the project and to learn how you can get involved!



The darker colors across northeast Denver on the 1938 Residential Security Map indicated to lenders that these were "hazardous" and "definitely declining" areas. Photo: Denver Public Library Special Collections, CG4314 .D4 E73 1938 .U556

## PROFILE: RILEY BURKHART



Riley Burkhart (she/her) has been working part time at the Molly Brown House Museum as a Visitor Experience Associate since August 2022. In this role, she has been an Experience Host, store staff member, and tour guide.

Riley joined Historic Denver while finishing her undergraduate degree at Colorado State University. She graduated in May 2023 with her degree in history, with a concentration in digital and public history, as well as minors in English and anthropology. She has remained at the museum throughout her gap year.

Before joining Historic Denver, Riley completed an internship at Littleton Museum, a living history museum. It was there that she

first experienced public history in the field and worked as an interpreter, something that greatly interested her and ultimately led her to work at the Molly Brown House.

Riley was born and raised in Littleton, Colorado and has always loved the state and its history. Having graduated from Columbine High School, she wrote her undergraduate honors thesis on memorialization processes at Columbine. This paper was submitted to the Emerging Historians contest at History Colorado, where it won in the 2023 undergraduate category and has since been published in Colorado Magazine.

After two years at the museum, Riley will attend graduate school at Loyola University Chicago in the fall. We wish her great success in her future endeavors! ■



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# PRESERVATION

## BRIEFS



By 1895, large homes had begun popping up on large lots across the University Park neighborhood. Photo: Courtesy Denver University Archives

### DENVER'S NEWEST HISTORIC DISTRICT: UNIVERSITY PARK

by Barbara Stocklin-Steely, Guest Contributor, Square Moon Consultants

In April 2024, the Denver City Council approved landmark designation for the University Park Historic District. This district includes 17 distinctive properties — totaling 23 contributing buildings and structures — dispersed throughout the approximately one-mile square University Park neighborhood. This landmark designation was the culmination of a multi-year effort by the University Park Community Council (UPCC), and its highly organized and motivated Community Preservation Committee, to preserve the neighborhood's unique heritage and identity.

Tear-downs of notable residences in the south Denver neighborhood led the Committee to apply to Historic Denver for an Action Fund Grant in 2018. This funding produced a historic context — dubbed the “history book” — which conveys the provenance and singular story of the University Park neighborhood. The Committee saw this effort as the first step to create awareness and appreciation of local history, and to cultivate a historic preservation ethos in the neighborhood. The history book identified 48 properties that best represent and convey the neighborhood's history. These significant buildings were built sporadically over several decades in a dispersed pattern throughout the 320-acre subdivision.

The compelling history that came out of this effort brought renewed attention to the story of University Park and its founding as a residential outpost for the Methodist-affiliated Denver University. In 1886, the university expanded from downtown Denver to an 80-acre hilltop tract about six miles south of the city center. This move was the idea of Elizabeth Iliff Warren, the university's largest donor, who conditioned further financial contributions on a new campus located far from the distractions of Denver, “where conscience and culture would prevail.” DU trustees also secured 320-acres due east of the new campus for an academic village to house students and faculty, as well as other like-minded individuals.

Appropriately called “University Park,” the residential subdivision featured 28 residential blocks, and a large park near its center. Plagued by intermittent streetcar connections, water shortages, and a lack of everyday amenities, the neighborhood materialized slowly. A handful of early DU supporters constructed sizable homes on generous parcels in the late 19th century, with rooms for faculty and students inside and large gardens and space for livestock outside. DU also often compensated its professors with lots and/or houses in University Park. Given the plentiful availability of land, a pattern of lofty Victorian-era homes on generously spaced lots emerged.

By the 1890s, some of the well-educated but financially strapped DU faculty and supporters began experimenting with simpler and boxier house designs, building what would become some of the earliest Foursquare, aka Denver Square, houses in Denver. One of these is the 1891 Herbert and Fannie Howe House at 2201 S. Fillmore St. Herbert, a prominent astronomer and DU professor, oversaw the construction of the two observatories in Observatory Park.

The neighborhood's penchant for being on the architectural cutting edge extended to Craftsman-influenced bungalows, which appeared there as early as 1900. DU Chancellor and future Colorado Governor Henry Buchtel and his wife, Mary, built an innovative and nationally recognized concrete block and brick Bungalow in 1906 at 2100 S. Columbine. By the early 1900s, with many lots still available, DU began selling land to anyone with cash on hand. Soon, many smaller homes appeared, filling in gaps in between the neighborhood's earliest residences.

By the 1990s, another shift in development pattern emerged, with new owners purchasing mostly smaller homes and replacing them with larger residences. The

neighborhood's development trends across the century had created a vibrant mix of old and new. But this pattern was not conducive to a traditional historic district designation where the majority of historic residences in a neighborhood are adjacent to one another and designated together in a geographically concentrated group. Instead, the idea arose for a discontinuous district, a single designation encompassing multiple properties in University Park, based on the precedent of the Downtown Denver Historic District several decades earlier. While not located directly adjacent to one another, all of the properties in this district would have a shared historic, architectural, and cultural heritage.



