

Recent Postings on 9milecornerpillars.com

From: Rebecca Sulka <rsulka@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 12, 2022 at 8:37 PM
Subject: 9 mile corner Memorial pillars
To: <wdmaddme@gmail.com>

Hello,

Thank you for allowing folks to watch the meeting at the YMCA on 4/12/22 via zoom!
I understand that one hundred years ago that intersection was intended to be a 'gateway' off the 'Lincoln Highway' to Boulder and the structures are WW1 memorial pillars.

I really appreciated hearing the story of someone who knew they were a memorial and remembers the gateway before the turnpike was built. I've lived just a few miles from them for 28 years and I'm only now learning of their significance. There was no way, even before the recent CDOT work, that I was going to get out of my car and walk around them. Knowing how special the memorial pillars are to that community member, I say this with sympathy, I'm afraid when they built the turnpike, with it's sweeping views of the Boulder valley the 'gateway' purpose of those pillars was replaced by highway 36.

That being said the memorial has not been honored as it should be, like the way that man would straighten up, turn and salute.

I agree with the idea to keep them as close to where they are as possible. My personal hope is that there could be a considerable effort to find somewhere along the "Lincoln" highway where the pillars could stand as a frame of the beautiful back range view, and that one day we could all read the names on those memorials in safety with the opportunity for deep reflection.

That's my 2 cents...

Thanks again,
Becky Sulka
303-907-8025

From: Steve Hartmeyer <sjh17@indra.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 9:17 PM
Subject: Pillar comments post-forum
To: <wdmaddme@gmail.com>

To the Members of the Mitigation Working Group:

I'm offering my commentary as a 24-year resident of Lafayette with an interest in history, local and otherwise, as the son of a U.S. Army veteran (of Vietnam), and as a citizen who has passed by the pillars on errands or my commute nearly every day for these last 24 years. I attended the public forum at the YMCA in Lafayette out of concern for the future of the pillars, and was very gratified to learn via that forum that there are many individuals and groups that have taken an interest in trying to resolve the present situation favorably.

I would like to express my appreciation to Bill Meyer and the Boulder Rotary Club in particular for spearheading efforts to communicate with the general public about this matter, and to CDOT for soliciting community involvement in determining a course of action.

In hearing numerous constructive comments from my fellow citizens during the forum, and seeing the written alternatives offered in the pamphlet presented at the forum, my original generalized opinion of the situation has become clarified, and I would share it thusly:

First of all, it appears nearly self-evident that although preservation in-situ might be desirable to many for the historicity of the location, and potentially less expensive, in-situ "preservation" cannot possibly be considered practical.

A reconstruction of the intersection of US 287 and Arapahoe, impactful to the pillars, has just been completed. Relocation of one of the pillars previously took place in an earlier reconstruction of this intersection. There is every reason to expect that this intersection must be reconstructed again in the future due to continuing growth and changing transportation needs in the vicinity. There can and will only be more traffic at this location in the future as Erie continues to expand and the population of Boulder County grows. Furthermore, several speakers at the forum very clearly complained about the current configuration of the intersection with apparent justification, suggesting that there will be considerable impetus to have the intersection subject to reconfiguration again immediately or in the very near future, and any further adjustments are likely to be a detriment to the pillars.

Therefore, I argue there is no valid choice except to relocate the pillars, despite the potential expense.

I was pleased to see a list of suggested alternative locations expressed in the pamphlet, several of which were described in remarks by Mr. Meyer. I concur with the opinion expressed by the representative of the Daughters of the American Revolution who attended, that the pillars if relocated should be placed in a space that will permit visitors to view them close-up, and that such a space should include interpretive signage, at least similar in quality to interpretive signage common in Boulder County Open Space.

It should be obvious that such signage should include information about the pillars' former location, and the reasons for being placed there originally, and the reasons for relocation.

I very much appreciated Mr. Meyer's suggestion that members of the CU ROTC cadre attend the pillars on Veteran's Day. Although for various reasons locating the pillars on the CU campus may not be ideal, I should like to think that a relationship with the CU ROTC program could and should be fostered such that the pillars may be treated as the memorial they were meant to be, and become a site for remembrance ceremonies. When I was a Boy Scout, I recall that ceremonies of respect for veterans were occasionally attended by members of my troop, and perhaps local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops could similarly be enlisted along with ROTC students and various local veterans' groups to volunteer to help maintain the grounds and organize appropriate ceremonies.

Several locations mentioned in the pamphlet are appealing, foremost among them in my mind possibly being Legion Park. I am not very familiar with this park except to know its location along Arapahoe Road, despite having lived in Boulder County for 29 years, but it seems to have the potential to be a quiet space conducive to remembrance and ceremony. Many other suggested locations in busier parts of the county would lack this advantage (for example, the US 36 overlook may be scenic, and a gateway, but I think constant noise from an immediately-adjacent major divided highway is hardly appropriate for peace and remembrance).

As much as I would like to recommend keeping the pillars as near as possible to their original location (now in Lafayette), I think it is most important to place them in a new location where (a) they can be decently preserved, (b) they can be readily visited by the public, (c) they can be accompanied by signage, and ideally (d) new memorials to veterans of more recent conflicts (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan were all mentioned in passing at the forum) may be added to a potential landscape or garden of remembrance.

It would seem that an existing large park or open space location would lend itself to these goals better than placement near retail or within a confined municipal public space might do.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion. When it comes time to gather funding for the expenses to removing and preserving the pillars, please ensure to contact me. I pledge at this time to contribute no less than \$1000.00 toward this cause once a funding vehicle is available.

Best regards,

Steven J. Hartmeyer

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From: Barbara Torres <BTorres@care4denver.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 26, 2022, 10:06 AM

Subject: Pillar preservation

To: wdmaddme@gmail.com <wdmaddme@gmail.com>

The purpose of the pillars was not only to honor the soldiers of WWI but also to entice tourists to come to Boulder. It's important to keep in mind this DUAL purpose. The pillars were meant to be a Gateway and were put at their location for a reason. They were not meant for people to get out of their cars and have a moment/place to reflect. All of Arapahoe was the "Road of Remembrance" where people could reflect about the soldiers of Boulder County as they drove to Boulder.

The pillars aren't in anyone's way. Let's not rape the intersection like Boulder did with the 75th Street intersection.

The people who want the pillars moved are likely not Boulder County natives. They didn't drive through them to get to Denver like we used to do. They have no special ties or memories of the pillars. To move them would render them almost meaningless because they would lose half of their purpose. They would no longer be a Gateway to Boulder from 287 they were intended to be.

Barbara (Woodley) Torres

Boulder native