

Macon, Steven
1305A Waller Street
Austin, TX 78702

Re: 1003 East 14th Street / Demolition/Relocation Request / HDP-2017-0108

Historic Landmark Commissioners
One Texas Center
505 Barton Springs Rd, 5th Floor
Austin, TX 78704

Historic Landmark Commissioners:

My name is Steven Macon and I live at 1305A Waller Street. I am opposed to the applicant's request for removal of 1003 East 14th Street and had planned to attend the HLC meeting Monday April 10, 2017 to speak in opposition.

I am hoping that it will be acceptable to provide to you my comments and prepared remarks in writing for the public record as opposed to appearing and speaking at Monday's meeting. Public attempts at dialogue with the applicants via neighborhood meetings and commission hearings have been received with a high level of agitation and combativeness on their part that has made me uncomfortable with any further interactions.

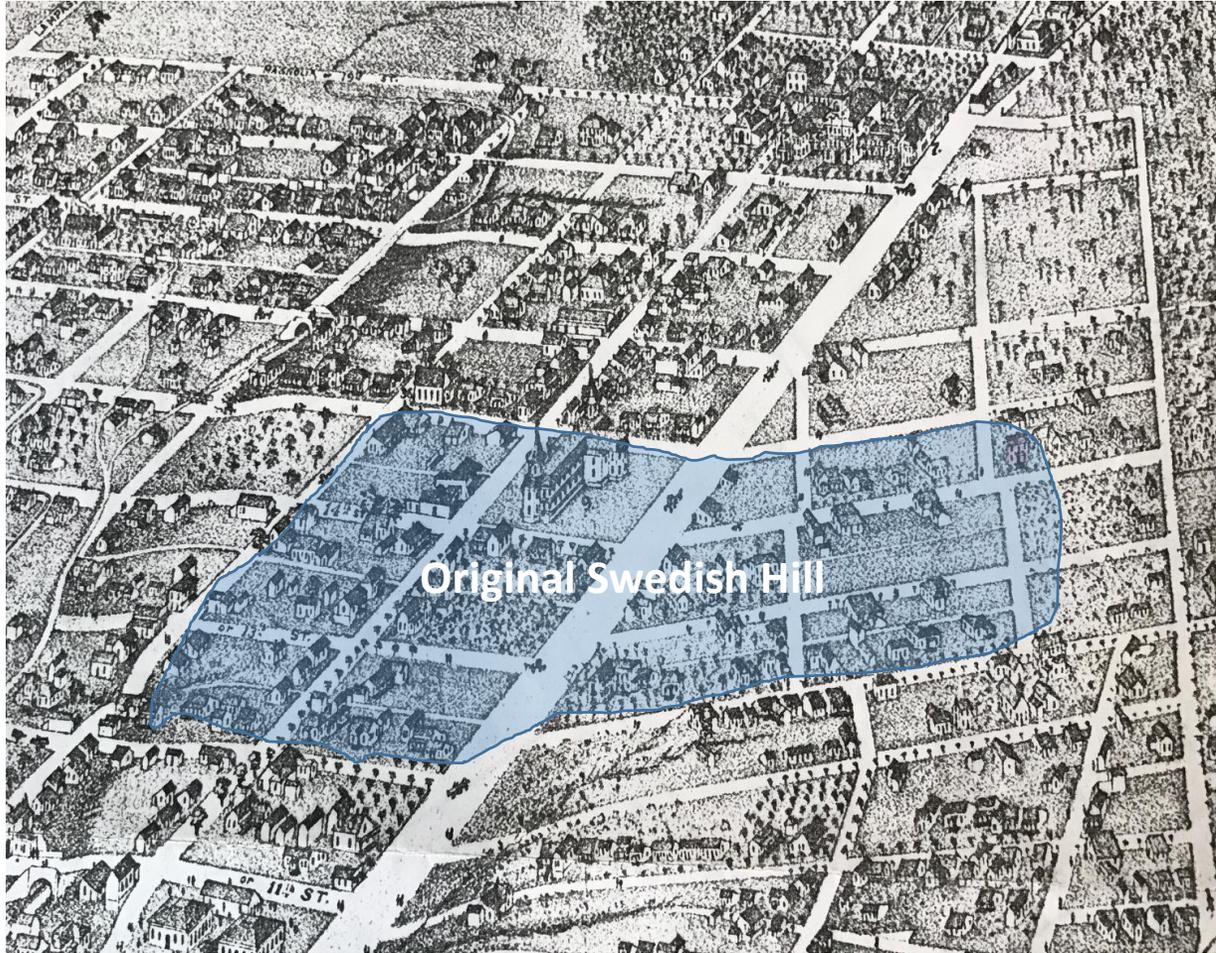
I am opposed to the demolition or removal of 1003 East 14th on the following grounds:

