

**FRIENDS OF RED ROCKS POSITION STATEMENT: Proposed Colorado Music Hall of Fame
2015**

Friends of Red Rocks opposes plans to build a new structure to house the Colorado Music Hall of Fame at the Trading Post Overlook in Red Rocks Park.

Our position is based on the following:

1. The Trading Post, or Indian Concession House, has been an integral part of Red Rocks Park since it was built by the Mountain Parks Department in 1931.
2. The Trading Post is recognized as an important example of Pueblo Revival architectural style.
3. The Trading Post was named a Denver Historic Landmark in 1994. The designation describes its historic, geographical and cultural importance to the City of Denver.
4. *Building an addition or extension to the Trading Post, or building a new structure in proximity to it, would degrade the architectural integrity of the Trading Post as a separate structure.* This is the case no matter how sensitively the new structure is designed.
5. *Building a new structure in this location would mar and partially block access to one of the most beautiful areas in red Rocks Park, with views extending out into dramatic rock formations to the south.* The Overlook is simply not large enough to accommodate a new structure of any kind.
6. The Trading Post is listed as an important contributing feature in the NHL nomination. In addition, the nomination lists the "Trading Post Overlook (c. 1935)" and the "Trading Post Outbuilding (c. 1935)" as contributing structures. The outbuilding would be lost in any new construction, as would a number of trees.
7. The 1995 Red Rocks Park Master Plan called for the Trading Post to become a Visitor Center, providing "services for interpreting the history and significance of the Park" including interpretive exhibits and "personnel trained or knowledgeable in the Park's cultural and natural resources." This was in fact the function of the original "Indian Concession House," but it has disappeared almost entirely in recent years. The use of the Trading Post as an interpretive Visitor Center for the Park is also emphasized in the 1994 Denver Landmark designation.
8. The CMHOF seems to be predicated on an indefinite program of expansion to incorporate exhibits on each new "class" of inductees, thus creating continual pressure to find more space. If successful in generating visitorship, it will exacerbate parking problems in what is already a very tight space.
9. The CMHOF has been presented as a fait accompli, without the approval of the Denver Landmark Preservation Commission or the Denver City Council, and without the opportunity for any public input.
10. Building a museum at the Trading Post Overlook creates a precedent. Other groups and institutions will see it a green light for building in other parks.