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# Wellington E. & Wilma J. Webb House

## 2329 N. Gaylord St.

Denver City Council

Abigail Christman, Principal City Planner

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# Wellington E. & Wilma J. Webb House 2329 N Gaylord St

Built: 1902

Type: Foursquare with Classical  
Revival detailing

Owners: Wellington E. Webb &  
Wilma J. Webb (1971–present)



# 2329 N Gaylord St.

## Location

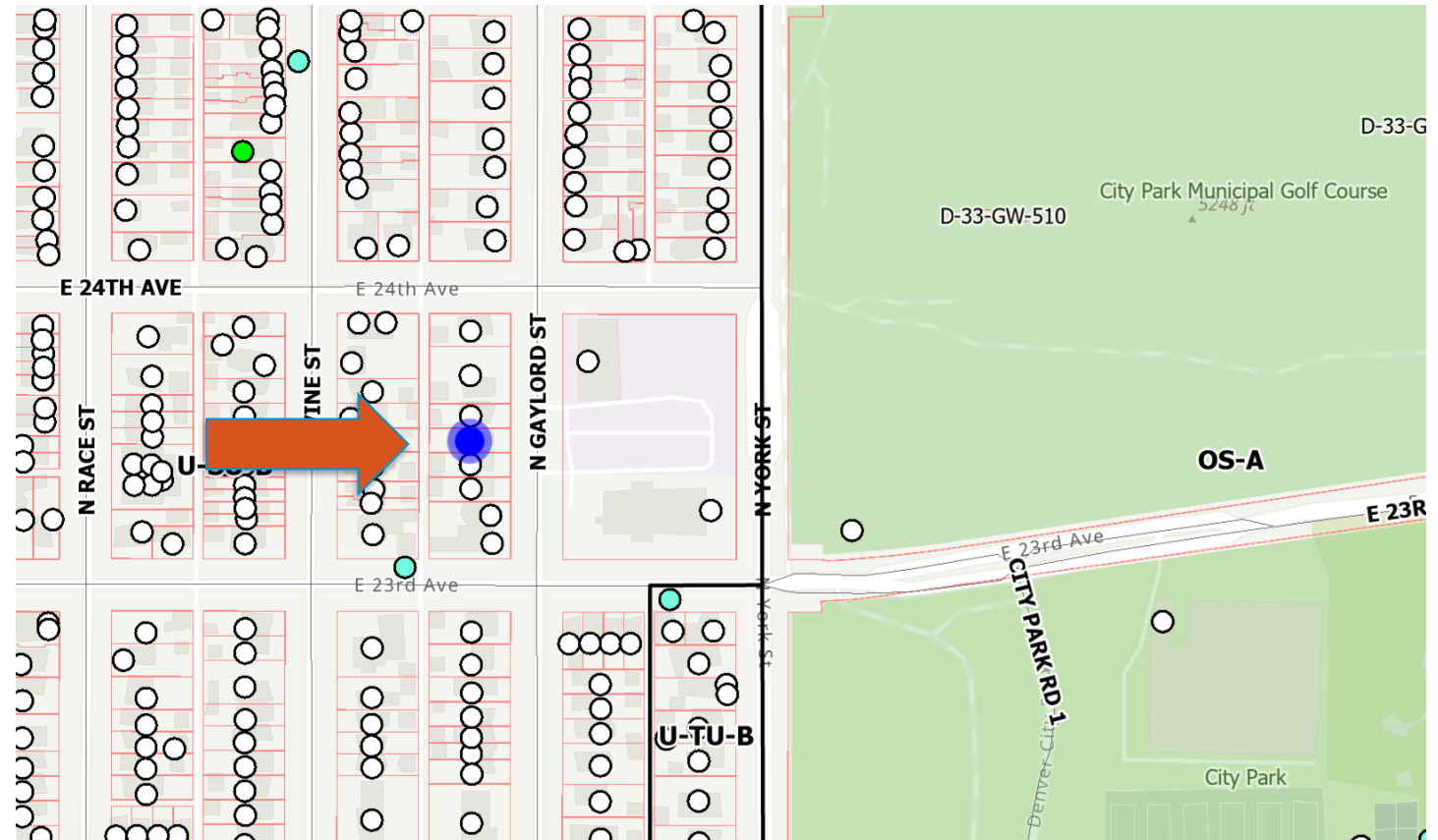
- Council District # 9
- Whittier Neighborhood

## Zoning

- U-SU-B

## Owner and Applicant

- Wellington E. Webb & Wilma J. Webb



# Proposed Boundary



# Who Can Apply for Designation?

## Community-driven process

- **Property owner**
- Community Planning & Development manager
- City Council Member
- Three residents of Denver





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# Landmark Designation Eligibility

