

July 14, 2015

To: Mr. Steve Sadowsky and Historic Commissioners

Fm: Sipriano Arellano, Jr.

Re: Case #HDP - 2015 - 0501 2211 Willow Street Austin, Texas 78702

YOUTUBE PETITION TO HISTORIC COMMISSIONERS

<http://bit.ly/2211willow>

I am currently the owner of the above referenced property. I arrived in this home as a small child in the 1950's and have remained most of my adult life. Subsequently, I inherited the property after both of my parents passed away.

I am also a disabled American Veteran (Vietnam) with a desire to now retire. The sale of my home is now my only remaining asset. The City of Austin's Historic Department is currently blocking my sale due to refusing to release the building permit to my buyer.

I have read the above Historic Case Review you prepared on my home for further recommended research. You noted that the structure is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) as a Priority 2. My understanding for a Priority 2 is that the home would actually hold the integrity of the original exterior structure and would deserve historic attention as a contributing structure to Austin's history. The home at 2211 Willow Street is not inside the National Register of Historic Places nor the Willow-Spence Historic District of Austin. However, I do understand that it does lay within the E. Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Plan which notes in item #3 that the neighborhood "create and preserve all physical features and activities to reinforce neighborhood cultures".

I would like to innumerate below why 2211 Willow Street does NOT communicate historic architecture at this point in its structural lifetime, in addition, should neither be considered for rehabilitation or a reflection of the "working man" culture.

1. A fire occurred next door that completely destroyed 2213 Willow in the 1980's. That fire severely damaged the entire east side of the 2211 structure including the roof
2. The entire east side of the home was rebuilt including a complete replacement of the entire roof structure down to the beams and changed the pitch design
3. All of the window openings (including the front) were raised up and replaced with aluminum windows
4. Years earlier, a friend of the family accidentally backed into the front porch and caused damage to the west side porch area. My father then completely rebuilt the front porch including the overhanging roof area that had also begun to have leakage. He adjusted the angle of the previous construction and replaced all of the existing porch posts with much larger ones and a different molding base and caps.

5. Two years before the fire, my father tore off all of the west side area of siding and opened the area to install an oversized bay window (another decline in any architectural integrity)
6. Ramps were later added to the exterior of the home due to my Vietnam war disability.
7. The property is twice the size as the original structure including attached and detached ‘outbuildings’ that have now taken up all of the parking spaces since the empty lot next door has sold. That lot next door has never been developed according to the researchable history. This lot was our parking area for many years. Once that lot is built on, there will be no off street parking for my home which will cause a decline in value.
8. Due to all of the “add-ons” my parents had previously done to the smaller home, I have been advised that the impervious cover is excessively over the city’s guidelines and also encroaches the building set back lines in the rear including the area at the right side. This would leave no off street parking for this home unless the back structures were torn down (which would also need a demo permit).

I attempted to locate the type of architectural match at the Austin Research Center that you are trying to preserve inside this East Side Austin neighborhood based on your report. The left photo is the design you feel needs preservation and on the right is the picture of my home at 2211 Willow:



Austin Research Center



2211 Willow

Please advise the Commissioners to release the demo permit at your next Historic Advisory meeting for 2211 Willow Street. I have a need to sell my home to care for myself as a disabled veteran in my retirement years. I would be grateful for this sensitive consideration.

Kindest Regards,

Siprianao Arellano, Jr.