

Neighbors Oppose Demolition of Historic Balcones Drive Residence

Austin Historic Landmark Commission
P.O Box 1088
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Members of the Commission:

The undersigned neighbors of the residence at 3800 Balcones Drive respectfully oppose for now the requested demolition of that property. Such action would mean the tragic loss of one more piece of Austin's historic fabric.

The structure in question was designed by prominent architect Roland Roessner in the late 1950s for well-known physician Seldon Baggett and wife Jewel, who resided there until their deaths. The home is an excellent example of the Frank Lloyd Wright-style Mid Century Modern architecture practiced by Roessner. It is one of 15 that he designed in Austin. Tragically, six of them already have been destroyed. We actively support preservation of these valuable historic landmarks

Ironically, just a few hundred yards down Balcones from the requested demolition, another Roesser home stands a current outstanding example of appropriate preservation. That structure was acquired a year ago from the well-known Thorne family by David and Tracey Hime, who are currently completing an extensive renovation and expansion plan while preserving its original character and appearance.

Regretfully, we cannot support the requested action for 3800 Balcones unless and until

- The completion of an independent analysis of the stated foundation problems and the feasibility of remediation, and,
- A review of any contemplated replacement construction plans for scope, design and appearance compatibility with the neighborhood.

Respectfully,

Julian O. Read
3702 Balcones Drive

Dean and Mollie Davis
3801 Balcones Drive

Wayne and Mary Lou McDonald
3705 Balcones Drive

Robert and Karen Killeen
3701 Balcones Drive

David and Tracey Hime
3607 Balcones Drive
(Under historic preservation)

Laurie Humphreys
3403 Westledge Circle

Tonya Baxter
3700 Balcones Drive