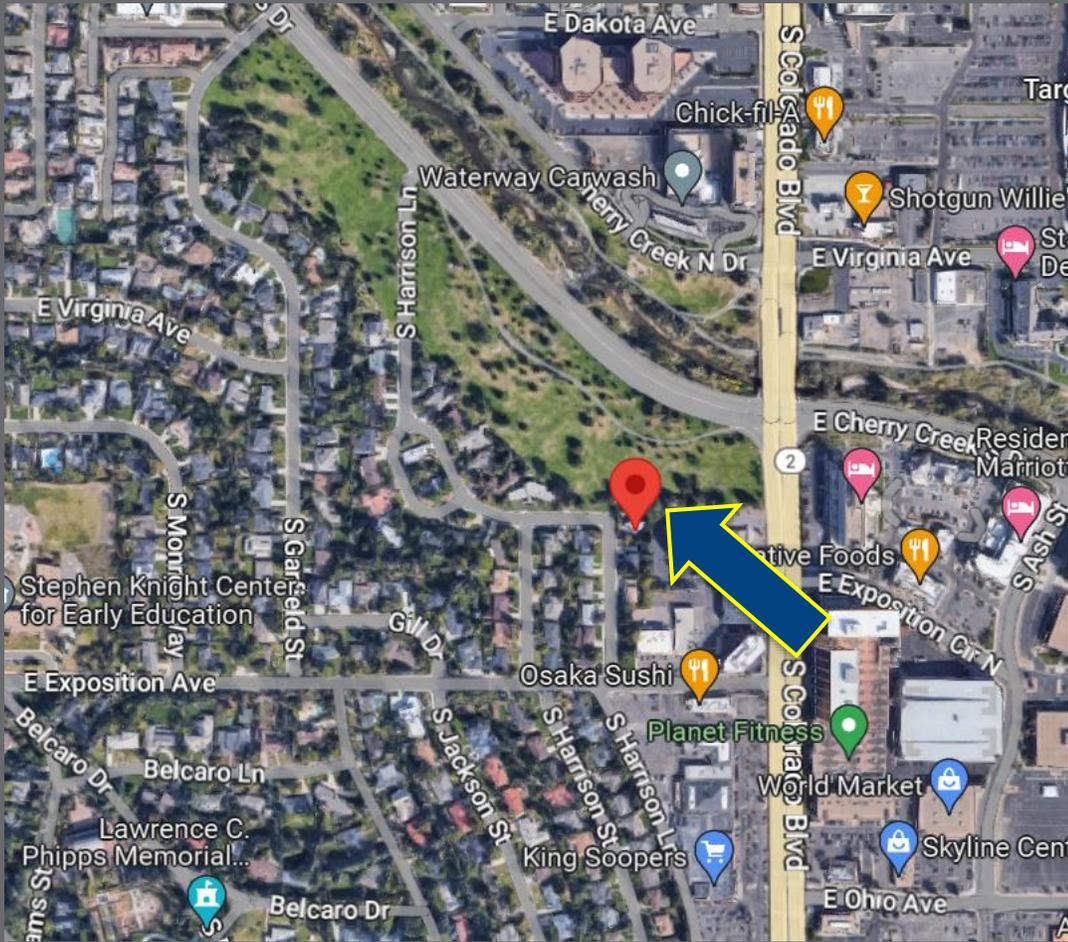

602 S. Harrison Lane

Denver City Council Public Hearing

Abigail Christman, Principal City Planner

May 15, 2023



602 S. Harrison Lane

602 S. Harrison Ln.

Location

- Council District # 10
- Belcaro neighborhood
- Adjacent to City of Brest Park

Zoning

- S-SU-F

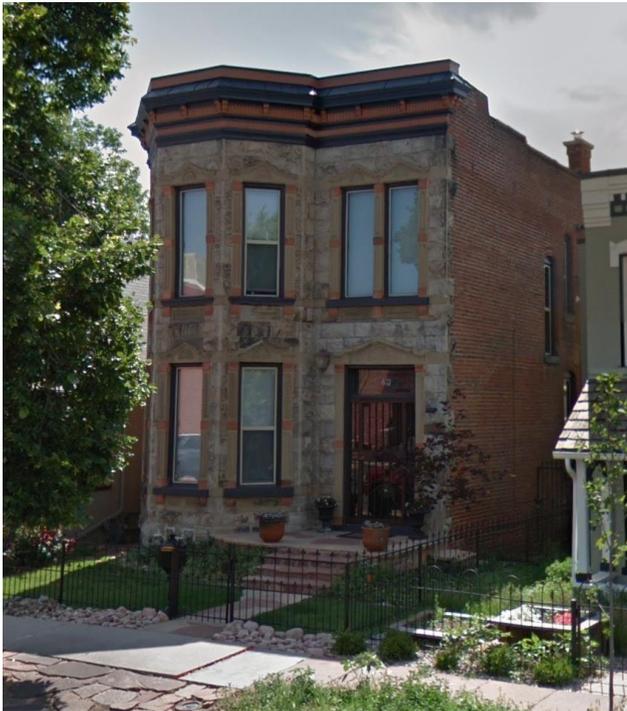
Owner and Applicant

- Owner- Alan Golin Gass
- Applicants- Alan Golin Gass with assistance from Docomomo and Historic Denver