The Howe House is one of the earliest examples of the Foursquare style in Denver. This style would become so ubiquitous that these homes are often called “Denver Squares.” Photo: Square Moon Consultants

With Denver Landmark Preservation Commission support, the Committee approached individual property owners and hosted a series of educational events over several months, gradually gaining support and momentum. These efforts led to Denver City Council's unanimous approval of the University Park Historic District designation on April 14, 2024. The designation includes 2525 E. Evans St., the inaugural 1886 house in University Park; several 1890s Queen Anne-style houses built by DU; numerous late 19th- and early 20th-century homes of professors; the magnificent house and outbuildings of Elizabeth Iliff Warren at Fitzroy Place (2160 S. Cook St.); the entirety of Observatory Park; University Park Methodist Church; the Howe house and the Buchtel bungalow; and several other notable residences.

The University Park Historic District and its discontinuous arrangement demonstrates the flexibility of historic preservation to adapt to different situations on the ground. For this one south Denver neighborhood, the discontinuous district serves its purpose, by telling the story of the neighborhood and preserving the places that matter.

*Barbara Stocklin-Steely is Historic Preservation Consultant at Square Moon Consultants, which authored the University Park Historic Context and the University Park Historic District application.*



### NEW INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE UNVEILED AT BARNEY FORD HOUSE

The Barney Ford house at 1569 High St., part of the “50 Actions for 50 Places” initiative, recently received an interpretive plaque to honor Ford's life and contributions. Barney Ford, born into slavery in 1822, freed himself and eventually became a successful African American businessman in Denver. After facing prejudice in Central City and Breckenridge, Ford and his wife Julia settled in Denver in 1860. He opened

a barber shop on Blake Street, later rebuilding it after the 1863 fire. By the 1870s, Ford was a prominent figure, serving a term in the Colorado Territorial Legislature.

Research for the plaque revealed that Ford purchased the High Street home in 1890, with the deed in his wife Julia's name due to tax advantages. Ford lived there until 1900, subsequently renting it out. The property was sold in 1902 to their daughter, Sarah E. Wormeley. Ford passed away in December 1902 and is buried at Riverside Cemetery, another “50 Actions for 50 Places” site. His legacy endures in Denver's history, commemorated by a stained glass window in the Colorado State Capitol.



## EASEMENTS: THE “CADILLAC” OF PRESERVATION

by Mike Owen, Preservation Services Manager

*Note: The properties listed here, as with nearly all of the easements held by Historic Denver, are private properties and in some cases private residences. These properties are not accessible to the public except by invitation.*

Historic Denver holds 73 easements. But what is an easement exactly? Why do they exist? How do they work?

By granting an easement, an owner is assured of the preservation of historic or architecturally significant properties, thereby protecting both private investment and important community values. Easements are an incredibly effective way to preserve our city’s heritage, so much so that Annie Levinsky, Historic Denver’s former Executive Director, referred to easements as “The Cadillac of preservation tools.” The donation of a preservation facade easement means the property owner legally agrees to voluntarily give an outside party the right to approve or disapprove changes to the property’s exterior; the majority of easements held by Historic Denver are facade easements where only the exterior is protected.

It might seem strange that a property owner would choose to give a third party purview over what can be done to their property, but easements exist for varying reasons and come with interesting benefits. Sometimes a property owner has received a significant State Historic Fund grant, and, in the interest of the State of Colorado’s investment, the state requires a perpetual facade easement be placed on the building. Easement holders can also qualify for tax break incentives. For a handful of Historic Denver’s easement properties, the homeowner wanted an additional level of protection for a building recognized as being architecturally and/or historically important.

As part of the easement agreement, the building must be kept in good condition: The walls must be structurally sound, the drainage system must be working properly, the roof shingles must not be peeling, and any cracks in the masonry or stone must be monitored.

Historic Denver inspects the easements we hold biannually. During these inspections, we look for obvious issues, especially structural changes, and for issues that could lead to larger problems later, such as poor drainage. After notifying property owners of our upcoming visits, the inspection process includes photographing and inspecting the exterior of the building using a checklist, reviewing the findings, and sending a compiled report, including the images, to the owners to alert them to any maintenance issues. These findings are then archived at the Historic Denver offices so that these reports can be used by the owners as a resource for future maintenance plans as well as documentation of their building over the years.

Historic Denver’s preservation easement program began in 1972 with the Richthofen Castle, in the Montclair neighborhood. The majority of our easements were part of grant projects, but a few have been donated directly by building owners. We hold easements on a variety of buildings, from stately mansions and churches to downtown commercial buildings and modern gems. We take pride in each of the easements we hold, including the samples below.



The sculptures are part of the easement at the Joshel House. Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage

### LLOYD M. JOSHEL HOUSE - HILLTOP

This 1950s ranch style house is one of the city’s best examples of the International Style. Typically found in commercial buildings, this is a rare use of the style for a residence, which was designed by the husband and wife team Joseph and Louise Marlow. The Marlows employed the style on apartment buildings and their own home. They designed his home for Lloyd M. Joshel, who later became the general manager of the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant.

Supposedly, when designing the house, Joseph Marlow told the Joshels, “I will build you a house where you will be just as happy when you are young as when you grow old.”

The house became a Denver landmark in 1994 and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1995. The building is essentially a cube surrounded by gardens and sculptures by Jerome Kirk, Clement Meadmoore, and Anna Maria Kubach-Wilmsen. This unusual easement includes the protection of sculptures in the garden!

