

## Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services

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**From:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development  
**Sent:** Monday, June 20, 2016 6:27 AM  
**To:** Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services  
**Subject:** FW: Landmark Application--First Unitarian Society  
**Attachments:** signatures 001.jpg; signatures 002.jpg

**From:** ddzell@comcast.net [mailto:ddzell@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2016 3:53 PM  
**To:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development <Landmark@denvergov.org>  
**Cc:** Robertson, Susan <bridges.robertson@gmail.com>; Derrick-Davis, Karen <karenderrickdavis@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Landmark Application--First Unitarian Society

Landmark Commission:

Attached to this e-mail is two pages containing 66 signatures of members and friends of First Plymouth Congregational Church in support of the Landmark Designation application submitted by the First Unitarian Society of Denver which is scheduled to be heard by the Commission on July 5. As noted in the application, First Plymouth (successor to Plymouth Congregational) is the original builder of the historic church at 14th & Lafayette St.

Don Zeller  
First Plymouth Historian

We, the undersigned members and friends of First-Plymouth Congregational Church, U.C.C., signify our support of the application by the First Unitarian Society of Denver for Landmark Designation for the former Plymouth Congregational Church building at E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Lafayette St., Denver, CO.



Dalysa Duce  
John C. Catell  
Alan Long  
Sharon Clifton  
Jeskie Howland  
Betty L. Swenson  
Malinda & Arlene  
Craig C. Eley  
LaDean Luano  
W. M. Shaw  
Kusti Zimmerman  
Jim A. Weede  
Pam Erickson  
Kathy & Nancy Wickolks  
Carolyn & Galen Weaver  
STAN & PAT HARWOOD  
Linda L. Cunningham

Mary Kay Kernan  
Susan Yoshuwa  
Kurt and Stuart Haskins  
Richard Alan Adams  
Bergette E. Van Egeren  
Thomas J. Van Egeren  
Dwight Erdemie  
Gale Erdewine  
Nancy Joe Shaw  
John  
Vilja Brunkhorst  
Diane Hoagland  
SM Hoagland  
Adrienne Andrews Glenn  
Carlynn White  
Doug Gust  
Marilyn Ehardt  
Cynthia Eley

We, the undersigned members and friends of First-Plymouth Congregational Church, U.C.C., signify our support of the application by the First Unitarian Society of Denver for **Landmark Designation** for the former Plymouth Congregational Church building at E. 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Lafayette St., Denver, CO.



*John [unclear]*  
A.H. Brewster  
Janet T. Rieck  
Felix A. Thompson  
Mary Lee Anderson  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
Kathy White  
Denise Brown  
Pat Harwood  
Ellen Robinson  
Edith [unclear]  
*[Signature]*  
Jackie Geist  
K.A. Geist

*Laeanne Biddle*  
*Claire Geller*  
*Bruce L. Evans*  
*Anthony Chad Robinson*  
*[Signature]*  
*Donald & Deed*  
*Janet Dickson*  
*[Signature]*  
*Deborah F. Haskins*  
*Marian W. Buckler*  
*[Signature]*

## Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services

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**From:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 12:38 PM  
**To:** Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services  
**Subject:** FW: Support for historic designation of 1400 Lafayette St.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Kara,  
Just making sure you get this. It came into the Landmark inbox.

Heidi

**From:** Greg Wimpey [mailto:gwimpey@pobox.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2016 10:38 AM  
**To:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development <Landmark@denvergov.org>  
**Cc:** Susan Robertson <bridges.robertson@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Support for historic designation of 1400 Lafayette St.

I am writing to the Landmark Commission in order to express my support for historic designation of the property currently housing the First Unitarian Society of Denver (formerly First Plymouth Congregational Church) at 1400 Lafayette St. in Denver.

I am a City and County of Denver resident since 1993 and member of the congregation since 2001. In my over 20 years living in Denver, I have seen many of the changes that growth has brought to the city. Some of these changes I have liked, others I haven't. In order to preserve the character of the city, I believe that notable buildings with strong links to the city's past should be protected. I certainly believe that the Richardsonian Romanesque building housing First Unitarian qualifies.

The building at 1400 Lafayette helps anchor the intersection of 14th Avenue and Lafayette St. Just across Lafayette are the Wolcott Apartments, formerly the Wolcott School. Together, these two buildings contribute to the many buildings from the late 19th/early 20th century period that line 14th Avenue. Other significant buildings that I can think of include St. John's Cathedral at Washington St., Morey Middle School at Clarkson St., the Emerson Block and Emerson School at Ogden St., and the Divine Science Church at Williams St. Additionally, there are many houses and apartment buildings from the period. Together, they present a street that, while busy and in places cluttered, "feels like Denver".

While the historic interior is lost, the building itself has housed important institutions (such as the The (LGBT) Center and the Metropolitan Community Church of the Rockies) and events (such as presentations by speakers on the political left who were shunned by other venues). The congregation of First Unitarian was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. For example, in the book "Women and the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965" (Houck and Dixon eds., 2009), a profile of Denver activist Ruth Steiner mentions that her membership in First Unitarian was an important part of her civil rights work.