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The structure(s) must meet the following:

1. More than 30 years old, or is exceptionally important
2. Meets at least three of ten criteria
3. Retains integrity
4. LPC considers the historic context

Per Landmark Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 30, DRMC)

# Designation Criteria: Meets 3 out of 10

## History

A. Historic development of city

**B. Recognized persons who had influence on society**

**C. Visible characteristics of architectural style or type**

## Architecture

D. Significant example of recognized architect or master builder

E. Significant innovation or technical achievement

## Geography

F. Familiar feature of neighborhood, due to physical character

G. Understanding of urban environment through physical characteristics or rarity

## Culture

H. Cultural understanding of how the site was used by past generations

I. Physical attribute that is source of pride or cultural understanding

**J. Social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth that contributed to culture**

## B. Direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society

### Wellington E. Webb & Wilma J. Webb

- Purchased home in 1971
- From here built careers rooted in public service, civil rights, and community leadership
- Helped open doors for future generations of Black leaders while reshaping Denver's political, cultural, and civic landscape



## B. Direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society

### Wellington E. Webb:

- Colorado House of Representatives (1973–1977)
- Regional Director, U.S. Department of Health, Education & Welfare (Carter Administration)
- Executive Director, Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
- Denver Auditor (1987–1991)
- Mayor of Denver (1991–2003)

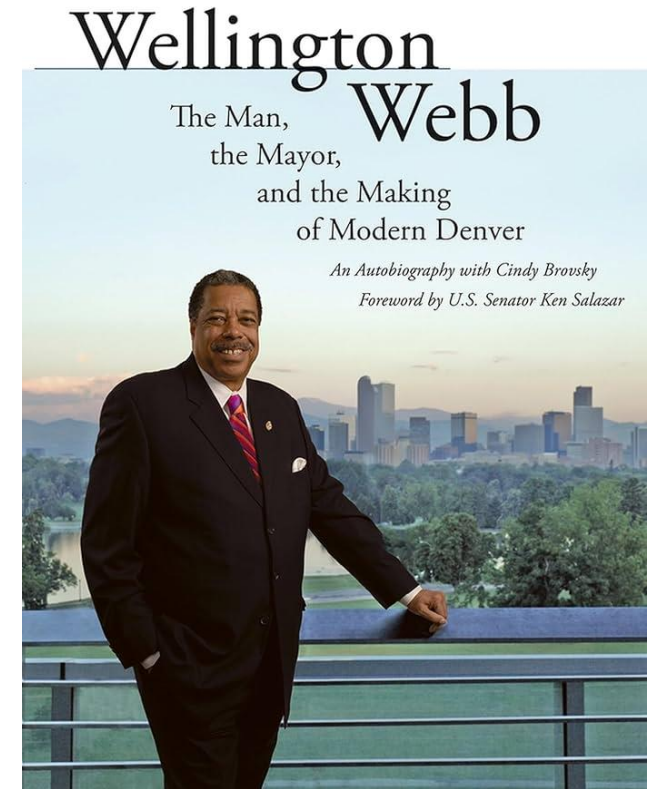


## B. Direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society

### Wellington E. Webb Legacy:

- Guided Denver through a major period of growth and redevelopment including completion of Denver International Airport, Coors Field, and new arena agreements for Avalanche and Nuggets
- Symbol of the growing influence of Black leadership in municipal government
- Administration reshaped Denver's national image, economy, and civic identity

"[Wellington Webb's] autobiography is a candid and compelling account of the remarkable life of a good man, an energetic, intelligent leader who served his beloved city and our nation well."  
—President William J. Clinton



## B. Direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society

### Wilma J. Webb:

- Colorado House of Representatives (1980–1993)
- First Lady of Denver (1991–2003)
- Region VIII Chief Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor (Clinton Administration)
- Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission



## B. Direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society

### Wilma J. Webb Legacy:

- Led effort to establish Colorado's Martin Luther King Jr. holiday
- Founder of Denver's MLK "Marade"
- Influential civil rights and civic leader through her legislative work, cultural leadership, and advocacy for education, equity, and historical recognition



## C. Embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type

### Key Foursquare Features:

- Square plan, two-story massing
- Hipped roof with central dormer
- Full-width front porch

