



HISTORY *Colorado*

March 16, 2018

Gretchen Hollrah
Executive Director
Mayor's Office of the National Western Center
City & County of Denver
201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept 205, Denver, CO 80202

Dear Gretchen:

As a partner in the redevelopment of the National Western Center, History Colorado thanks the Mayor's Office of the National Western Center and its partners for the effort that has been undertaken to determine an avenue to preserve the legacy of the building at 4701 Brighton Boulevard. We support the decision to dismantle the building and reconstruct the façade at a future date as an important element in the National Western Center Complex.

The Two-Part Commercial Type block building constructed in 1906 was determined eligible by the staff of the City & County of Denver Landmark Preservation for its association with the development of the Elyria Neighborhood and as an established, familiar, orienting visual feature of that area of the city. "The building provided essential services to those living in Elyria during the early decades of the 20th century, including a drug store, grocery store, and meeting hall. The building is also associated with Burton Fuller, a prominent Elyria- resident and mayor." The National Western Center Citizens Advisory Committee and residents of the Elyria Neighborhood have stressed the importance of this building to their community and its history; they have a strong desire that it be preserved as part of the National Western Center redevelopment.

While the optimal preservation method is to rehab a building in its present location, the need to widen this section of Brighton Boulevard does not allow the building to remain at the corner of Brighton Boulevard and 47th Avenue, at least as it currently sits. After extensive investigation by the City and partner organizations, proposals to lift the building and move it west on the same lot proved not to be economically feasible. Given the constraints, deconstructing the building and reconstructing the exterior brick façade, windows and doors around a new structural frame is the most viable option. The scope of work detailed by the Mayor's Office of the National Western Center ensures that these integral architectural features of the building will be documented and stored in a manner to allow for reconstruction in the near future. If the building can be rebuilt in the "new location" of the corner of Brighton Boulevard and 47th Avenue, it has the potential to be designated a local Denver Landmark in the future.

Thanks again to the Mayor's Office of the National Western Center and all the partners of the National Western Center in working to maintain this important piece of Elyria's history as part of the new National Western Center.

Sincerely,

Steve W. Turner, AIA
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Mark A. Rodman
Chief Preservation Programs Officer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer