

What to Do with the Sternberg Building?

The future of an iconic modernist structure at 2009 W. Littleton Boulevard—the former office of architect Eugene Sternberg—is being explored by the City of Littleton. Littleton owns the building, which is on the City’s List of Merit and has been identified as worthy of preservation.

At a July 8 study session about options for expanding space for the police department, the Littleton city council discussed what to do with this building. Modernist architect Eugene Sternberg—considered by some to be Littleton’s most important architect—designed and built this building for his own use in 1961. Later Arapahoe County pre-empted the building for the district attorney’s office. In recent times the building housed the county’s community services department.

The Sternberg building has a four inch thick plywood zig-zag roof, walls of tinted grey glass, and white and gray brick. The building was on the cutting edge of architectural modernism when it was built. Other Sternberg buildings in Littleton are the Littleton Law Center at 1901 W. Littleton Boulevard, Arapahoe Community College, Heritage High School and Bemis Library.

Preservation consultant Diane Wray, who has just completed a report on modern architecture in Littleton, said the Sternberg building is integral to what should be a historic district in Littleton. “The most important and prestigious build-

concern, that plan was dropped. The Sternberg building was mothballed and has been vacant for a number of years.

Littleton Mayor Doug Clark would like to move the fire administration into the building,



ings of the period were built on the ridge above the courthouse—the Sternberg building with its folded plate roof is classic.”

When the City of Littleton purchased the former Arapahoe County jail site for the Buck Center, the Sternberg building was part of the deal. According to City Manager Jim Woods, the intent was to demolish the building to provide more parking for the Buck Center. However, when members of the City Council and the Historical Preservation Board expressed

“if it is fit for habitation.” But a study by ARC Integrated Program Management said the building needed \$1.3 million of renovations to be usable for city employees. “If we can’t use the building without spending a large sum of money to renovate the building, then I think we ought to sell the building,” Clark said. “If we can’t sell the building then I don’t know what the next course of action should be.”

The City Council directed the staff to explore marketing the Sternberg building.

Historic Littleton Inc. is dedicated to preserving the historical and architectural heritage of the greater Littleton area through advocacy and education.

CPI Invites HLI Members to Art and Wine Evening

Colorado Preservation Inc. has teamed up with Julie Fryberger of Fryberger Art Consulting to bring together CPI members, friends, and preservation enthusiasts for an evening of wine, art, and friends in Julie's sculpture garden and gallery on Thursday, September 4, from 6-8 p.m.

Historic Littleton Inc. members are especially invited to attend.

Julie will be donating 20% of all art proceeds to Colorado Preservation Inc.

Fryberger Art Consulting Gallery and Sculpture Garden is located at 6662 S. Hill Way in Littleton.

Wine and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Reservations are required; the cost is \$15 /person. Space is limited. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Nancy Herzmark Hegele, Development Officer at Colorado Preservation, Inc. 303-893-4260 or email to: nhegele@coloradopreservation.org.



COLORADO PRESERVATION, INC.

The Historic Littleton Inc. newsletter is published quarterly for members of HLI as part of their membership contribution. Send comments to P.O. Box 1004, Littleton, 80160.

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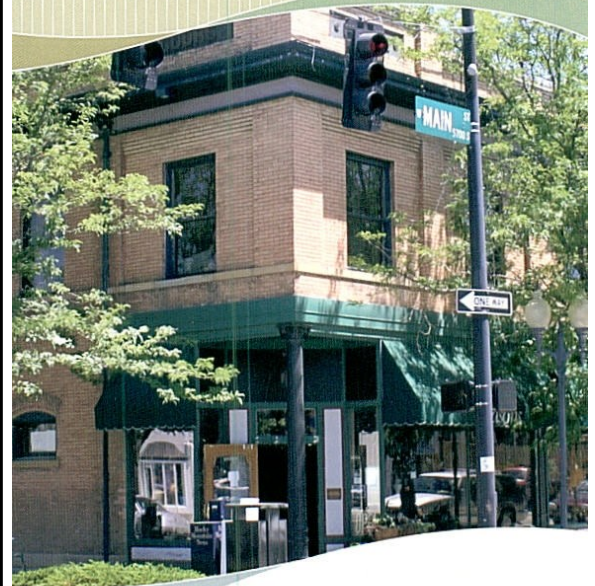
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Historic Walking Tour of
locally designated landmarks
in Downtown Littleton, Colorado



City of Littleton

The City of Littleton has produced a new walking tour brochure highlighting the designated landmarks in downtown Littleton.

Come pick up a copy at the Historic Littleton Inc. booth on Aug. 16 during the Western Welcome Week festival day. The HLI booth will be on the west side of Tres Jolie, which is on the northeast corner of Prince and Main streets.

Bruce Wolf Grew Up at Historic Willowcroft

Bruce Wolf was a man of many accomplishments—a nationally recognized Realtor, an international horse show judge, a tireless civic volunteer who served on numerous boards and committees—and also a strong advocate for historic preservation.

When he died in April of this year he was serving as Co-President of Historic Littleton Inc. with his wife Mary. Bruce was one of the original members of the Second Century Fund, the predecessor to Historic Littleton Inc.

“Bruce really was committed to historic preservation,” said Mike Massey, founder of the SCF.

Bruce’s interest in historic preservation isn’t surprising, considering that he grew up in one of the most historic homes in the Littleton area—Willowcroft Manor, which was designed by R.S. Roeschlaub in 1884 for Joseph Bowles.

Willowcroft is a beautiful Queen Ann style home built of pink rhyolite stone that is located on Middlefield Road in Columbine Valley.

Joseph Bowles was one of the first pioneers in the Littleton area, staking out a claim of 160 acres on what became Bowles Avenue in the early 1860’s. He eventually owned 2,000 acres west of the Platte River and became prosperous enough to commission the architect of the Central City Opera



Bruce leads a tour of Willowcroft in 2001

ry floor, heated by furnaces and lighted by gas made on the premises. Nothing has been omitted that could add to the comfort and convenience of the household. It is one of the most elegant residences in the State, and surrounded by shrubbery and trees which have attained a mature growth, possesses most attractive features, and is a fitting home for pioneers who have

built up the country

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House to design a home for him in Littleton.

The 1884 edition of the *Colorado Live Stock Record* reported the following:

“Mr. Bowles has just completed a residence construct-

ed of Castle Rock rose colored lava in Queen Ann style, from a design by R.S.

Roeschlaub, architect of Denver. The plans combined beauty of design with solidity of construction...It is furnished with hot and cold water on eve-



Bruce and Mary Wolf

