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Homeowners
of Old
Houses
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June 2010 Edition

Denver's Old House Society is a new nonprofit dedicated to educating owners of old (50+ years) houses and helping them protect their neighborhoods.

Dear Old-House Lover,

Imagine a lovely Saturday, having a delicious brunch at one of Denver's special Victorian homes in the Curtis Park neighborhood and visiting with the delightful and genteel owner, "Mr. Curtis Park," himself, Bill West, about his home, his cottage next door, his Victorian gardens, his persistent passion to gain historic designation for this important Denver neighborhood, and Denver history, among other things? Well, you can! Please join us for brunch and open house at Bill West's Saturday, June 19. Tickets are still available.

Wonder what happened to the historic Bosler Home in Highlands Park whose owner, Keith Painter, wants it demolished? Well, read below. and also about another bizarre incident involving a Highlands home that may be demolished after neighbors fought to save their neighborhood from development.

Yes, our advocacy committee has been busy. Would you like to help? Then, please contact us to volunteer.

The city and county of Denver has been one of our partners from the beginning. We are starting a new column with this issue called "Cityscape" that is written by a staff member or elected official. The first contributor is staff member Jeremy Wells.

We want to thank the reader who contacted us after reading about a solution of vinegar and water to clean wood floors. He wrote us about the harm vinegar can cause. We greatly appreciate this feedback and checked with the article's author about the vinegar solution. The author reported that she had used a mild vinegar solution on her floors in several homes for over 25 years and did not know of any damage caused. She stressed that she used very little vinegar.

Remember you can find us on Facebook and Twitter!

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Summertime - Painting the Exterior of your Old House

For many years, the predominate color of old Denver houses or exterior trim on brick homes was white. Now, with renewed interest in the historical value of old houses, many homeowners are painting their houses similar colors to the ones used originally.

Tickets Still Available For Bunch at Bill's Great Victoria - June 19!

Meet "Mr. Curtis Park," Himself!

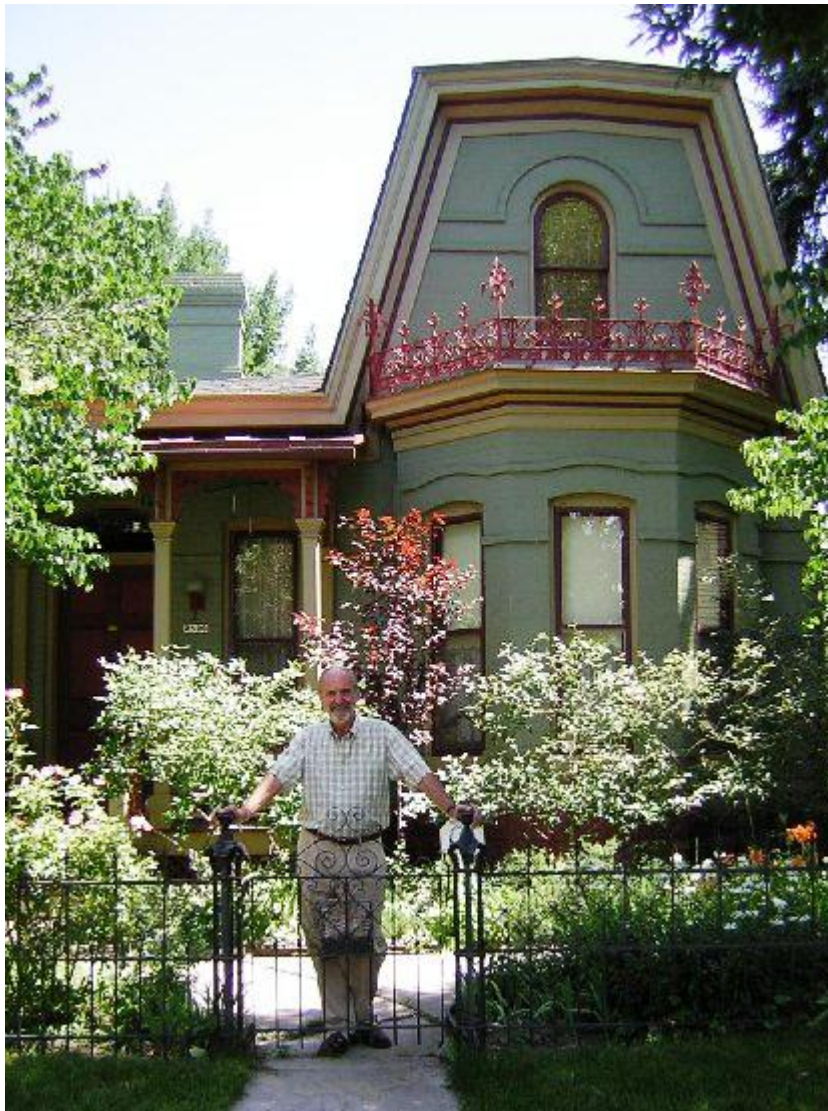


Photo Courtesy of Bill West

You are invited to an open house and light brunch in Curtis Park at the home of "Mr. Curtis Park, himself," Bill West. The open house is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, June 19. The tickets cost \$35 each and are limited to the first 100 people. To purchase, send a check to the Society at P. O. Box 11514, Denver, CO 80211, [purchase with a credit card](#) or at select locations.

Bill has a beautiful and authentic Victorian home and is an accomplished gardener. His gardens reflect the Victorian era with showy and specimen plants. This year he received the Society's "Exceptional Old House Educator Award," for his investigation of Curtis Park's rich history and successful numerous applications for historic designation throughout this area, one of Denver's oldest neighborhoods.