### EL JEBEL SHRINE - NORTH CAPITOL HILL/UPTOWN



Built in 1906, the Mosque of the El Jebel Shrine of The Mystic Order opened in 1907 to serve as a meeting place and events center for Denver’s chapter of the Shriners International fraternal club. This building was their first permanent home in Denver.

The building, which incorporates both Moorish and Egyptian Revival styles, became a Denver landmark in 1995 and was

A rare example of an interior easement, even details like the hand-painted ceilings and sculpted friezes are protected at the El Jebel Shrine Temple.

added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. According to the National Register application, “The exterior is one of the best examples of Moorish-inspired architecture in Colorado, but the greater significance of the building may be found in its interior. The interior is an incredible collection of architectural styles, ranging from Moorish and Egyptian to French Provincial, Elizabethan, and Arts and Crafts. No other interior space in the state surpasses the mosque for its high level of artistic detail and craftsmanship. The architects, the Baerresen Brothers, reached the pinnacle of their prolific practice with the design of the mosque.”

Historic Denver holds the easement to both the exterior and the exquisite interior. The building was recently renovated and is being reactivated by events company Non Plus Ultra, whose work “transforms iconic and architecturally significant buildings into one-of-a-kind event venues through our adaptive reuse model.”



The Sculptured House is just as futuristic up close. Photo: Shannon Schaefer Stage

### CHARLES DEATON SCULPTURED HOUSE - GOLDEN

One of the more visually unusual and striking easements we hold is the Sculptured House in Jefferson County. The house is also referred to as “The Sleeper House,” because it was featured in the 1973 Woody Allen film *Sleeper*, and colloquially as “The Spaceship House” by Coloradans who have gazed upward at the futuristic home while driving along I-70.

Built by self-taught Colorado architect and engineer Charles Deaton, construction on the Sculptured House began in 1963. Deaton intended the home to be his part-time residence and completed exterior construction in 1966. He never lived there and the interior was not fully completed until 2003, after which the house was placed on the National Register. One of the most well-known modernist buildings in the state, the house is perched on Genesee Mountain where two floors of windows overlook Mount Vernon Canyon with near 180-degree views.

### PEARCE-MCALLISTER COTTAGE - CITY PARK WEST



The Pearce-McAllister Cottage was home to the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys for three decades. Photo: Jeffrey Beall

Our newest easement was just accepted last year! The Pearce-McAllister Cottage is a circa 1900 brick house designed by Frederick J. Sterner, a British-born American architect who also designed the Denver Athletic Club and the Daniels and Fisher tower (with partner George Williamson). The cottage became a Denver landmark in 1972 and was added to the National Register the same year.

This Dutch Colonial house was a wedding present for Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pearce, children of two prominent Denver business families. When the Pearces moved to London, the house was sold to Henry McAllister, who served as general counsel for the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad. The McAllister family held onto the house until 1971, when they donated it to the Colorado Historical Society, (now known as History Colorado). Many Denverites know it as the longtime home of the Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls & Toys, which operated in the house from 1987 until 2018.

Last year, History Colorado passed the torch when they sold it to a fellow nonprofit organization, The Other Side Academy. Historic Denver was pleased to work in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure the historic building had the protection it deserves. ■

## DID YOU KNOW?

Many of Historic Denver’s VIP tours involve getting rare access to our easement buildings, including a recent visit to the El Jebel Shrine before it reopened to the public. Though not a requirement of the easement, many building owners view Historic Denver as a partner and are thrilled to allow our VIP members access to a privately-owned landmark that is typically not open to the public. VIP membership starts at \$10 per month or \$125/year.

If you have any additional questions about easements or our easement program, please contact Mike Owen at 303-534-5288 x25.





Left: Monterrey House #1 opened in this now-demolished building near 20th and Larimer Streets in 1959. The restaurant was re-named La Casa de Manuel in 1974 and moved farther up Larimer in the late 1990s. Right: The kitchen at La Casa de Manuel in 1981. Photos: Tom Noel

## LA CASA DE MANUEL: DENVER'S OLDEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT?

by Tom Noel, Guest Contributor

On September 14, 1958, a family from Monterrey, in Chihuahua, Mexico, arrived in Denver with their life savings of \$500. The business they would open just a few months later continues to serve up their signature “wet” burritos.

When Gonzalo G. Silva brought his wife, Antonia, and nine children to settle in Colorado, he immediately began looking for a location for a restaurant. He liked the look of a little one-story hall at 2010 Larimer St., previously used by a Japanese jeweler. He started the business using borrowed cash from the credit union at St. Cajetan’s Catholic Church.

As Denver’s first Spanish-speaking Catholic parish, St. Cajetan’s was a godsend to many newcomers. Besides the credit union, the church had a school and a clinic that dispensed free health and dental care as well as free lunches. With its Spanish Mission Revival style construction — light colored stucco, red tile roof, and curvilinear parapet — St. Cajetan’s remains an architectural reminder of Colorado’s Hispanic roots; it was also one of the first Latino structures in Denver to be designated a National Register and a Denver Landmark. In a sometimes-hostile city, St. Cajetan’s was a harbor for Spanish-speaking residents and newcomers such as the Silvas.

In 1959, Silva opened Monterrey House #1, named after his hometown. Silva trekked from his home in the Swansea neighborhood down to LoDo to serve Mexican food. He made nearly everything from scratch, including its legendary chile verde — a broth-style green chile not thickened by flour and featuring chunks of pork.