- This structure is referenced in 2000 & 2016 East Austin Historic Resources Surveys & 2004 TxDOT Cultural Resources Investigation as contributing to both potential local and National Register historic districts.
- The removal of this structure erodes the historic fabric of the area adjacent to the existing National Register district and degrades chances to achieve the districts proposed and envisioned in all three surveys.
- This structure was owned and occupied by long time Swede Hill residents whose heritage as 2nd generation working-class Swedish immigrants is representative of the Swede Hill's historic fabric.
- This structure is viable as a comfortable home and removal of this structure exacerbates affordability challenges for urban Austin.

I ask that you honor the intent of the 2016 East Austin Historic Survey and support the preservation of this structure and the integrity of the existing and future potential Swede Hill Historic District.

Thank you.
Steven Macon

1887 Austin



Svenska Kullen (Swedish Hill) Historical Significance:

One early European enclave of note was that of Swede Hill. Established in the mid-1870s, this neighborhood became home to most of the city's Swedish population who built their homes close to downtown businesses.

Swede Hill originally extended across East Avenue (now IH35) and was roughly bound by Waller, East 12th and Red River Streets and 15th Street.

By 1980's only a portion of Swede Hill east of IH35 remained intact as a neighborhood – and in 1986 a portion of what remained was added to the National Historic Register of Historic Places.

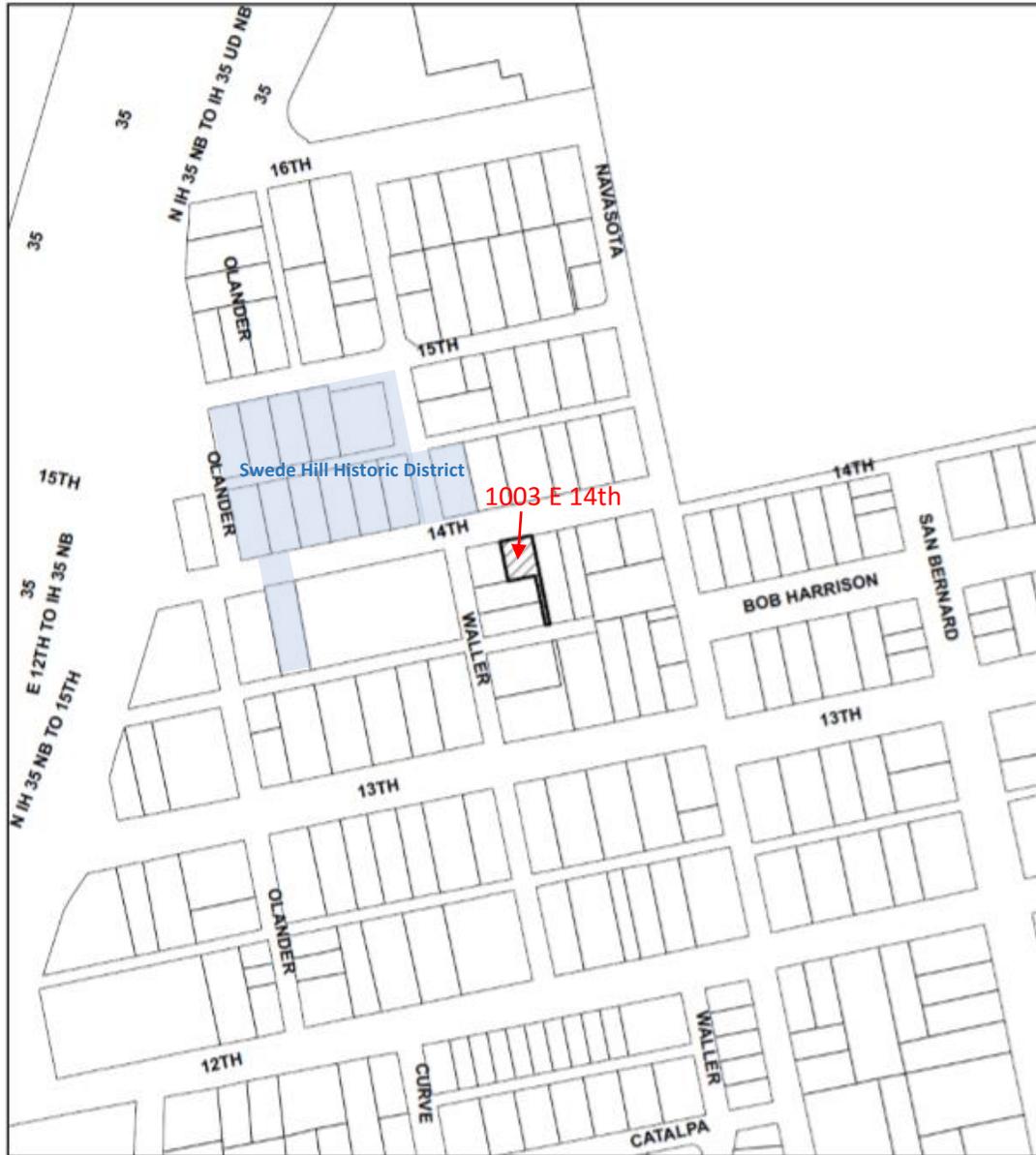
The Swedish Hill Historic District is the **best example in East Austin of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century, residential neighborhood which remains intact**. The structures demonstrate a consistence of setback, landscape, scale, and materials, and a craftsmanship and state of preservation which is unusual in the area.
- Texas Historical Commission