Participants will tour Bill's home, the historic cottage next door and the lovely Victorian gardens at both residents. He will be available throughout the event to answer questions about these homes, the gardens, Curtis Park and Denver history.

Michael Ritchie
Shirley Schley
Mike Shannon
Brian Shaw
Janet Shaw
Barbara Sheldon
Gerre Shenkin
Jean Shirley
Tom & Jackie Short
Tom & Laurie
Simmons
Wendy Sjorn
Nancy Stewart
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Victoria Thomas
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Bill West
Will White
Nancy Widmann
Chris & Sarah Witte
Barbara Wright
Barbara Yost
Amy Zimmer
Dixie Zukerman

Join Our Mailing List!

Bill owns the little cottage next door, so participants will be able to see both houses and the gardens they share!

Colors for Victorians

Generally built before the twentieth century, "Victorians" often had paint schemes of five or more colors .



Photo by Elizabeth Wheeler

Two Homes in the Highlands May Go Down

After working for months and months to get his neighborhood rezoned from R2 to R1 and then getting a building moratorium from City Council, West Highlands resident Anthony Cooper learned that his own neighbor's house may be torn down and a duplex (with rooftop party decks?) may be built because of timing twists and turns with the developer and the City. Now, the home's fate is up to the Board of Adjustment. You can add your comments to the developer's UTube presentation about the quality of this old house he plans to tear down, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHZCqEPbVvw>, and to a Denver Post account of it, <http://bit.ly/am13Hc>

At the demolition hearing of The Landmark Preservation Commission on Tuesday, June 1, Keith Painter, the owner of the historic Bosler House, which is across from Highland Park, near Speer and Federal Boulevard, did not present a structural engineer's findings supporting his claim that the house is unsound. As a result, the Commission postponed the hearing until September, to accommodate Mr. Painter's request that he could not attend a Commission hearing this summer after getting an structural engineer's report because his children were out of school for the summer.

The Commission noted that Mr. Painter had been cited by the City for not protecting his home from the elements. Denver's Old House Society's Advocacy Chair Jude Aiello gave testimony at the hearing and strongly requested that new legislation be developed with stringent penalties for owners of historic homes that purposely neglect them to the point of requesting demolition. [Letter](#)

Home of the Arts & Crafts Era Reflected and Revered Nature

Paint colors for the Bungalow, Craftsman, Cottage, Tudor and Denver Square were very different than Victorian styles because they were a direct reaction to the "gaudiness and fussiness" of the Victorian era and revelry for nature. Soft gray green, gray yellow, gray terra cotta, gray blue and grey were popular colors. The use of three colors were common.

Denver's Old House Society Presents a Guided Walking Tour in Capitol Hill Followed by a Garden Party in a Castle - July 24



Photo by Elizabeth Wheeler **The Castle Marne**

Spend part of a lovely Saturday morning, July 24, from 10 a.m. to noon on a guided walking tour in Capitol Hill followed by a garden party at the nationally recognized bed and breakfast, Castle Marne, 1572 Race. The outdoor tour focuses on the architecture of Denver's most eclectic architect in the 19th Century, William Lang, Colorado's greatest

depression - the Silver Bust of 1893 - as well as the area's 150 year-old history. Afterwards, enjoy light refreshments at Castle Marne and a tour of this wonderful stone building. Participants are limited to the first 100 ticket holders. The \$10 ticket can be purchased via [credit card](#), by mailing a check to P. O. Box 11514, Denver, CO 80211, at select locations listed on our Web site, or at King Soopers stores, starting July 1. Tickets are limited to 100 people.

The tour will begin and end at the Castle Marne, 1532 Race, which is in the famous Wyman Historic District. Participants will be put in small groups with a tour guide. The tour will last about one hour, covering approximately a four-block area, and the garden party will follow. Comfortable shoes are suggested. Several drawings will be held.

When this part of Capitol Hill was being developed, Colorado was booming primarily from mining and ranching. Some of the state's richest people had grand, highly decorated homes built in this area and Colfax Avenue was "the" address to have! After the Silver Bust in 1893, large homes were still being built in this area; but, they did not have ostentatious exteriors, only pretentious interiors.

Good Paint Color Books

"Bungalow Colors: Exteriors," by Robert Schweitzer and "Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings," edited by Roger W. Moss are great resources for paint color.

Cityscape

How the City Helps to Preserve Denver's Built Heritage –

By Jeremy Well, Historic District / Landmark Preservation, Community Planning & Development City and County of Denver

Have you been curious as to the role that the city of Denver plays in helping to preserve our historic places? Or perhaps you've heard the phrases, "design review," "landmark review," or "designation," but aren't sure what they mean? [Read on](#) for the answers to these questions.

Thought You Would Like To Know ---

The ninth season of Congress Park Neighbors Historic Speakers series is presented by the CPN Historic Preservation and Education Committee. Lectures run May through October, with a lecture given the last Wednesday of each month. The lectures are held at Heitler Hall, National Jewish Hospital, at 7 PM, unless otherwise stated. [Note the change of day, location, and time for the October research session at the public library.](#) Lectures are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the lot on Jackson Street. This schedule is also posted on the Congress Park web site at www.congressparkneighbors.org.

Denver's Old House Society strives to leave a legacy of charming Denver neighborhoods of well-preserved old houses, sensitively maintained, jewels of the "Queen City of the Plains."

Sincerely,

Denver's Old House Society

Denver's Old House Society | P. O. Box 11514 | Denver | CO | 80211