Gonzalo’s son Manuel J. Silva took over the business in 1974 when his father retired to Mexico. Though he renamed it La Casa de Manuel, the business remains likely the oldest continually operating Mexican restaurant in Denver. Like his father, Manuel employed many of his own children to help run the business. He also kept up the quality food the establishment was known for: “Without doubt,” raved a March 7, 1975, Denver Post reviewer, “Manuel has the best authentic Mexican food in Denver.”

Though many feared Larimer Street and saw it as Skid Row, Manuel saw another side of the street. As part of an interview for the 1981 book *Denver’s Larimer Street: Main Street, Skid Row, & Urban Renaissance*, also by this author, Manuel said: “Larimer Street is one of the safest in Denver. Too many witnesses here. Some break-ins but few hold-up hands. I keep peace here. Jukebox cause fights. No more jukebox.”

Manuel’s restaurant shared walls with the neighboring businesses: “All these businesses,” Manuel noted in the same interview “seem to lean on each other.” Yet many were doomed by the construction of Coors Field and its thirst for parking. The business at 2010 Larimer St. operated for years on a 90-day demolition lease. Though other antique nearby buildings were saved by creation of the Ballpark Historic District in 2002, which stretches from 20th to 27th streets between Blake and Lawrence streets, it came too late to save the original Monterrey House #1/La Casa de Manuel location. The site was demolished in 1999 and remains a parking lot today.

Manuel relocated a mere 11 blocks to Mike and Sheila Besinius’ former hamburger stand at 3158 Larimer St. The new Casa de Manuel was a larger, brighter place with a dining patio facing Larimer. Manuel’s children now run the place and cook the same old traditional Mexican meals. There is still no jukebox, nor is alcohol served: Because he was not a U.S. citizen, Gonzalo could not get a liquor license and, though the laws have

changed since then, Manuel never got one either.

Beginning in 1972, Manuel hired Mexican muralist Jose Castillo to create custom pieces to decorate the restaurant. Castillo, a bellman at the Brown Palace Hotel, covered the walls with scenes of life in Mexico, landscapes that evoke both Mexican mountains and the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado, and even one featuring Spanish conquistadors and a padre who appear to be discovering the site of Denver years before gringos did. This mural serves as a reminder that, before Denver’s official founding, November 22, 1858, Jerome Smiley’s definitive 1901 History of Denver noted there were “Mexican Diggings” about where Florida Avenue now crosses the South Platte River.

The murals moved to La Casa de Manuel’s “new” location, which has now been in operation for more than 25 years. The site became one of Historic Denver’s 50

Actions for 50 Places in 2021. The following year, Manuel listed the site, located on the prime corner of 32nd and Larimer streets in the neighborhood new Denverites now know as RiNo, for sale. It remains for sale at the asking price of \$7 million. Once it sells, Manuel and family plan to close the restaurant permanently and retire. ■

*Tom “Dr. Colorado” Noel, a history professor emeritus at CU-Denver, is a longtime Historic Denver member, former board member and author of four books for Historic Denver, including Denver’s Larimer Street. For books, events, and other info please check out [dr-colorado.com](http://dr-colorado.com).*

Members of the Historic Denver team visited the restaurant at 3158 Larimer St. this summer to see both the murals and experience the legendary chile verde firsthand.

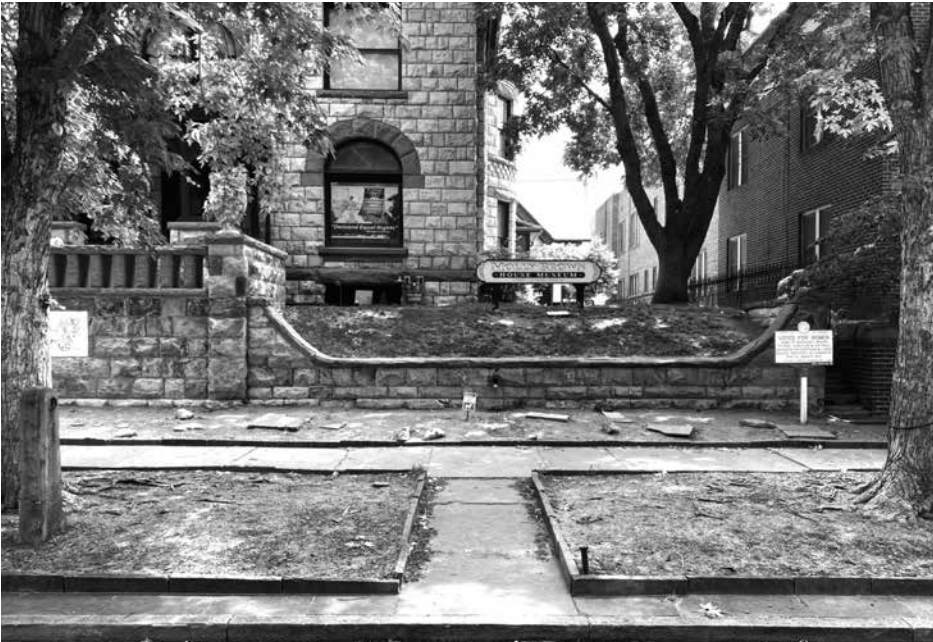


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## BLOOMING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE: MOLLY BROWN HOUSE GARDEN FUNDRAISER

Gardens are in full bloom all across the city and we hope soon to have the same at the Molly Brown House Museum. After completing a multi-year \$1 million capital restoration and repair project, which helped ensure our organization's flagship property is well-preserved for another 130 years, we are ready to embark on the final phase of this journey: a comprehensive landscaping project designed by Studio CPG.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000, and we need your help to make it happen. A huge thank you to our generous supporters who have already donated to create a beautiful and sustainable garden that will continue to inspire and educate for generations to come and a special thanks to Tagawa Gardens for being a project donor!