Proposed Boundary





Landmark Designation Eligibility

The structure or district must meet the following criteria *:

1. Maintains its integrity
2. More than 30 years old, or is of exceptional importance
3. Meets at least three of ten criteria
4. The LPC considers the historic context

*Per Landmark Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 30, DRMC)

Landmark Designation Criteria

- A. It has a direct association with a significant historic event or with the historical development of the city, state, or nation;**
- B. It has direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society;
- C. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type;**
- D. It is a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder;**
- E. It contains elements of design, engineering, materials, craftsmanship, or artistic merit which represent a significant innovation or technical achievement;
- F. It represents an established and familiar feature of the neighborhood, community or contemporary city, due to its prominent location or physical characteristics;
- G. It promotes understanding and appreciation of the urban environment by means of distinctive physical characteristics or rarity;
- H. It represents an era of culture or heritage that allows an understanding of how the site was used by past generations;
- I. It is a physical attribute of a neighborhood, community, or the city that is a source of pride or cultural understanding;
- J. It is associated with social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth or change that contributed significantly to the culture of the neighborhood, community, city, state, or nation.

A. Direct association with the historical development of the city

- Post-World War II residential development patterns in Denver
 - Expansion of residential development into new areas
 - Land along Cherry Creek previously city landfill
 - Green Bowers Subdivision formed from Green Bowers nursery



1942

A. Direct association with the historical development of the city

- Post-World War II residential development patterns in Denver
 - New trends in residential design
 - Architects experimenting with housing innovation and promoting new types of residential development in post-war Denver
 - Alan Golin Gass house drew a lot of public interest



Denver Home's Dome Stops Traffic

By JOANNE DITMER
Denver Post Home Editor

Domes, whether on capitol buildings or private homes, are unfailing attention-getters. From the moment the 6'8" square skylight crowned the Alan Gass home at 602 S. Harrison Lane, traffic multiplied. People drove by at a snail's pace, and when their curiosity became too avid, would stop to wander through the house.

The dome is not just a conversation-starter. It is a source of illumination, flooding the main living area with light that moves across the room with the sun. At night, the stars pinpoint their brilliance against a darkened sky.

Gass, who is an architect, designed the home which Alanson Associates built. He is a believer in uncomplicated living space.

"He likes the idea of great open spaces, with lots of light streaming in, and large living area to move around in," his wife explained as she opened draperies that led to one of the porch-decks that edge two sides of the house.

width of the house, and opens out onto a little terrace shaded by the east deck.

Walls are the color of butter cream, with beige homespun draperies, and bedspread in butterscotch plushy-fabric. Brilliant orange oversize pillows are real stoppers.

Four oversize closets provide storage for in-season and out-of-season clothing. At the other end of the room is Gass' "at-home office", with drawing board and filing cabinets with white counters, borrowed from the adjacent master bath.

A large unfinished area may be made into two bedrooms, both with sliding doors that lead out to the terrace. A tall circling fence gives privacy to this step-down terrace and the lawn above.

One of the distinctive refinements is the front door handle—long, shaped and eminently easy to hold. It was a Christmas present from Gass to his wife before they were married, and her first comment was "It's lovely . . . what is it?"

In use there's no doubt . . . it opens the door to one of Denver's definitely different homes



LIGHT FROM DOME ILLUMINATES LIVING ROOM

Beige carpeting, contemporary furniture in living room are lighted via the large overhead dome. House owner, Gass, is architect who likes "open spaces," his wife says.

C. Embodies distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style

- Representation of the evolution of Modern architecture in Denver after World War II
 - Modernism moved away from the starkness of the International Style into more varied interpretations
 - Incorporate solar design
- Character-defining features of 602 S. Harrison Ln.
 - Dramatic roof form with domed skylight and deep overhanging eaves
 - Large decks with broad expanses of glass to provide indoor/outdoor connections
 - Flexible interior with a bi-level floor plan
 - Concrete, brick, and wood used in construction
 - Symmetrical and geometric design elements
 - Angled lot orientation



