

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2021

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB20-1560
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
4 Land Use, Transportation & Infrastructure

5 **ABILL**

6 **For an ordinance designating 6400 Montview Boulevard 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 15, 2020, the staff report, and evidence received at the hearing before City
13 Council on January 25, 2021, the structure at 6400 Montview Boulevard meets the criteria for
14 designation as a structure for preservation as set out in Section 30-3, Denver Revised Municipal Code,
15 as amended, by maintaining its integrity, being more than 30 years old, and meeting the criteria in the
16 following three categories from Section 30-3(3):

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

18 The residence at 6400 Montview Boulevard embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of
19 a side-gabled subtype of the Spanish Eclectic style. Its identifying features include an asymmetrical
20 façade, stucco cladding with decorative brick, tile roof with multiple levels, elaborate chimney top,
21 arches above principal windows, arched front entry with decorative ironwork and sconces, balcony
22 with iron railing on primary façade and second-story covered porch and round tower at the rear. The
23 Spanish Eclectic style often also includes elaborate landscaping features and this property is no
24 exception with its flagstone walkway depicting moon phases leading to the front entry and flagstone
25 back patio with sun imagery. It is one of a few Spanish Eclectic style houses in the South Park Hill
26 Neighborhood. Built in 1936, its construction occurred at the tail end of the popularity of this
27 architectural style in the United State that spanned 1915 to 1940.

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

29 The property is a significant residential example of the work of recognized architect J. Roger
30 Musick and master builder Harry M. Bitman. Often designing in partnership with his older brother G.
31 Meredith Musick on civic and religious commissions, this venture represents the only known Spanish
32 Eclectic style residence designed by J. Roger Musick in Denver. It is consistent with his residential
33 designs in that it is a straightforward interpretation of the Spanish Eclectic style and includes a

1 prominent main entrance accented with a large, decorative surround; it differs in its use of stucco as
2 opposed to brick or stone which is more commonly found on J. Roger Musick's residential designs.

3 A graduate of the Beaux Arts Institute of Design in New York City, J. Roger Musick's
4 commercial, civic and religious designs have gained more recognition to date. These include, but
5 are not limited to, the Bryant-Webster School at 3635 Quivas Street, Colorado State Capitol Annex,
6 and Berkeley Park Chapel at 4345 West 46th Avenue, each historically designated at the local or
7 national level. To date, none of his residential designs have been designated Denver Landmarks. J.
8 Roger Musick's contributions as a Denver-based architect occurred from the late 1920s until 1966
9 when he and his family moved to Aspen.

10 J. Roger Musick partnered with master builder and property owner Harry M. Bitman on the
11 design and construction of 6400 Montview Boulevard. Bitman's career in Denver spanned from 1928
12 to 1967 and included both residential real estate development and construction. He served as
13 president of the Home Realty Company was a founding member of Quality Home Builders, Inc., and
14 formed the Bitman Construction Company. His partnership with J. Roger Musick on the design of
15 6400 Montview Boulevard presumably influenced Bitman to build a similar Spanish Eclectic style
16 residence at 4833 East Sixth Avenue in 1937 that is not credited to J. Roger Musick. This influence
17 took place early in Bitman's long-lasting career, making 6400 Montview Boulevard a significant
18 example of his work.

19 *f. Representing an established and familiar feature of the neighborhood, community, or*
20 *contemporary city, due to its prominent location or physical characteristics;*

21 The property at 6400 Montview Boulevard represents an established and familiar feature of
22 the neighborhood due to its physical characteristics as the only true, two-story Spanish Eclectic Style
23 residence, and its prominent location, along Montview Boulevard. Montview Boulevard, between
24 Colorado Boulevard and Monaco Parkway, consists of large residences and lots designed to be
25 prominent with more modest residences tucked into the side streets. This stretch of road and green
26 space that comprises Montview Boulevard is part of Denver's City Beautiful Movement Parkways
27 Historic District. The property at 6400 Montview Boulevard stands out among the other large
28 residences along the parkway that are primarily Tudor Revival and Ranch styles constructed of brick.
29 Its stucco-clad walls and distinctive design elements stand in contrast to its surroundings, making it
30 a familiar feature of the South Park Neighborhood.

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

1 **Section 1.** That based upon the analysis referenced above, and the evidence received at the
2 public hearings, certain property at 6400 Montview Boulevard, and legally described as follows,
3 together with all improvements situated and located thereon, be and the same is hereby designated as
4 a structure for preservation:

5 Lots 1 to 4, Block 1, Downington, except the rear 7 feet of said lots and except the North 25
6 feet of said Lot 1 as described in deed recorded April 29, 1893 in Book 881 at Page 159,
7 City and County of Denver,
8 State of Colorado.

9
10 **Section 2.** The effect of this designation may enhance the value of the property and of the
11 structure, but may delay or require denial of building permits found unacceptable by the Landmark
12 Preservation Commission under the criteria contained in the Design Guidelines for Historic Structures
13 and Districts and Section 30-6 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code.

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

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1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: January 5, 2021

2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: January 12, 2021

3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: January 25, 2021

4 *Steve Gilmore* - 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: January 14, 2021

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: *Jonathan Griffin*, Assistant City Attorney DATE: Jan 13, 2021