By beautifying our grounds, we'll enhance the visitor experience and safeguard the museum's historic structure. This exciting project will transform our garden with low-water, low-maintenance plantings, inviting spaces for photos and relaxation, and essential updates to our sprinkler and exterior lighting systems. The beautification of our grounds will not only enhance the visitor experience but also safeguard the museum by directing water away from the historic structure.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS TRANSFORMATION:

**FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Donate to Historic Denver's Molly Brown House Museum, noting "Museum Gardens" in your contribution.

**GIFT CARD DONATIONS:**

Donate garden center or landscape center gift cards

**IN-KIND GIFTS:**

Call Jay at 303-534-5288 ext. 26 to make an in-kind gift of plant or landscaping materials.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:**

Are you a landscaper? Do you have a tree-trimming business? Donate your time and talents to our garden!

**CORPORATE VOLUNTEER PROJECTS:**

Looking for a corporate volunteer project? Gather your team and spend a half-day caring for our Cap Hill landscape.

**SPREAD THE WORD:**

Share our garden fundraiser with friends and family, including sharing posts from our Facebook and Instagram pages!



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# THANK YOU

New and Renewing Members March 21, 2024 — June 25, 2024

- |                               |                            |                             |                              |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Queenie Acacio                | Adam Espinosa              | Mark and Leigh LaFon        | Ryan Rose                    |
| James Ackerson                | Phyllis & Kenneth Eveleigh | Guy & Gerri Lynn Lambert    | Bob & Nancy Ross             |
| Patti Antonio                 | Chris Figge                | Chris & Lindsey Lane        | Ralph & Debbie Round         |
| Mary Beth Armbruster          | Maureen Flanigan           | Tedd Langowski              | Justine Sandoval             |
| Darrell Arndt                 | Joe & Linda Galetovic      | Bruce Leigh                 | Susan and Philip Sargent     |
| Carolyn Badalucco             | Anita Garfein              | Patricia Leonard            | Renee Savio                  |
| Mark Barnhouse                | Irene Gay                  | Elaine Levensgood           | Peggy Schaller               |
| Jonathan Barnwell             | Ginny Gelbach              | Charmaine Lindsay           | P.B. & Naomi Schechter       |
| Bob & Diane A. Bassett        | Thomas J. Giovale          | Dianna Litvak & Brian Winn  | Marshall Schechter           |
| Lora Bauder                   | Sue Glassmacher            | Susan Wehr Livingston       | Sandra Scherer               |
| Jane Bays                     | Sarah & Neil Goldblatt     | Hanna Loberg                | Jill Schmidt                 |
| W. Bart Berger                | Judy Gordon                | Erin Lococo                 | Chris & Lynda Schutzenberger |
| Patricia Bernard              | Shaik Mohamed Gouse        | Stefani Lucas               | Ira Selkowitz                |
| Henry Bestor                  | Patricia Goward            | Betty & George Luce         | Allison Seyler               |
| Teb Blackwell                 | Melanie Grant              | Callie Ludwig               | Jeffrey Shanahan             |
| Robert Bohnet                 | Charles L Gray             | Ashley Mains Espinosa       | Tom Sheehan                  |
| Virginia Brannon              | Bert Green                 | Randall Marder, R.M. Design | Betsy Shepardson             |
| Chrissy Breit                 | Gene Greene                | & Construction              | Carl & Sandi Shushan         |
| Sue Bruner                    | Elmore Grow                | Krista Marks                | Rhonda Skallan               |
| Joey Buhrer                   | Diane Hagge Horak          | Robin L. Marshall           | Alissa Skildheim             |
| Connie Burke                  | Lucinda Hammel             | Byron & Judy Matson         | Michael A. Smith             |
| Georgia Burleson              | Bernice Harris             | Thomas McClure              | Cindy Snam                   |
| Stan Bush                     | Peggy Harrison             | Cait McQuade                | Maxwell A. Snead, Jr.        |
| Patrick & Mary Kay Caldwell   | Rudi & Kathy Hartmann      | Rick Meis                   | Keyna Soto                   |
| Bradley Cameron               | Thomas Hawkey & Dennis     | Julie Meyers                | Evan Spencer                 |
| Stephanie Campbell            | Hamann                     | Cynthia Miller              | Beth & Matt Spohn            |
| Derek Camunez                 | Connie Hayes               | Mary Miltner                | Jim & Barbara Steely         |
| Marcelle Caturia              | Emily Hazen                | Betty Mitchell              | Mary & John Steinle          |
| Barbara Chapman               | Suzanne & Thomas Hefty     | Mark D. Montoya             | Phil Sterritt                |
| Leah Charney                  | Dave Heinicke & Weston     | Kim & John Moore            | Jen Stier                    |
| Tracy Chastulik               | Smith                      | John Morales                | Dee Stonberg                 |
| George Chelwick               | Barbara & Rod Hernley      | Sharon Morgan               | Pamela Story-Staker & Lonnie |
| Chris Chiari, Patterson Inn   | Derek & Jessica Higgins    | Dwinita Mosby Tyler         | Staker                       |
