




1. Title / Content Area:	Denver Botanic Gardens	  
2. Historic Sites:	Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver	
3. Colorado Experience Episode	Denver Botanic Gardens Colorado Experience Denver Botanic Gardens	
4. Developed by:	Century Middle School Team, Adams 12 School District Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 School District	
5. Grade Level and Standards:	<i>Grade Level:</i> 6 th - HS <i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4 <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i> Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards 6 th : PGC 1-5, 7, 8 7 th : PGC 1-5, 7 8 th : PGC 1-5, 7 HS: PGC 1-5, 7, 8	
6. Assessment Question:	What are the economic and physical challenges of preserving a historic building built by a renowned architect once for private use, but now located in a public place?	
7. Contextual Paragraph	<p>The Richard Crawford Campbell House, designed by Jules Jaques Benois Benedict is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and was created as a home for his family. Designed as a luxury escape from the busy urban setting of Downtown Denver, the house was built in what many call a Mediterranean style, but what Benedict himself called the Beaux Arts style of architecture. This style includes many small details, luxurious materials and finishes, and often has a romantic feel to the building.</p> <p>This house was completed in 1927 and the Campbell family moved in only to live there a short while. Businessman Elmer G Hartner, owner of the Western Seed Company, purchased the home and lived there for 30 years while running his business downtown. He tended numerous gardens on the site and built a small greenhouse. Ruth Porter Waring purchased the home in 1958, then sold it to the Botanic Gardens for \$1.00. Today the home is being preserved by the Denver Botanic Gardens, and is located on</p>	

	<p>the site and used for offices and private meetings and events.</p> <p>Additionally, the site offers other types of architecture on the grounds including a wide collection of mid-century modern architecture features in the gardens, main buildings, and other areas. The Denver Botanic Gardens has developed an audio and visual guide to mid-century modern elements present on the property that are accessible to visitors. In addition their website states, “Denver Botanic Gardens emerged in the middle of the last century, a moment in time that is marked by optimism. American ideals and attitudes were affected by post-war hopefulness. The economy was booming and new technologies were finding their way into commercial goods, like appliances and cars. The design of this period was flavored with this enthusiasm for and confidence in innovation. As a result, the Gardens is home to some of Denver’s most significant architecture. Beginning in 1951 with its relationship with landscape architect and city planner Saco DeBoer, the Gardens has employed luminaries in landscape and building design, including architects Victor Hornbein and Ed White, Jr. and landscape designer Garrett Eckbo. The strength of their contributions and clarity of their vision continue to frame how the gardens are viewed and experienced to this day.”</p> <p>Elements of early 20th century architecture and mid-century architecture add beauty to the gardens through buildings which are surrounded by gardens and grounds, and offer visitors an opportunity to take a glimpse at several periods of architecture while visiting.</p>	
8. Connection to Historic Preservation	<p>The Richard Crawford Campbell House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July of 1979 and is significant for not only its architecture but for one of the businessmen (Campbell) who built it. Today the building is a hidden gem to many, resting in a section of the Denver Botanic Gardens not only as a testament to Jules Jaques Benois Benedict’s work as an architect, but also showing that a preserved building can be beautiful and functional as well in a setting that many would consider unique.</p>	

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Richard Crawford Campbell House

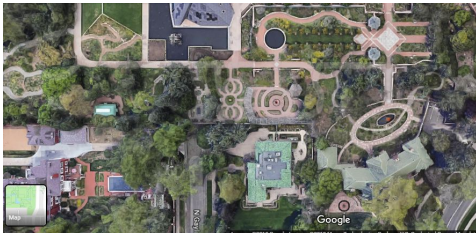


<https://www.historycolorado.org/location/richard-crawford-campbell-house>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What did you notice first about this building?
2. What are the architectural features of the building?
3. What is the physical setting of the building?
4. What materials could have been used in the creation of the building?
5. What do you think the use of the building was when it first was built?
6. What kinds of things could you use the building for today?

Google Earth image of the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Richard Crawford Campbell House



<https://www.google.com/maps/@39.7311579,-104.9606872,121m/data=!3m1!1e3>

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- 1) Consider the use of the site. The building is located on the grounds of the Denver Botanic Gardens. Using the map provided, locate the building. Why would this building be a destination location for people visiting the Botanic Gardens?
- 2) What would the challenges be of taking care of the building and grounds in this section of the Denver Botanic Gardens?
- 3) What would be something in this location that could harm the historic fabric of the building?
- 4) The Denver Botanic Gardens are compact and highly used by visitors. How does this complicate the ongoing protection and preservation of this historic building?
- 5) Research how the building is used today. Do you feel this is an appropriate use for this building? Why or why not?

Boettcher Memorial Center
Denver Botanic Gardens



http://navigate.botanicgardens.org/webui/oecgi2.exe/INET_ECM_GetFeature?X_PIXEL=42646&Y_PIXEL=31050&ZOOM=0&pinclick=1&TOURCODE=MIDCENTURYMODERN&showtaxon=2

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. What geometric designs are included by the architect in the design of this building?
2. How does the architect use designs from bricks, stone, windows, and concrete to create something that a person would want to look at?
3. How does the design of the entrance allow the person visiting to see the building and also the plants inside?
4. How does this building entrance contrast with the entrance to other buildings on the site such as the Richard Crawford Campbell House?

Assessment Question
What are the economic and physical challenges of preserving a historic building built by a renowned architect for private use, but now located in a public place?
Response