

Dear Mr. Sadowsky:

Per our telephone conversation yesterday, I am writing to provide historic information regarding the structure at 1602 Garden St. This email contains only data that might be immediately useful as you complete your formal summary this morning. I will follow up this weekend with my formal letter of objection to demolition permit case no. PR-2016-033734.

1602 Garden Street's historic relevancy is its front-porch ironwork and its contribution on a larger scale to the blue-collar bungalow vernacular that is characteristic of the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood. I have been visited on several occasions since 2000 by a lady whose grandparents were the original owners of my home and who was raised in my home through the 1950s and 60s. On her last visit in approximately 2012, she explained to me that a resident in the neighborhood was a blacksmith who rendered ironwork for other residents throughout the neighborhood, that he created the decorative supports of my front porch, and that he did the same for the porch at 1602. If memory serves me, she stated that the identity of this blacksmith is her very grandfather. Attached are photographs of these pillars.

I believe that her last name is Ybarra. Due to the limits of online Travis County records, I was unable last night to retrieve the name of her grandfather. However, I do have contact information of a former neighbor who could help me to get in touch with Ms. Ybarra for further inquiry regarding the identity of the blacksmith.

Other than the porch's ironwork, 1602 if strictly preserved would be modest and unassuming. It poses no exception to the bungalows along the block or within the East Cesar Chavez neighborhood as a whole. However, its cultural value is its simple vernacular as a contribution on a larger scale to this community as it struggles to maintain a certain charm that attracts contemporary residents who love its sense of place. To focus only on 1602 is to miss the big picture of what makes our neighborhood a distinct patch in the quilt of Austin's unique neighborhoods. The contribution today of my house, of 1602, and of most other houses on the block is a character created in the 1920s through 50s by forced segregation, blue collar work, minority culture, generations of residency, caring among neighbors, community activism, survival of adversity, humor, stories, and for the most part homes treated well because they were hard-won castles built in part by the owners' own hands.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute. I can be reached either by return email or by telephone at 512.522.5124.

Sincere bygones,

***PaigeErinSchlender***

Columbia.U '96

U.Texas '06





