



STAFF BRIEF

This document is the staff's comparison of the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation, Design Guidelines for Denver Landmark Structures and Districts, the Landmark Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 30, Revised Municipal Code) and other applicable adopted area guidelines as applied to the proposed application. It is intended to provide guidance during the commission's deliberation of the proposed application. Guidelines are available at www.denvergov.org/preservation

Address:	1340 N Pennsylvania St.	LPC Meeting:	May 5, 2026
Name of Property:	Margaret Tobin Brown House	Staff:	Kara Hahn
Council District:	#10 - Chris Hinds		
Applicant/Owner:	Historic Denver Inc. and History Colorado		

Project Scope Under Review:

National Register of Historic Places amendment. The 1972 National Register nomination only considers Criterion C. This current amendment focuses on Margaret Brown.

In accordance with Colorado's Certified Local Government (CLG) guidelines, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places must be presented to the local historic preservation commission for review and comment.

Please Note: Via discussions with the National Park Service, History Colorado will add a concluding paragraph summarizing the property's National level of significance, particularly focusing on Margaret Brown's role in Western history. This will be added after the Colorado State Review Board meeting.

Additionally, there is a Colorado State Register of Historic Properties continuation sheet that will also go to the State Review Board meeting. This continuation sheet includes similar information on Margaret Brown under Criterion B, but it also addresses Criterion A for Social History/LGBTQ+ History in association with a men's boarding house and under Criterion A for Planning and Development in association with the establishment of Historic Denver, Inc. and Denver's community-led preservation activities. As a CLG, Denver Landmark does not review Colorado State Register nominations.

Staff Summary:

Recommendation: The National Register nomination be FORWARDED to the Keeper of the National Register at the National level of significance.

Basis: The 1340 Pennsylvania Street house, also known as the Margaret Tobin Brown (or simply the Molly Brown House), is eligible for the National Register at the national level under Criterion B, with Social History/Women's History, for its association with Margaret Tobin Brown, a significant philanthropist and social advocate in women's and family history. Immortalized as "Unsinkable Molly Brown," Margaret Tobin Brown is a significant figure in America's westward expansion as a prominent socialite, activist, and philanthropist who used her national fame and wealth to propel causes important to her. In 1912, she became a national figure as a survivor of the Titanic sinking, and a supporter of fellow survivors left indigent or without family by the tragedy. Brown would eventually attract further attention from the national press as she made forays into the labor and women's suffrage movements. In 1914, Brown gained further national attention when she considered running for the U.S. Senate in Colorado. Her ambitions were heavily covered in the media and brought substantial attention to not only the women's suffrage movement, but also the role of women in national politics.

Staff Comments: Staff finds that the Margaret Tobin Brown House is eligible for the National Register at the National level and recommends forwarding to the Keeper. However, we also recommend a few edits to the nomination. The

nomination does not put forward that Margaret Brown has exceptional national significance, which would be needed for National Historic Landmark status. There are some sections that use that language; we would recommend that language be slightly tweaked to focus on her national significance and her role in the West.

Suggested Motion: I move to RECOMMEND that the National Register nomination for the Margaret Tobin Brown House, at 1340 Pennsylvania Street, be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, with the recommended edits to alter text reference to exceptional national significance, per presented testimony, submitted documentation, and information provided in the staff report.

END