

**From:** [Karen Derrick-Davis](#)  
**To:** [Landmark - Community Planning and Development](#); [dencc - City Council](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Landmark Designation of Henderson House  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018 11:27:13 AM

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I made a small, but significant, edit to original letter. Please use the text below.

Thanks,  
Karen

On Tue, Nov 20, 2018 at 11:19 AM Karen Derrick-Davis <[karenderrickdavis@gmail.com](mailto:karenderrickdavis@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello,

I fully support the Landmark Designation request by Lynn Henderson and Historic Denver for the Henderson House at 26th and Steele Street.

I have lived in North City Park for 10 years and have been involved in researching and highlighting the neighborhood history to the huge influx of new residents. I think it is vitally important to community cohesiveness to understand, honor, and recognize the history of the neighborhood. North City Park has a long list of previous residents who made their mark on the City. When the efforts of those in the past are remembered and documented, a sense of pride and connection to "place" are created. Otherwise, the neighborhood is just a lifeless "place to live" and people feel no true connection to it as a living entity.

When newer residents learn about the historic color line at York Street and the courage of the first African Americans in our neighborhood who crossed that line, they see our neighborhood differently. They have a new-found respect for the elders of color in the community. When they hear the story of Ben Okubo (who was interned at Amache) and Ben's Market (28th and York), they see the market in a different light. It is no longer an eye sore, but a symbol of strength and perseverance in the face of unspeakable cruelty. All of these stories are important to highlight and remember as part of the weaving of our neighborhood's community tapestry.

Thank you for your work and I look forward to seeing a beautiful plaque on the Henderson house!

Most Sincerely,  
Karen Derrick-Davis

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*"We have what we need if we use what we have."* Edgar Cahn, founder Timebanks USA

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On Tue, Nov 20, 2018 at 10:34 AM Sarah Edgell <[sarah@edgellworksinc.com](mailto:sarah@edgellworksinc.com)> wrote:

Hello,

I fully support the Landmark Designation request by Lynn Henderson and Historic Denver. I live 2 blocks east of John's home on 26th Avenue, and have lived here since 2010.

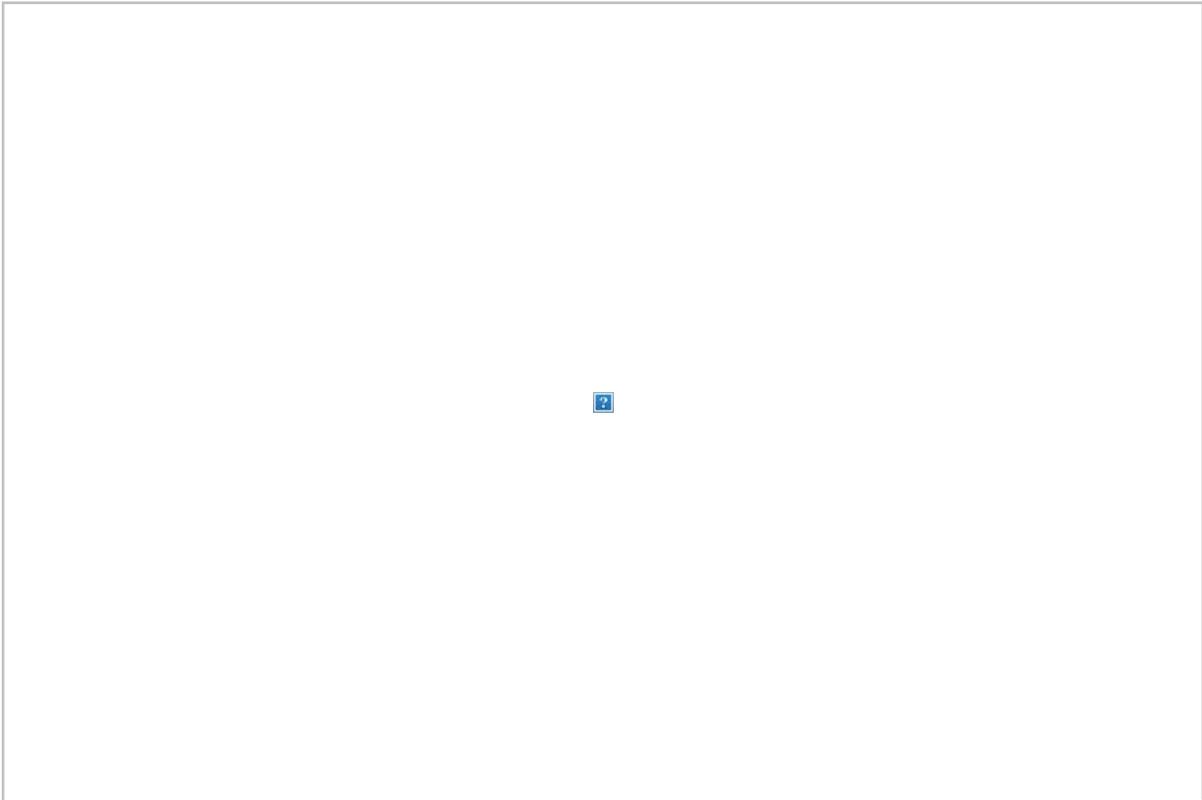
John's place in the story of Denver's racial history, and the elegance of execution of his mid-century home are worthy of saving. Skyland neighborhood needs something to look at and be proud of that is "ours." Skyland is now entering the era of scraping homes to be replaced with mega-homes, subtly erasing the sense of neighborhood that bound us together. This designation would be a great source of pride for the neighborhood, and bring attention to the story that lies behind John's personal history - as Denver's first licensed African-American architect and beloved long-term resident. And, more importantly for historic designation considerations is the beauty and location of John's home - designed so intimately to fit the location. The window directly behind John's head, was filled every year with Christmas ornaments, hanging from a metal grid just barely visible in this photo - he lit it so well, and a source of joy every Christmas to see them driving along 26th Avenue.

My husband, Paul Brokering, is an architect and photographer and he took the below photo of John about 4 years ago. They were friends, as were John and I. John and I had animated discussions about architecture and design until his final days - he was passionate about all things design and culture. He was excited to hear about Japan which he loved when my husband and I traveled there last year - mid-century took much inspiration from Japan and we shared that love. He will be greatly missed by so many and I hope his home will remain the iconic residence that he designed.

Thank you for considering this Designation.

Sincerely,

Sarah Edgell  
3141 East 26th Avenue Parkway, Denver, 80205



**SARAH EDGELL**  
*graphic design*

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