



THE HONORABLE

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COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 1

City and County of Denver
CITY COUNCIL

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Dear Landmark Preservation Commission Members,

The history of Denver is intrinsically tied to the history of what is now known as the Jefferson Park neighborhood. This neighborhood was once home to not only the town hall and jail for the original Town of Highland, one of the three municipalities combined to form the City of Denver, but to many prominent homes and figures that were iconic and notable in the history of our great city. While much of the historically resonating architecture has been transformed in Jefferson Park, there remain a few isolated structures that physically convey the role this community had in early days of the history of Denver.

Of those structures that do remain, few have the historical gravitas to meet the requirements of the Land marking process. Therein lies the importance of 2849 West 23rd Avenue, as you delve into the documented details of its history you will understand that it is a structure with a compelling story that has import to the history of our city.

Built responsibly for the climate, detailed in a manner that transforms design and workmanship into utility, and constructed of palpably durable materials that have been lovingly cared for by generations, this structure has all the qualities that define integrity.

The structure sets on a prominent geographic point, adjacent to an early brick paved street, and across from an open space, an open space that is now a city park with a unique grass amphitheater that takes advantage of the hill upon which this home sits.

While the siting and structure are worthy of designation, what makes this structure ever more compelling is its association to the renown Merrill and Burnham Hoyt. While both young boys grew up in this home during formative years, they earned prominence as architects working on a number of Denver landmark worthy structures, as Hoyt and Hoyt, while Burnham Hoyt resided in the structure, as an adult, from 1919-1926.

Coincidentally, the park which the home is adjacent to, is dedicated to a forefather of our nation known for championing architecture and placing import on the influence of architecture on society. Thomas Jefferson, who designed Monticello and University of Virginia, has been called the "father of our national architecture."

It would be fitting to designate the home of two of Denver and Colorado's greatest architects' next to a park honoring one of the Nation's.

Sincerely,

Councilman Rafael Espinoza
City and County of Denver, District 1