

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. _____
SERIES OF 2019

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB19-0344
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure

ABILL

For an ordinance designating 4150 East Shangri La Drive, Cableland, as a structure for preservation.

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

WHEREAS, based upon evidence received by the Landmark Preservation Commission at a hearing on February 12, 2019, the staff report, and evidence received at the hearing before City Council on April 29, 2019, the structure at 4150 East Shangri La Drive meets the criteria for designation as a structure for preservation as set out in Section 30-3, Denver Revised Municipal Code, as amended, by:

(1) History.

c. Having direct and substantial association with a person or group of persons who had influence on society;

Cableland is significant for its association with Bill Daniels, an early pioneer in cable television. Daniels started one of the earliest cable operations in 1952 using new technological advancements. He also established a financial network to back his fledgling business that led to his career as a financial broker, making deals within the cable television industry. Daniels played an important role in cable content development, starting or supporting early sports networks and 24-hour news channels. Daniels, who primarily lived in the West, established Denver as the headquarters for his company. As the culmination of a successful and long-running career, he constructed the house at 4150 Shangri La Drive, as a residence and social gathering space.

Daniels played a significant role in Denver society, as one of Denver's most prominent philanthropists. Bill Daniels' home, which was specifically designed to host charity events, was an important part of his philanthropy. Daniels hired architect Lawrence Pepper and interior designer Andrew Gerhard, both associated with high-end residential architecture in California, to design the home. Few houses of this scale had been built in Denver since the early twentieth century. Daniels built Cableland as a modern alternative to Denver's Phipps Mansion, and as a reinterpretation of Denver's grand mansions of the past. Cableland quickly became a status symbol for Denver, hosting glamorous events and garnering national press. With Daniels' cable empire based in Denver, Cableland also became associated with

1 Denver’s emergence as a technology center. According to the New York Times: “Cableland stands as
2 a symbol of Denver’s emergence as a high-tech center and a world capital of the cable television
3 industry.” Featuring the most-up-to-date amenities and design trends, Cableland itself was a showcase
4 of modern technology.

5 (2) Architecture.

6 a. *Embodying distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or type;*

7 Cableland is an exceptional example of residential Postmodern architecture in Denver. The concept
8 of Postmodern architecture arose in the 1960s as a reaction against the austerity of Modern
9 architecture. Postmodernists criticized Modernism as sterile, anonymous, too universal, overly
10 simplistic, and meaningless. Postmodernists argued that when Modern architecture rejected
11 ornament and forms with past associations, it lost the ability to communicate a building’s reason for
12 existence, creating buildings that looked similar regardless of purpose and place. Postmodernists
13 promoted architecture that was unique and surprising, blending traditional, contemporary, and newly
14 invented elements. Postmodernism reinterpreted traditional design elements, combining inspiration
15 from various styles and periods. Familiar shapes and details were used in unexpected ways, creating
16 striking contrasts.

17
18 Postmodernism gained popularity in the 1970s and 1980s, becoming hugely influential on design
19 and culture. However, there are few examples of Postmodern residential architecture in Denver, and
20 certainly none on the scale of Cableland. The style was more widely used for public and commercial
21 buildings, with Michael Graves’s Central Branch of the Denver Public Library and Philip Johnson’s
22 “Cash Register” building Denver’s best-known examples of Postmodernism. Commonly referred to
23 as the “mauve mansion,” Cableland reflects 1980s design trends of excess, theatricality, luxury, and
24 exuberance. Key Postmodern design elements seen in Cableland include: oversized, stylized
25 versions of traditional building elements (arches, window surrounds, columns, corbelling); strong
26 geometric composition with repeated motifs; use of textured surfaces; and highly varied wall planes
27 with projections and recesses creating a play of light and shadow. Significant interior features
28 included textured surfaces, recessed lighting, warm colors, brass details, irregularly shaped rooms,
29 multiple levels, and geometric shapes.