Today, the building is still an important part of First Unitarian's social justice work. For 9 months, the congregation housed Arturo Hernandez Garcia, an undocumented immigrant, as part of the New Sanctuary movement. This work was done in coalition with other groups working towards rights for immigrants. Last year, the south wall of the church was vandalized along with the church's "Black Lives Matter" banner.

All of these points, to me, tell the story of a building that has a long and important history. Its story is still unfolding today, and it is worthy of designation.

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Greg Wimpey

Preferred address: [gwimpey@pobox.com](mailto:gwimpey@pobox.com)

## Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services

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**From:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2016 8:52 AM  
**To:** Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services  
**Subject:** FW: First Unitarian Society of Denver Historic Designation

**Importance:** High

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**From:** Will de Chaparro, Martina Elaine [mailto:mwill@regis.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2016 8:43 AM  
**To:** Landmark - Community Planning and Development <Landmark@denvergov.org>  
**Cc:** Susan Robertson <bridges.robertson@gmail.com>; Karen Derrick-Davis <karenderrickdavis@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** First Unitarian Society of Denver Historic Designation  
**Importance:** High

To the Landmark Commission:

It is my understanding that you will be considering an application on July 5th for historic designation for First Unitarian Society of Denver (FUSD). It is a joy to write a letter expressing my strong support for this designation, which underscores the importance of FUSD in Denver history and its ongoing importance in making history today.

FUSD's application attests to the considerable importance of the building at 1400 Lafayette Street. Beyond the structure itself, however, the importance of the edifice is its people - past and present. I am sure others will speak to the tremendous work that FUSD does in the community to address social injustice - from its longstanding support of civil rights across the imaginary boundaries of race, gender, sexual identity, etc. - to its recent nationally-recognized efforts on behalf of immigration reform. I will focus here on FUSD's rich nineteenth-century history, which is especially dear to me as an historian.

Railroads, mining, and the availability of land attracted many to Colorado in the late 1800s. Panoramic maps, brochures and other ephemera sold the idea of Colorado to people even before they arrived here. In the space of a single decade the city grew

exponentially, from 35,000 residents in 1880 to 106,713 in 1890. Despite its many attractions and opportunities, as Denver grew, not all found the economic wealth they sought. In an era before governmental social welfare programs, women of faith were pivotal in meeting the needs of those whose reality fell short of their dreams. Two such notable examples are the Sisters of Charity's Mount Saint Vincent, established in 1883, and the Denver Sheltering Home for Jewish Children, established in 1908 by "a small band of earnest and conscientious women," according to Carl Abbott's Colorado: A History of the Centennial State. FUSD's women, through the Ladies Relief Society also sought to improve the lives of the most vulnerable urban residents, and FUSD likewise housed the Charity Outreach Society that would eventually grow to national proportions and become the United Way. The stories of these intrepid women is a part of the fabric of FUSD's history and informs FUSD's ongoing struggle on behalf of those whom existing social and governmental structures would otherwise marginalize or silence entirely.

Despite its small population relative to cities like Philadelphia and New York, Denver was instrumental to the reform movements of the early twentieth century – from voting reforms to labor legislation. Denver progressives offered the nation a sign of how it might address child labor, promote safer factory conditions, and inspect coal mines for miners' safety. Denver was at the forefront of the movement for woman suffrage. National leaders including Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone barnstormed Colorado in 1877; even after the cause met defeat local organizers continued to demand the vote. At last, in 1893, Colorado women secured the right to vote, with the enabling legislation penned by a FUSD member.

The history of FUSD is instructive not only of Denver history but also emblematic of our nation's history. It speaks to our changing understanding of human rights, cultural expectations and political reform – often against considerable odds. As FUSD moves forward, historic designation will allow us to build upon this foundation in a meaningful way. Please support FUSD's efforts by approving historic designation.

Thank you for your consideration,

## Martina Will de Chaparro

Martina Will de Chaparro, Ph.D.  
Department of History and Politics  
Regis University  
3333 Regis Blvd., G-16  
Denver, CO 80221-1099  
office 303.964.6839  
cell 303.956.7006

## Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services

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**From:** Cindy <cinbob11@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2016 4:38 PM  
**To:** Hahn, Kara L. - CPD Planning Services  
**Subject:** First Unitarian Society of Denver church

Dear Landmark Preservation Commission,

Please consider and approve the historic designation of the First Unitarian Church. This building has a great historical history in Denver. I am so grateful that they were able to salvage the building after the devastating fire in the 80's. We have lived on Capitol Hill for 40 yrs. and value this building and the church as wonderful stewards of Denver, since we moved here. They are very good caretakers of this building.

Cindy & Bob Sestrich  
1144 Lafayette St.  
cinbob11@hotmail.com