| Nathan Church                 | Sandi Hill                 | Peggy Muldoon               | Kristina & John Stowell      |
| Carl Clark                    | Tommi & Rich Himmel        | Chris Murata                | Tina Strauss                 |
| Scott Conway                  | Jon Hindlemann, Hindlemann | Mary Kay Myers              | Jill Streart                 |
| Gina Cornelison               | Architecture, LLC          | Leeann Naeve                | Laurie Tatlock               |
| Ann Corrigan                  | William & Jessica Hoebel   | Gary & Sandy Nearpass       | Colleen Teitelbaum           |
| Lois Court & Patrick Reynolds | Kris & Tim Hoehn           | Mary Frances Nevans & John  | Mark Terrel                  |
| Renee Cousins King            | Tamara Hoffman             | Sleeman                     | Wayne Thrash                 |
| Kristy Craine                 | Scott Holder               | Kathy Newman                | Diane Travis                 |
| CJ Cullinan                   | Stephen Holloway           | Joel Noble                  | Kyra Troendle                |
| Michael Dabney                | Larry Hoppe                | Ken Nothnagel               | Judy & Larry Trompeter       |
| Barb Danbom                   | Jehn Howard                | Elizabeth Orr               | Tina Marie Trump             |
| Kathlyn Dayhoff               | Dennis Humphries           | Jerry Orten                 | TJ Trump                     |
| Janet DeBell                  | Monica Jaccaud             | Ruth E. Parker              | Caleb Ubl                    |
| Edward Doody                  | Richard Jackson            | Bennett Parnes              | Marshall Unruh & Mary Beth   |
| Noreen Doyle                  | Judith & Richard James     | Kathleen Parson             | Williams                     |
| Craig Duncan                  | Phil Nash & Bob Janowski   | Aaron Paul                  | Hans von Mende               |
| Jenni Dyman                   | Froya Jesse                | Cheryl Presley              | William Wall                 |
| Sue Ebersberger               | Eron Johnson, Eron Johnson | Sara Quaintance             | Jeff Wallick                 |
| Margaret Ecton                | Antiques                   | Diane Rabson                | Sammy Weakley                |
| Tanner Edwards                | William & Marcia Johnson   | Giselle Rahn                | Bill & Marlene Wenk          |
| Robert Ehmann                 | Jamy Jones                 | Laurie Ramos                | Joseph & Barbara Wilcox      |
| Christine Ekman & Joseph      | Harold Kamins              | Louise Reavis               | Leslie Wilson                |
| Zell                          | David Keller               | Naomi Reshotko              | Scott Winfield               |
| Stephen Ekman, Ekman          | Elisse Kenaley             | Lorinn Rhodes               | Ryan Wolff                   |
| Design Studio                 | Dan & Kim Kimpton          | Kent Rice                   | Kathy Woodall                |
| Carolyn Elliott               | Michael Kimrey             | Barbara Ridgway             | Carrie Woodall Nothnagel     |
| Lynn & Robert Emery           | Rita King                  | Brian Rivera                | Tara Yack                    |
| David & Mary Emrich           | Bruce & Andrea Kirchoff    | Charlotte Rocha             | Barbara & Doug Yost          |
| Jan English                   | Janet & Stuart Kritzer     | Andrew Rogge                | John & Claire Young          |
| Ted Epstein                   | Betty Kuehner              | John & Suzanne Rohde        | Carl Youngblood              |
| Christopher Erskine           | Dennis & Toni Kuper        | Patricia Romero             |                              |



IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE?  
If your membership is lapsed, it might be!

# PRESERVATION FOR THE PEOPLE!

### DID YOU KNOW...

Historic Denver and the Molly Brown House Museum are part of the North American Reciprocal Museums Association (NARM) program? NARM boasts a vast network of over 1,300 galleries, gardens, museums, and zoos throughout the United States.

### GAIN THIS BENEFIT: SIGN UP FOR A VIP LEVEL MEMBERSHIP

By signing up for one of our VIP level memberships, you can enjoy reciprocal museum benefits across the country — especially useful during the summer travel season! VIP memberships start at \$10 a month or \$125 per year.

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Members play a crucial role in our mission, enabling Historic Denver and the Molly Brown House Museum to continue safeguarding our city's placeable cultural touchstones.

### TOGETHER, WE ENSURE DENVER'S HISTORY REMAINS ALIVE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY AT [historicdenver.org](http://historicdenver.org)

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To purchase tickets to upcoming events visit:  
[historicdenver.org/events](http://historicdenver.org/events)

*Make sure your membership is up to date to get member pricing.*



## PRIVATE SPACES: QUEER CAPITOL HILL WALKING TOUR

Tuesday July 9, 6-7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, July 13, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Thursday, July 25, 6-7:30 p.m.  
 \$20 Member ♦ \$25 Non-member

How did laws keep queer Denver heavily policed and segregated? The tour explores how Cap Hill spaces were a refuge and connectors for LGBTQ people. Stops include the first home of the Gay Coalition of Denver, meeting spaces for Denver Area Mattachine Society, and the first headquarters for the Gay Community Center of Colorado.

