Golden’s historic places are under the constant threat of development and deterioration or neglect. In order to bring attention to special places not currently protected by historic designation, Golden’s Historic Preservation Board (HPB) identifies the city’s most endangered landmarks and landscapes annually.

With the aid of citizens, community organizations and preservationist organizations, HPB honors Golden’s historic treasures through the annual Endangered Sites List. The list brings awareness and attention to Golden’s historic treasures, and also serves to educate the community on the value of historic preservation of Golden’s unique places.

Individuals and organizations nominate sites for two reasons: to give a site breathing room while seeking funds or other assistance in preservation, and to prompt public conversation about saving historic places in Golden.

The sites selected for 2005 reflect the exceptional role that houses and structures have played in the history of Golden. Three sites were chosen for the list in 2005.
History is in our Hands

The Maple Street houses on the CSM campus are important historic homes of early 20th century Golden. The Van Tuyll residence, 1207 16th St., was home to two CSM professors and a social activist. The Kimball residence, 1616 Maple St., was home to a prominent Golden contractor, as well as a couple in the show business. It is one of the finest examples of Dutch-style architecture with a gambrel roof. The Doolittle residence, 1620 Maple St., was home to a prominent Golden merchant and was constructed after the City lifted its restrictions on the expansion of water lines following a prolonged water shortage in 1909. All three homes are endangered by plans to build a recreation center on the CSM campus. In a partnership between CSM and Golden, all three houses are up for transfer of ownership if the owners are willing to move the buildings to new locations.

The Quaintance Block was built in 1911 by Golden businessman Charles Quaintance, who ran the Castle Rock Resort on South Table Mountain. The building is a unique combination of Victorian and modern-trending elements foreshadowing Art Deco. The building was moved 65-feet west to its current location to make way for Golden’s first gas station. In 1953, it became the Spudnut Shop, a national chain that made potato flour donuts. The site is endangered by plans to expand the property on the corner of 13th Street and Washington Avenue. An expansion of the corner site could potentially block the public’s view of Quaintance Block and its unique corner lot architecture.

The Cambria Lime Kiln is the only remaining component of the Cambria Brick Works, a prominent plant in Golden industry from 1879 through the close of the 19th Century. The kiln helped create mortar and lime for use in building with the Cambria Brick Works’ bricks. What remains of the kiln structure is threatened by further decay. The City is pursuing funding opportunities to partially restore and stabilize the remaining structure in place.

These three places stand out among the other nominees as places that helped to define and continue to remind us today of Golden’s historical heritage. All three are endangered and deserve continued attention and vigilance, lest they be lost to development and decay. If given proper care and attention, they can all be preserved.