

Proposed Structure for Landmark Designation

1555 N. Grant St.



City and County of Denver
Community Planning & Development
October 2025

 **Proposed Designated Area**
 **Parcel Boundary**

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December 23, 2025

Denver Landmark Preservation Commission
Community Planning & Development
201 W. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Support for Landmark Designation — 1555 N. Grant Street

Dear Members of the Landmark Preservation Commission,

Historic Denver supports the local landmark designation of 1555 N. Grant Street, encompassing the full parcel—including the 1928 Buell Hall, the 1963 Milan Hall, and the adjoining L-shaped parking lot—as a unified historic resource that reflects multiple layers of Denver’s architectural, social, and urban development history.

Designed by noted Denver architect Temple Buell, the 1928 French Renaissance Revival hall adapted and reused portions of the site’s earlier carriage complex, blending original stone and brick fabric with refined new construction. The result is a rare composition that visibly expresses the site’s evolution across decades. The 1963 addition by architect John F. Milan contributes to this story through its Mid-Century Modern form and technical innovation. Its use of locally produced prestressed concrete double-tee members—employed not only in the roof and floor but as the building’s exterior walls—represents an early and significant example of this Colorado-born construction method.

Socially, the property holds deep associations with the Knights of Columbus Denver Council 539, one of the city’s oldest and most active service organizations. During World War II, the Council transformed the site into a United Service Organizations (U.S.O.) center that served an estimated half million service members in just three years. This extraordinary level of wartime activity contributed to the deterioration of the former Fletcher Mansion and ultimately informed the site’s redevelopment. The nomination also highlights the organization’s broader history in Denver, including its response to anti-Catholic sentiment through civic engagement and visible patriotism—important social themes that remain embodied in this property.



Taken as a whole, the Buell and Milan halls, along with the parking lot, tell a coherent story of continuity and change: from a late 19th-century estate, to a hub of wartime service and civic life, to a mid-century modernization shaped by evolving architectural practices and social priorities. Historic Denver believes the property meets multiple criteria for designation and that the entire parcel is essential to preserving this full narrative.

We respectfully urge the Commission to approve landmark designation for 1555 N. Grant Street as proposed.

Sincerely,

Jay B. Homstad
Senior Director, Preservation Advocacy
Historic Denver