## ELITCH ELIXIRS

Thursday, July 11 ♦ 5:30-7 p.m.  
 Historic Elitch Theatre  
 \$35 Member ♦ \$40 Non-member



Join us for delicious drinks and apps at the Historic Elitch Theatre, with special guest Mary Elitch Long, the first woman to own and manage a zoo — the first zoo between Chicago and California! Local historian Debra Faulkner portrays Mary Elitch Long, sharing details from her life in a conversational format as we enjoy cocktails in this cool space where actors like Grace Kelly, Lana Turner, and Mickey Rooney once graced the stage.

## MID-CENTURY MODERN WALKING TOUR

Thursday, July 11 ♦ 6 p.m.  
 \$20 Member, \$25 Non-member

If you love mid-century modern, you'll love learning about the Cliff May homes. All 170 of the homes in Denver were built in the Harvey Park neighborhood, designed to be both prefabricated and elegant in their minimalism. Local expert Atom Stevens leads this tour in southwest Denver, while also sharing his personal experience as a longtime owner of a Cliff May home.

## CLASSROOM COCKTAILS

Saturday, July 13 and August 10  
 5 p.m. ♦ \$20 Member  
 \$24 Non-member



Our new field trip program for grown-ups! Reminisce about your days of school outings while sipping on a signature cocktail and engaging in the museum activities popular in our field-trips to awaken the "child-at-heart!" Join us this summer for themed cocktails and fun activities about Denver and Colorado history in the historic Capitol Hill home of Titanic survivor, Margaret "Molly" Brown. The event starts at 5 p.m. with a cocktail and the activity begins at 5:30 p.m. ID required for 21+ beverages.

## 1340 PENN AFTER HOURS: TRANSATLANTIC BOOZE HISTORY CRUISE

Thursday, July 25 ♦ 7-9 p.m.  
 Molly Brown House Museum  
 \$16 Member ♦ \$20 Non-member



Explore — and taste — some of the popular cocktails that would have been served aboard passenger ships like the Titanic, which sailed during the golden age of cocktails. Food and cocktails included, sinking ship not guaranteed! Hear racy tales and explore taboo topics while sipping cocktails at our 1340 Penn Program Series, held at the historic home of Margaret "Molly" Brown.

## A WALK DOWN THE WALL STREET OF THE WEST: DENVER'S 17TH STREET

Friday, July 26 ♦ Wednesday, August 28 ♦  
 Friday, September 20 ♦ 10 a.m.  
 \$20 Member ♦ \$25 Non-member

Denver's built environment today is the result of a roller coaster economy, with many booms and busts over the past 160 years. We'll see historic buildings built by Denver's first successful settlers adjacent to glamorous modern buildings, and we'll learn how Denver's earliest entrepreneurs developed Denver as a financial center AND a "supply center" for the inland Western U.S. and Rocky Mountain region.

## FIVE POINTS WALKING TOUR

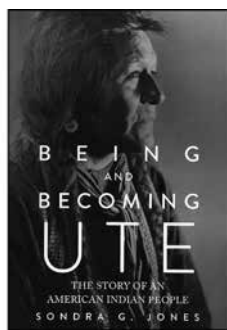
Saturday, July 27 ♦ August 24 ♦ September 28  
 10 a.m. ♦ \$20 Member ♦ \$25 Non-member

Explore the Welton Street corridor and transport back in time to 1920-1950, when the street was the heart of the African American community in the Rocky Mountain West. Discover the stories of jazz greats, military heroes, and the impressive lists of "firsts" that this thriving and powerful community added to history. This tour will be given by Terri Gentry, who can trace her family's roots to Five Points and will share her personal memories of the neighborhood.

## POTTER HIGHLANDS WALKING TOUR

Saturday, July 27 ♦ August 17  
 September 14 ♦ October 19 ♦ 10-11:30 a.m.  
 ♦ \$20 Member ♦ \$25 Non-member

Join us to explore one of the oldest parts of Denver! The Town of Highlands, incorporated in 1875, was promoted as having clean air, clean water, and high morals. On the hill above Denver's smog of coal smoke, many doctors came to open sanitariums for those with tuberculosis. Highlands featured artesian wells and no watering holes; there were no saloons in Highlands until after Prohibition. Explore the mansions, bungalows, cottages and foursquares, and uncover the families who lived here in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



## COMMUNITY BOOK CLUB: BEING AND BECOMING UTE

Sunday, August 4 ♦ 12:30-2 p.m.  
 Virtual or in person at Center for Colorado Women's History ♦ Free

Join the Molly Brown House Museum and the Center for Colorado Women's History, as we read and discuss books related to women's history, Colorado history, and books by women authors from Colorado. Book titles and locations can be found on the Adult Programs page of the Learn With Us section of our website, [mollybrown.org](http://mollybrown.org). Meetings are held in person and online via Zoom. Let's read!

This month's book is *Being and Becoming Ute: The Story of an American Indian People* by Dr. Sondra Jones, which traces the fascinating history of these Indigenous peoples — including the impacts of both trade and wars, the effects of boarding schools, and the modern day life of this nation whose people continue to call Colorado home.



