Granddaughter of a Governor of Ohio and Iowa, Elizabeth married William M. Byers in 1854. Together, they settled in Denver in 1859, where they helped found the city as prominent societal and business figures. Mr. Byers was most famous for founding the Rocky Mountain News newspaper, the first newspaper printed in Colorado.

Denver at the time had only dirt roads, no plumbing, and no sanitation, but plenty of unemployed miners and their families. In light of this, Elizabeth founded the Ladies Relief Society (now known as the United Way) in 1860, Denver’s first charity. She also built the first homeless shelter and orphanage in Denver.

After William’s death in 1903, he was awarded a window in the Hall of Fame in Colorado’s capitol building. Later, Elizabeth Byers was nominated for her important charitable work, as well as being the wife of the late William Byers (the primary reason). In response, Elizabeth said, “I note that I have been nominated, not for my own accomplishments, but because I am the wife of William Byers. I choose not to bask in reflective glory. And I choose not to have a window. Please don’t.” Today there is no window for Elizabeth Byers.

Located in Lot 90, Block 3.