D. Significant example of the work of a recognized architect

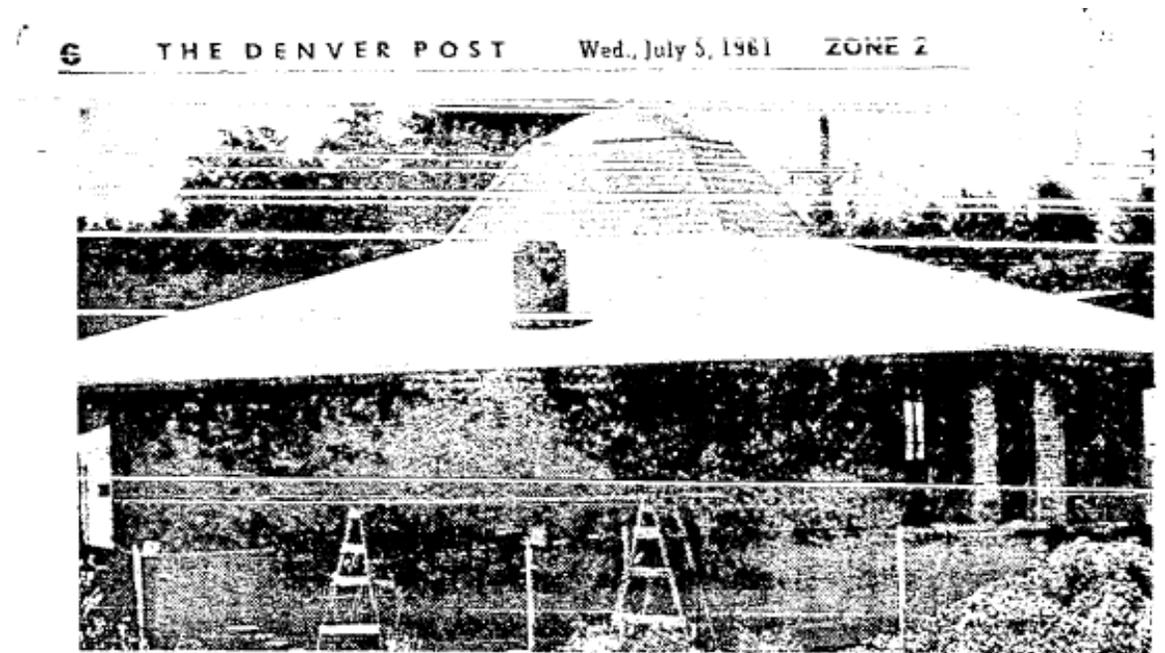
- Alan Golin Gass
 - Prominent member of Denver’s architecture and urban planning communities working independently and collaboratively
 - Graduated Harvard Graduate School of Design 1956
 - Worked for I.M. Pei, Fisher & Davis & James Sudler Associates
 - Founded AIA Denver Urban Design Committee in 1962
 - Active with Citizens Advisory Committee to DRCOG, Babi Yar Foundation, and Denver Architectural Foundation
 - AIA College of Fellows in 1998



Gass with a model of the solar-powered building he designed for the Front Range Community College in Westminster

D. Significant example of the work of a recognized architect

- 602 S. Harrison Ln. key representation of Alan Golin Gass' career
 - Built 1961
 - Prime example of work as an emerging architect
 - Established design philosophy
 - Environmental design



Denver Post Photo by Bill Johnson

ATTENTION-CATCHER IN SOUTHEAST DENVER

Home being built by architect Alan Gass has the look of an observatory.

TRANSPARENT DOME

Denver Architect Builds Home With Many Unusual Features

Integrity



- Minimum alterations
- Maintains all aspects of integrity
 - Original location
 - Feeling, setting, and association
 - Design, materials, and workmanship

Historic Context & Period of Significance

- Post-war residential development
 - Population boom
 - Development of new areas
 - New residential types
 - Evolution of modernism
- Period of significance
 - 1961-1993
 - Represents construction date and continued association with Alan Golin Gass who continues to live in the home
 - Ended at 1993 due to thirty year guidance in Landmark ordinance

- “The significance of Alan Gass as an architect and his mid century modern residence. . . makes this an excellent candidate for Landmark status. This residence and Alan’s contribution to Denver helps give this city soul.”
- “Mr. Gass’ home represents his life’s work and distinct mark. To protect his dwelling is to acknowledge due recognition for a tireless dedication to architecture and an exceptional vision.”

Public Comment - 17

- Public comments submitted to CPD from individuals
 - 11 individuals support
 - 2 individuals opposition
- Public comment submitted to CPD from organizations
 - Letter of support from Colorado chapter of Docomomo US
- Public comments at LPC
 - 1 individual spoke support
 - 2 individuals spoke opposition
- Alan Golin Gass
 - Facebook posts

Landmark Designation Review Criteria

- Over 30 years of age
 - Application meets at least three criteria
 - Retains Integrity
 - LPC considered the historic context
-
- City Council considers
 - Recommendation of LPC
 - Written views of owners
 - Comments received at public hearing

Based on the ordinance designation criteria and on the findings of the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) that the application meets the criteria for designation of a structure, staff recommends approval of the application.