

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2021

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB20-1456
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
4 Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure

5 **ABILL**

6 **For an ordinance designating 1272 Columbine Street as a structure for**
7 **preservation.**

8 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 30-4, Denver Revised Municipal Code, the Landmark
9 Preservation Commission has transmitted to the Council a proposed designation of a structure for
10 preservation; and

11 **WHEREAS**, based upon evidence received by the Landmark Preservation Commission at a
12 hearing on December 1, 2020, the staff report, and evidence received at the hearing before City Council
13 on January 11, 2021, the structure at 1272 Columbine Street meets the criteria for designation as a
14 structure for preservation as set out in Section 30-3, Denver Revised Municipal Code, as amended, by
15 maintaining its integrity, being more than 30 years old, and meeting the criteria in the following three
16 categories from Section 30-3(3):

17 *b. Having direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons*
18 *who had influence on society;*

19 The building at 1272 Columbine Street is significant for its strong association with the Stahl
20 Family, who were influential members of both the Denver and Tin Cup/Buena Vista communities. John
21 Seward Stahl, a well-known Denverite and an influential business leader with a robust commitment to
22 civic life, moved to Colorado in 1879. Initially living in Tin Cup and Buena Vista, he co-owned a hardware
23 company that served the mine and miners in the region. As an important part of the mining industry, he
24 and his family were viewed as influential members of the community and were frequently noted in the
25 papers. In 1884, the Stahl family moved to Denver and John established a new business selling
26 typewriters, eventually becoming the leader in the field. His success in the typewriter business had local
27 journalists nicknaming him the ‘type-writer’ man, and he supplied the means for the production of
28 several local papers, and perhaps explaining the many reports of Stahl family activities and actions in
29 the newspapers of the day.

30 Stahl’s political activities were as strong as his business, and he served as a booster for Denver
31 at a critical time in its development. Stahl hosted dignitaries as they toured the city and his name was
32 a draw to gain community support and attendance at functions, charity events, and political meetings.
33 The family was so well known by the late 1880s that when Stahl purchased the lot for the family’s future
34 home at 1272 Columbine Street it made the newspapers. Stahl’s children also became known within

1 elite Denver social circles, and their lives and deaths were also documented in articles and headlines
2 in the local papers. The Stahl family resided in the home on 1272 Columbine Street for more than forty
3 years, as John Stahl died at age 90 in 1930, and his son George remained at the home until he passed
4 prematurely in 1932. George's wife held onto the home for another eleven years before it was sold, for
5 the first time, to someone outside the Stahl family.

6 *c. Embodying distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type;*

7 The home at 1272 Columbine Street is one of the earliest examples of the Queen Anne style
8 houses built in what is now Congress Park. The architect of the home, William Lang, often designed
9 in the Queen Anne style with Richardsonian Romanesque flourishes or details. The property
10 illustrates the Queen Anne style in its form and massing with steeply pitched roofs, cross-gables,
11 nested gables, multiple wall planes, and asymmetry. The house also exhibits multiple materials,
12 detailed brick and stonework, and ornately decorated gable end featuring shingles, brackets, and
13 decorative bargeboards which are characteristics of the Queen Anne style. A focal point of the
14 home's front façade is a large round-arched window featuring a heavy stone arch commonly used
15 in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, which is featured in Richard Brettell's book *Historic Denver,*
16 *The Architects and Architecture 1858-1893.* The home is substantial in size and stature, and while
17 there are other examples of Queen Anne design in the western-most blocks of Congress Park, and
18 even a few other Lang designs, the building at 1272 Columbine Street retains the best integrity.

19 *d. Being a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder;*

20 The building at 1272 Columbine Street is a significant example of the renowned architect,
21 William Lang, who was one of the city's most prolific residential architects in the 1880s and early
22 1890s. The Stahl home is a very early example of Lang's proclivity to add Richardsonian details to
23 the Queen Anne style, and is one of the few remaining in Congress Park that can be so clearly
24 recognized as Lang's work with considerable integrity.

25 When William Lang arrived in Denver in 1885, he was a young, locally inexperienced, and
26 enormously energetic architect who gained notoriety and success quickly in the booming city of
27 Denver. Two of his best-known designs include the Molly Brown House at 1340 Pennsylvania and
28 St. Mark's Parish at 12th & Lincoln. It is estimated he designed over 250 structures in the city during
29 his relatively short career. Lang was known for making a name for himself and became a favorite
30 among Denver's early elite. As a respected and recognized architect, William Lang's name appears
31 as one of the members of the Colorado chapter of the American Institute of Architects, established
32 in 1892 in Denver. Lang's designs were mimicked, copied, and challenged by his contemporaries.
33 His legacy exists in a number of structures surviving in Denver, each reflecting the wishes of their

1 original owners, and Lang's unique style. The fact that Stahl commissioned Lang to design his family
2 home reflects both Stahl's stature in the city and success in business, as well as Lang's rising
3 popularity.

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF**
5 **DENVER:**

6 **Section 1.** That based upon the analysis referenced above, and the evidence received at the
7 public hearings, certain property at 1272 Columbine Street, and legally described as follows, together
8 with all improvements situated and located thereon, be and the same is hereby designated as a
9 structure for preservation:

10 Lots 39 and 40, Block 13,
11 Rohlfig's Subdivision,
12 City and County of Denver,
13 State of Colorado.

14 **Section 2.** The effect of this designation may enhance the value of the property and of the
15 structure, but may delay or require denial of building permits found unacceptable by the Landmark
16 Preservation Commission under the criteria contained in the Design Guidelines for Historic Structures
17 and Districts and Section 30-6 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code.

18 **Section 3.** This ordinance shall be recorded among the records of the Clerk and Recorder of
19 the City and County of Denver.

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1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: December 15, 2020
2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: December 22, 2020 by Consent
3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: _____ January 11, 2021
4 *Steve Gilmore* - PRESIDENT
5 APPROVED: *MSH* - MAYOR _____ Jan 12, 2021
6 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
9 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL: _____;
10 PREPARED BY: Adam C. Hernandez, Assistant City Attorney DATE: December 31, 2020
11 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of
12 the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed
13 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to
14 §3.2.6 of the Charter.
15 Kristin M. Bronson, Denver City Attorney
16 BY: *Kristin J. Crawford*, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Dec 31, 2020