30
31 When completed in 1987, Cableland featured four bedrooms, thirteen bathrooms, three fireplaces,
32 four kitchens, a sunken bar, a swimming pool, a combined cabana and guest house, and staff
33 quarters. The house showcased technology throughout. The media room featured a wall of 64

1 televisions, one for each station on Daniels' Mile High Cablevision. The structure also contained an
2 additional 24 televisions elsewhere in the house, including a closed-circuit system. Other amenities
3 included 10 telephone lines, 97 telephones, surround sound and tactile sounds systems, a 12-foot
4 fireman's pole, a tanning bed, a driveway with a snow-melting system, laser security system, a
5 LiteTouch customized lighting system, and a resistance exercise pool decorated with a seascape
6 mural.

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

9 **Section 1.** That based upon the analysis referenced above, and the evidence received at the
10 public hearings, certain property herein called Cableland at 4150 East Shangri La Drive, and legally
11 described as follows, together with all improvements situated and located thereon, be and the same is
12 hereby designated as a structure for preservation:

13 Parcel I:

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15 A portion of Lots 2 and 3, Block 2, SHANGRI-LA HEIGHTS, more particularly described as
16 follows:

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18 The Northwest 26.00 feet of Lot 3, Block 2, Shangri-La Heights, and Lot 2, Block 2, Except
19 that part of Lot 2, as described:

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21 Beginning at the most Northerly corner of said Lot 2; thence Southeasterly along the
22 Northeasterly line of said Lot 2, a distance of 18.85 feet; thence Southwesterly a distance of
23 119.49 feet, more or less, to the most Westerly corner of said Lot 2; thence Northeasterly
24 along the Northwesterly line of said Lot 2 a distance of 118.00 feet to the Point of Beginning,
25 City and County of Denver,
26 State of Colorado.

27
28 Parcel II:

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30 The Southeasterly 26 feet of Lot 3, all of Lots 4 and 5, and that part of Lot 6 more
31 particularly described as follows:

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33 Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot 6; thence following the lot line between Lots 5
34 and 6 to the Westerly corner of said Lot 6; thence at an angle to the left of 72 degrees
35 55'30" a distance of 6.48 feet; thence at an angle to the left of 109 degrees 54'24" a
36 distance of 125.58 feet to the Point of the Beginning, all in Block 2,
37 Shangri-La Heights,
38 City and County of Denver,
39 State of Colorado.

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1 Parcel III:

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3 Lot 1, Block 2, and that part of Lot 2, Block 2, described as beginning at the Northwest
4 corner of Lot 2; thence 99 degrees 04'32" Northeasterly from the Southwest line of Lot 1,
5 119.49 feet; thence 80 degrees 55'22" Northwesterly 18.85 feet; thence Southwesterly
6 118.0 feet along Northwesterly line of said Lot 2 to the Point of Beginning,
7 Shangri-La Heights,
8 City and County of Denver,
9 State of Colorado.

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11 Lot IV:

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13 Lot 6 and the Westerly 30.5 feet of Lot 7, Block 2, SHANGRI-LA HEIGHTS, Except that
14 parcel described as follows:

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16 Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot 6; thence following the lot line between Lots 5
17 and 6, to the most Westerly corner of said Lot 6; thence at an angle to the left of 72 degrees
18 55'30" a distance of 6.48 feet; thence at an angle to the left of 109 degrees 54'24", a
19 distance of 125.58 feet to the Point of Beginning,
20 Shangri-La Heights,
21 City and County of Denver,
22 State of Colorado.

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24 Parcel V:

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26 Lot 7, except the Westerly 30.5 feet thereof, and all of Lot 8, Block 2,
27 Shangri-La Heights,
28 City and County of Denver,
29 State of Colorado.

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31 Parcel VI:

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33 Tact A, Shangri-La Heights,
34 City and County of Denver,
35 State of Colorado.

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

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

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1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: April 9, 2019
2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: April 16, 2019
3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: _____
4 _____ - PRESIDENT
5 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____
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: April 18, 2019
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: Apr 18, 2019