### Classical Details:

- Doric columns
- Modillions and dentils
- Decorative frieze



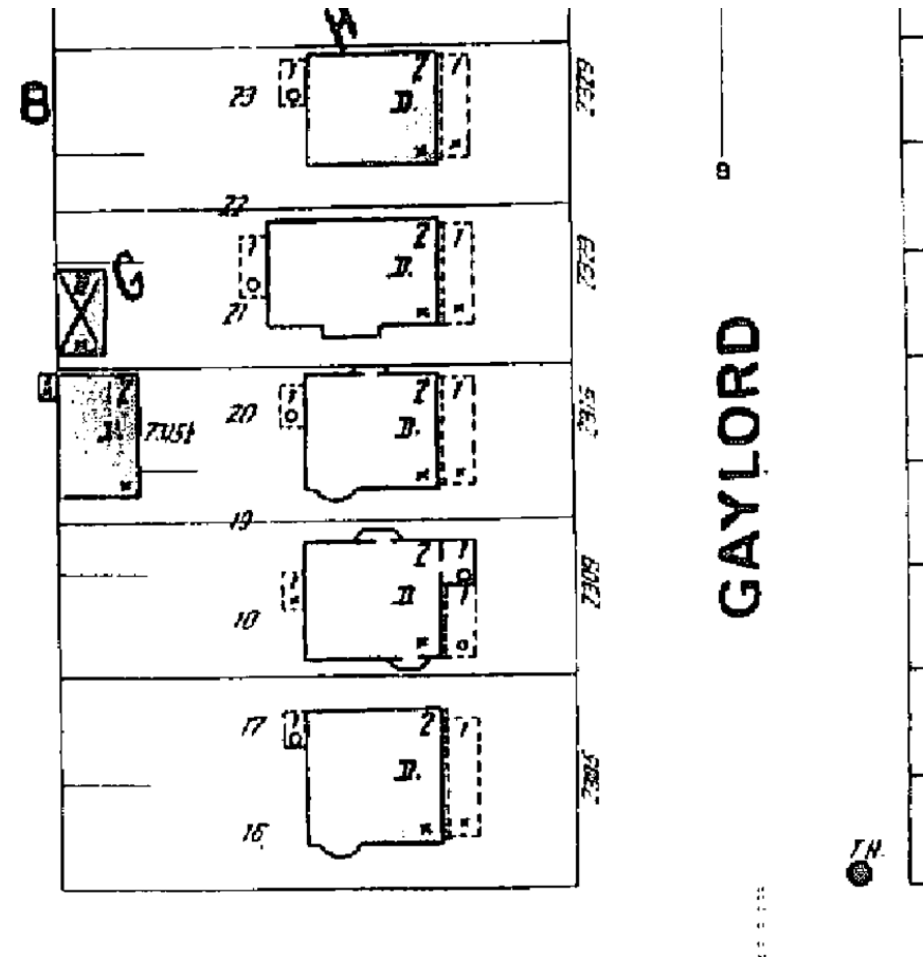
## C. Embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type

### Builder: Nils Andrew Isakson

- Swedish immigrant and carpenter
- Active in small-scale residential construction in Denver

### Property reflects:

- Early 20th-century construction
- Development of Whittier



## J. Associated with social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth or change that contributed significantly to the culture of the neighborhood, community, city, state, or nation

2329 N Gaylord St. a hub of civic and civil rights activity:

- Political strategy center
- Gathering place for community leaders
- Site of coalition-building
- Hosted local, state, and national figures



## J. Associated with social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth or change that contributed significantly to the culture of the neighborhood, community, city, state, or nation

2329 N Gaylord St. associated with:

- Expansion of Black political representation
- Civil rights-era gains in leadership
- Increasing access to homeownership in Northeast Denver



gettyimages®  
Credit: Kathryn Scott Osler

# Integrity

- Location: Original site
- Setting: Intact residential context
- Design: Foursquare form intact
- Materials: Historic materials retained
- Workmanship: Architectural detailing preserved
- Association & Feeling: Strong connection to Webb legacy

*Property clearly conveys architectural character and historic associations*



## Period of Significance

Period of significance: 1902; 1971-2003

- 1902: Construction (architectural significance)
- 1971–2003: Webb ownership and peak public impact
  - Includes mayoral tenure and legislative leadership

*Captures both the architectural origins and the era of greatest civic significance*



## Associated Historic Contexts

- Whittier development & streetcar-era residential growth in northeast Denver
- “Struggle Hill” & eastward movement of Black residents from Five Points into Whittier
- Civil Rights gains & expanding opportunities, including increased access to:
  - Homeownership
  - Education
  - Political participation
- Black representation in Colorado government
- Denver’s civic, economic, and downtown transformation during the 1990s

# Landmark Designation Review Criteria

- Over 30 years of age
- Application meets at least three criteria
  - B. It has direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society
  - C. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type
  - J. It is associated with social movements, institutions, or patterns of growth or change that contributed significantly to the culture of the neighborhood, community, city, state, or nation
- Retains Integrity
- LPC also considers the historic context

Based on the ordinance designation criteria and on the findings of the Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) that the application meets the criteria for designation of a structure, staff recommends approval of the application.