



Landmark Designation Criteria Update: Adding Cultural Significance

Goal: Increase equity in Landmark designations.

Proposal: Expand the designation criteria to include cultural significance. This will provide greater opportunity to designate structures and districts that reflect the breadth of Denver’s diversity and rich cultural history.

Goal: Streamline designation eligibility to ensure clarity for applicants and the public.

Proposal: Remove categories to create a list of criteria while still maintaining our high standards for designation.

CURRENT CRITERIA

Landmarks must meet at least one criterion in at least two categories.

A. History

1. Have direct association with the historical development of the city, state or nation;
2. Be the site of a significant historic event; or
3. Have direct and substantial association with a person or group of persons who had influence on society.

B. Architecture

1. Embody distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or type;
2. Be the significant work of a recognized architect or master builder;
3. Contain elements of architectural design, which represent a significant innovation
4. Portray the environment of a group of people or physical development of an area in an era of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.

C. Geography

1. Have a prominent location or be an established, familiar and orienting visual feature of the contemporary city;
2. Promote understanding and appreciation of the urban environment by means of distinctive physical characteristics or rarity;
3. Make a special contribution to Denver’s distinctive character

PROPOSED CRITERIA

Landmarks must meet at least three of these ten criteria.

1. Have direct association with a significant historic event or with the historical development of the city, state, or nation;
2. Have direct and substantial association with a recognized person or group of persons who had influence on society;
3. Embody the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style or type;
4. Be a significant example of the work of a recognized architect or master builder;
5. Contain elements of design, engineering, materials, craftsmanship, or artistic merit which represent a significant innovation or technical achievement;
6. Due to its prominent location or physical characteristics, represents an established and familiar feature of the neighborhood, community or contemporary city;
7. Promote understanding and appreciation of the urban environment by means of distinctive physical characteristics or rarity;

(PROPOSED CULTURE CRITERIA)

8. Represents an era of culture or heritage that allows an understanding of how the site was used by past generations;
9. Be a physical attribute of a neighborhood, community, or the city that is a source of pride or cultural understanding;
10. 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.

Proposed Definition of Culture:

Culture shall mean the traditions, beliefs, customs, and practices of a particular community. Culture can encompass structures, businesses, institutions, organizations, events, arts, and crafts.