

August 29, 2018

Landmark Preservation Commission
Wellington Webb Building
201 W. Colfax
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Landmark Preservation Commission and members of City Council,

I am writing to offer my support and endorsement for the landmark designation of my family home, 2600 N. Milwaukee. My father, was the first licensed African-American architect in Colorado, and he designed the mid-century modern home where he lived most of his adult life, where I grew up, and which I now own. In early 2018, my father reached out to Historic Denver to express his interest in designation. In March 2018 staff from Historic Denver came to the house to meet with me and my father to discuss the process of designating our home. We later also met with staff of the Landmark Commission to understand all the details of designation. We then agreed to have Historic Denver begin preparing a landmark application and provided them with much of the detail and history of the house.

My father believed our family home was worthy of preservation, as the work of the first licensed African-American architect in Colorado and as a mid-century modern landmark fashioned off of Ludwig Mies Van der Rhoë's Farnsworth House. He told me many times that he did not want to close his eyes for the last time and think his home would be demolished, and all the history behind it washed away. Although he passed away in June at age 97, he was pleased to know that this effort was in the works. I want to make sure his wishes are fulfilled.

Councilman Albus Brooks has been a great support, attending a meeting at our house and submitting this application on our behalf. Historic Denver has also been a tremendous help in fulfilling my father's wishes to designate his home as a Denver Landmark. Historic Denver will be acting on my behalf, Lynn B. Henderson, to shepherd this Denver Landmark application through the city process. I hope to attend the final City Council public hearing when that is scheduled, but if I am not able to attend some of the initial meetings in person please know I support this application throughout the entire process.

Thank you for your consideration in designating the mid-century modern home designed by the first licensed African-American architect in Colorado.

Sincerely,



Lynn B. Henderson
Son of John R. Henderson and owner of 2600 N. Milwaukee St.



THE HONORABLE
Albus Brooks
COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 9

City and County of Denver
CITY COUNCIL

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Ms. Kara Hahn
Principal Planner - Landmark Preservation
Community Planning and Development
201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 205
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Ms. Hahn:

As the Councilman for District 9, I am submitting this letter to confirm my support of the Landmark Designation application for the Henderson House located at 2600 N. Milwaukee Street. Last Spring, I offered to serve as the applicant for this designation, on behalf of the property owner. This home is the design and long-time residence of the first licensed African-American architect in the state of Colorado, Mr. John R. Henderson and took place on October 7, 1959.

Mr. Henderson was originally from Kansas, but found his home here in Denver in 1959. His architectural career in Denver spanned from 1959 through the 1990s. He designed federal buildings, institutional buildings, renovation projects and private residences for prominent architectural firms, including Fisher & Davis; James Sudler Associates; Earl C. Morris and Hornbein and White. Among these diverse projects, Mr. Henderson was most proud of the design he created for his family home at 2600 N. Milwaukee St., completed in 1963. His home was inspired by the architect he admired the most, Ludwig Mies Van der Rhoë, whose influence is visible in the Mid-Century Modern architectural style and elements of the home.

Mr. Henderson pursued this application earlier this year, reaching out to my office and to Historic Denver for help. He wished to get the landmark designation before he closed his eyes for the last time, but unfortunately, he passed away in June of this year. His son and now the home owner, Lynn Henderson, have been working with Historic Denver to complete the application to fulfill his father's wishes. In Mr. Henderson's words, "I feel that I have contributed something to [Denver] that should be restored and preserved".

I strongly urge you to approve the Henderson House Landmark Designation, to help preserve the rich story of the first licensed African-American architect in Colorado as well as the Mid-Century Modern landmark that Mr. Henderson contributed to the Skyland neighborhood and Denver.

Thank you in advance for considering this request and I hope that Landmark Preservation sees the value of this request and approves the application.

Sincerely,

Albus Brooks
Denver City Councilman
District 9