



Littleton Boulevard Needs Survey

The mid-century modernist buildings on Littleton Boulevard were one of five sites selected by Colorado Preservation Inc. to be on the 2014 Colorado's Most Endangered Places list.

The list was announced Feb. 6 at CPI's Saving Places conference.

Being placed on this list does not put on any restrictions or give any protections to the buildings, but it alerts a community to the importance of these historic structures and to the danger of losing them to "progress" or neglect.

CPI would like to initiate a formal survey of the buildings built after World War II (from 1949 to 1967) on Littleton Boulevard and a surrounding two-block area to help future city councils and preservationists know which ones are worthy of preserving.

The buildings range from "brutal" concrete structures, such as the Littleton Law Cen-

CPI believes buildings such as these should be surveyed professionally to assess their architectural and historical importance and their significance to the automobile/suburban context of the 1950's to 1960's.

"The Littleton area exploded in growth in the 1950's...Life in the 1950's was centered



ter, shown above, to the IREA building at 1449 W. Littleton Blvd. with its colorful tile mosaic wall (shown at top right) to the fanciful shapes of the buildings shown at bottom right.

While Littleton's Main Street has been the focus of most of the city's preservation efforts and funds to date, Littleton Boulevard has been an unnoticed step-child until now.



around progressive thinking and a new modern era," the CPI brochure states. "Mid-Century Resources are under attack throughout the

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

Mid-Century Buildings Showcase Modernism

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county. Often seen as dated and obsolete, they fall victim to the wrecking ball and demolition by neglect.”

Preservationist Diane Wray Tomasso said that until a survey is complete, modernist gems such as the Sternberg building, below, and the office building to the right are among “the most threatened architectural landmarks in Littleton.” Preserving Littleton Boulevard’s modernist buildings is essential to preserving the character of Littleton, she said.



What is Modernism?

After World War II architects were inspired to create a new world, free from the political and architectural forms of the past.

Modernism became the preeminent aesthetic expression of the 1950's through the 1970's.

Architects such as Mies van der Rohe, Le Corbusier, and Frank Lloyd Wright were key influences. They emphasized paring buildings down to the essentials, crafting them to the highest standards and using materials such as glass, steel and concrete in new or expressive ways.

Doors Open Denver

The 10th annual free look at some of Denver's best architecture, Doors Open Denver, will be held April 12-13.

This year 63 buildings will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. both days. Bike and walking tours and activities will be held in 12 Denver neighborhoods such as Capitol Hill, LoDo and Hilltop. Go to website www.doorsopendenver.com for more information.

The Historic Littleton Inc. newsletter is published for members of HLI as part of their membership contribution. Email comments to: rebeccakast@earthlink.net.

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It's Time to Renew Your Historic Littleton, Inc. Membership for 2014 (if you haven't yet)!

Historic Littleton, Inc. has been active in fostering a positive spirit towards historic preservation in Littleton since October, 2000. Not only does historic preservation keep valuable community assets available for our children and grandchildren, it also helps the community's economic base.

Historic Littleton members receive periodic newsletters, are invited to participate in special tours and events, and are directly involved in promoting historic preservation in the greater Littleton area. Memberships need to be renewed each year. If you have already renewed for 2014, we thank you!! If you haven't please fill in the form below.

Besides the regular \$30 membership, this year we are also offering VIP memberships. VIP members will be invited to a cocktail party May 16 in a historic Littleton home and to a private tour at a date to be determined.

You can always upgrade your membership to VIP status!!!

Thanks for your participation and for helping with the preservation effort.

Sincerely, The Board of Directors of Historic Littleton, Inc.

Please renew my HLI membership:

_____ \$30 Regular Dues

_____ \$100 VIP Membership

Mail this form to:

Barb Eaton, Membership Chair
7484 West Laurel Avenue
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(Historic Littleton, Inc. wants this information solely for its own records. It will not be shared with any other individual or organization.)