## WICKED COLFAX WALKING TOUR

Thursday, August 22 ♦ 5:30-7 p.m.  
 \$30 Member ♦ \$35 Non-member



Complete with a Colfax-themed cocktail, we'll start at a historic school and end at the one-time home of an iconic burlesque bar. This new Historic Denver tour is brought to you in collaboration with Colfax Ave Business Improvement District and Crazy Horse Kitchen + Bar — the final and most scandalous tour stop.

## HOMESCHOOL DAY - EXPLORATION & SURVIVAL

Monday, September 9 ♦ 9:30-11:30 a.m. ♦  
 11:30-1:30 p.m. ♦ \$14 Student

Explore history from the point of view of the people who explored and survived in our state. Using primary and secondary sources, along with artifacts and replicas, explore the lives of miners, Indigenous people, fur trappers, and pioneers to gain a greater understanding of what life was like in early Colorado.

Homeschool Days include specialized programs and hands-on activities to offer non-traditional students the same opportunities to come visit the museum as traditional students. Registration is per person; siblings not participating in activities are welcome to attend for free.

## 1340 PENN AFTER HOURS: THE UNSINKABLE AND THE SNOB

Thursday, September 12 ♦ 7-9 p.m.  
 Molly Brown House Museum  
 \$16 Member ♦ \$20 Non-member



Meet two of the West's most mythologized women, Margaret "Molly" Brown and Mrs. McGraw, her supposed nemesis from *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* musical and film. What is myth and what is fact about these two women?

Hear racy tales and explore taboo topics while sipping cocktails at our 1340 Penn Program Series, held at the historic home of Margaret "Molly" Brown.

## SAVE THE DATE: 54TH ANNUAL GALA & AWARDS DINNER

Thursday, October 10  
 Cocktail Reception 5 p.m., Awards Program and Dinner 7 p.m. ♦ The Brown Palace ♦ \$195 Individual ♦ \$250 Patron ♦ Sponsorships Starting at \$3,500



Join Historic Denver in celebrating the individuals and preservation projects uniting Denver's past with the 21st century! Our largest fundraiser of the year includes our popular networking cocktail reception followed by a three-course dinner, short film about the 2024 honorees and their projects, awards presentation, and an auction and paddle raise to support Historic Denver's year-round work. Patron ticket holders receive two drinks at the cocktail reception.

## FIRE AND WATER: AN ASTROLOGICAL LOOK INTO MARGARET BROWN

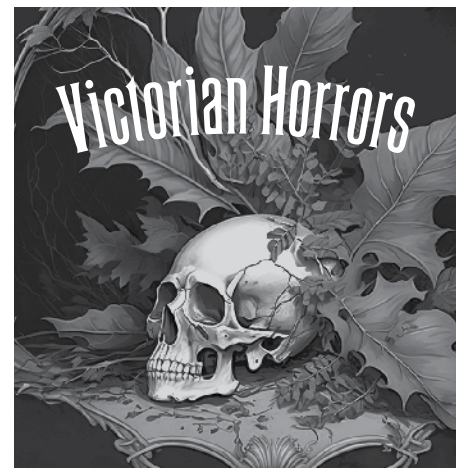
Tuesday, October 15 ♦ 6 p.m.  
 Molly Brown House Museum  
 \$35 Member ♦ \$40 Non-member

As Margaret Brown reflected on her life after the Titanic disaster, she said: "I was born under a lucky star, I suppose. They told me a long time ago that I was born under fire and water." Local astrologers will help us glimpse into the character and history of Mrs. Brown through her natal chart!

## THE MAGICAL WORLD OF MRS. BROWN: GILDED AGE SPIRITUALISM

Tuesday, October 22 ♦ 6 p.m.  
 \$35 Member ♦ \$40 Non-member

Seances, fortune tellers, and Tarot were aspects of the popular Spiritualist trend at the turn of the twentieth century. Let's explore some of the spiritualist trends Margaret engaged with and the others popular in her time with an activity-based exploration of the Gilded Age spiritual themes.



## VICTORIAN HORRORS – TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!

October 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 ♦ Timed entry every 15 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. ♦ \$25 Member ♦ \$30 Non-member

Experience terrifying tales written by well-known but long-gone authors portrayed by acclaimed local actors. *Victorian Horrors* allows you to experience these theatrical readings throughout the historic and spooky home of Margaret "Molly" Brown over three weekends in October.

## VICTORIAN HORRORS AFTER PARTY SÉANCE WITH OTHERWORLD PARANORMAL

Saturday, October 26 ♦ 8:30 p.m. ♦  
 8:45 p.m. ♦ 9:00 p.m. entry ♦ \$65 Member  
 \$75 Non-member



Purchase a special séance party ticket and celebrate the closing night of *Victorian Horrors* with us! You'll see all the ghostly tales before convening in the party room to meet the author's ghostly spirits; 21+ beverages, snacks, and a séance hosted by Otherworld Paranormal are all in the stars for this closing night event!

## IS MRS. BROWN STILL HERE? WITH OTHERWORLD PARANORMAL

Tuesday, October 29 ♦ 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
 \$80 Member ♦ \$90 Non-member

Do you have what it takes to meet a ghost in the historic Molly Brown House? Otherworld Paranormal Events show us how you might contact the ghostly residents of 1340 Penn and beyond. Learn about various ghost-hunting methods, historic and contemporary, in our eerie home and maybe find the answer: Is Mrs. Brown still here?