

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO.
SERIES OF 2014

COUNCIL BILL NO. 14-0306
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Land Use Transportation and
Infrastructure

A BILL

For an ordinance designating 3241 Lowell Boulevard, the Beth Eden Baptist Church, as a structure for preservation.

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.R.M.C. Section 30-4, the Landmark Preservation Commission has transmitted to the Council a proposed designation of a structure for preservation; and

WHEREAS, based upon evidence received by the Landmark Preservation Commission at a hearing on April 1, 2014, the staff report, and evidence received at the hearing before City Council on May 5, 2014, 3241 Lowell Boulevard meets the criteria for designation as a structure for preservation as set out in Section 30-3 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code, as amended, by:

(1) History.

a. Having a direct association with the historical development of Denver;

The buildings constructed on this site reflect the development of the West Highland neighborhood and Denver as it expanded westward. The 1931 sanctuary is the only building that remains of the larger Beth-Eden complex that once occupied this site. The Beth-Eden Centenary Baptist congregation was among the first congregations in the West Highlands neighborhood. Charles H. Walker constructed a church on this site, known as the Beth-Eden Centenary Baptist Church, in 1892 when this site was still part of the town of Highlands. After annexation by Denver and rapid development of this neighborhood during the early 20th century the original church was demolished and the existing church was constructed in 1931 to accommodate the growing congregation. As the neighborhood continued to experience a population boom so did the church, continuing to expand by adding additions to the original 1931 sanctuary. The Beth Eden Baptist Church at 3241 Lowell Boulevard is a reflection of the development and growth of the West Highland neighborhood.

c. Having a direct and substantial association with a person or group of persons who had influence on society;

1 3241 Lowell Boulevard is associated with Reverend Charles H. Walker, founder of several of
2 Denver’s Baptist churches. It is also associated with the Denver Baptist community and the
3 Beth Eden congregation. The Beth Eden Baptist Church was constructed during a time of
4 religious fervor across America. A great missionary zeal was occurring at this time and Beth
5 Eden was a part of this larger trend; raising money for foreign missionaries, providing financial
6 support to the Denver Rescue Mission as well as establishing other mission churches. Mr.
7 Walker and the Beth Eden Baptist Church had a wide influence on society not only in West
8 Highland but throughout Denver.

9 (2) Architecture.

10 a. *Embodying distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or type;*

11 The steeply pitched roof, prominent front facing gables, decorative half-timbering and multiple
12 grouped windows of the Beth Eden Baptist Church are distinguishing characteristics of the
13 Tudor Revival style. This was a style popular at the time in residential architecture but it was
14 rare in Denver’s ecclesiastical buildings.

15 b. *Being a significant example of the work of a recognized architect;*

16 Beth Eden Baptist Church is an intact example of the work of William N. Bowman, a significant
17 Denver architect. Bowman is known for designing commercial, civic and ecclesiastical
18 buildings in a wide range of revival styles. This is Bowman’s last known ecclesiastical work
19 and his only example of a Tudor Revival style church.

20 (3) Geography

21 a. *Having a prominent location or be an established, familiar and orienting visual feature*
22 *of the contemporary city;*

23 The church holds a prominent position on the west side of Lowell Boulevard in the West
24 Highland Neighborhood. It is located just north of the “Highland Square” commercial district.
25 This distinctive Tudor Revival church recognized by the many commuters along Lowell
26 Boulevard as well as the visitors to “Highland Square” makes this church a familiar and
27 established visual feature of West Highland.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF**
29 **DENVER:**

30 **Section 1.** That based upon the findings above, and the evidence received at the public
31 hearing, certain property herein called the Beth Eden Baptist Church at 3241 Lowell Boulevard,
32 and legally described as follows, together with all improvements situated and located thereon, be
33 and the same is hereby designated as a structure for preservation:

1 Packard's Hill Subdivision, Block 1, Lots 13-14 inclusive.

2 **Section 2.** The effect of this designation may enhance the value of the property and of
3 the structure, but may delay or require denial of building permits found unacceptable by the
4 Landmark Preservation Commission under the criteria contained in the Design Guidelines for
5 Historic Structures and Districts and Section 30-6 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code.

6 **Section 3.** This ordinance shall be recorded among the records of the Clerk and
7 Recorder of the City and County of Denver.

8 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: April 15, 2014.

9 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: April 22, 2014.

10 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2014

11 _____ - PRESIDENT

12 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____ 2014

13 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
14 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
15 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
16

17 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL _____ 2014; _____ 2014

18 PREPARED BY: Adam C. Hernandez, Assistant City Attorney DATE: April 24, 2014

19 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office
20 of the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the
21 proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval
22 pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.
23

24 D. Scott Martinez, City Attorney

25 BY: _____, City Attorney Date: _____