

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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THE HONORABLE
Chris Hinds
COUNCILMAN DISTRICT 10

City and County of Denver
CITY COUNCIL

City and County Building
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November 6, 2025

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

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

Dear Members of the Landmark Preservation Commission,

Councilman Chris Hinds 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 contributing resource to the community in Council District 10. The central location of this property has allowed it to serve as a hub for Denver Catholics and the general population, to access services and make social and cultural connections, for more than 95 years.

It is important to the community to preserve this property. Knights of Columbus Denver Council 539 was the first lodge established in the west and remains the oldest council in Colorado. Few residents remain alive to remember how Council 539 opened its doors to the public during times of need, such as during the Great Depression and then during World War II, when the site became a United Service Organizations (U.S.O.) center that served an estimated half million service members in just three years. This property's significance to the community is the importance of what has occurred here as much as the site's specific physical attributes.

The existing buildings on the site are the work of two noted local architects, Temple Buell and John F. Milan. Their designs tell the story of the property's evolution from a late 19th Century estate to its mid-20th Century modernization to accommodate changing community needs and public policy. Buell's adaptive remodel in the 1920s incorporates masonry from the site's original buildings while Milan, as a Mid-Century Modern architect, uniquely incorporated a new form of concrete framing members (double tees) first developed and fabricated in Denver by engineers for the Perlmutter Family company.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to approve landmark designation for 1555 N. Grant Street as proposed.

Chris Hinds

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hinds".

Chris Hinds, Councilmember
Denver City Council, District 10



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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