Very little of the original Swedish Hill Neighborhood remains today. East 14th and 15th streets have the highest concentration of landmark eligible homes in old Swede Hill. The existing Swede Hill Historic District covers this concentration of homes on East 14th & 15th.

1003 East 14th is across from 1000 East 14th “Blomquist Home” Historical Landmark and is adjacent to the existing Swede Hill NRHP District.



1003 East 14th



Swedish Hill National Register Historic District



East 14th & 15th Streets



Over the past 30 years – since 1987:

- 21 new homes have been built in “old” Swede Hill

Of these 21 new homes:

- 14 were built on previously vacated lots
- 4 were built with demo of homes with unknown status
- 3 were built with demo of “contributing” primary structures

One example:

Redevelopment along Waller Street between 13th and 14th entailed:

- Preservation & remodel of 1 primary structure
- Preservation & move of 1 out-building to another location in Swede Hill
- Preservation & move of 1 out-building to another location in East Austin
- Demo of 1 dilapidated / falling down out-building

Note:

“Contributing” is per 2016 East Austin Historical Resource Survey – Contributing to existing or potential NRHP district
 “Old” Swede Hill – defined as E 12th to E 16th; IH35 to Navasota

Significant in-fill of “old” Swede Hill has occurred but primarily without the demo of any “contributing” homes. With 3 recent demo’s there is a heightened sensitivity to any further loss of contributing homes.

-  new home built on previously vacated lots or with removal / demo of out-buildings
-  new home built with demo of contributing primary structure
-  new home built with demo of home with unknown status

1003 East 14th – Historical Survey Assessments

City of Austin East Austin Historic Resources Survey – September 2000:

Eligible for NRHP under Criteria A and C

Criteria A – that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history

Criteria C – that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction

Expansion of Swede Hill Historic District to include: all properties on 900-1000 blocks of East 14th and East 13th

City of Austin East Austin Historic Resources Survey – October 2016:

Contributing to potential Swede Hill Local Historic District and a NRHP district

Expansion of Swede Hill Historic District to include: roughly bounded by E 16th to north, Navasota to the east, south side of E 13th to the south and IH-35/Olander to the west

TxDOT Cultural Resources Investigation; Intensive Level Survey Report – September 2004

“The proposed Swedish Hill Historic District Extension is noteworthy for its historical and architectural significance (Criteria A and C).

It includes an intact grouping of 25 vernacular buildings dating from 1875 to 1955. 22 of the buildings have contributing status.”

Both the 2000 and 2016 East Austin Historical Resources Surveys as well as the 2004 TxDOT Cultural Resources Investigation recognize the architectural value of 1003 East 14th and its contribution to the Swede Hill Neighborhood’s historic context and potential local and National Register historic districts.

1003 East 14th – Owner Research / History

There were only 2 owners of the property from 1927-1972 - both 2nd generation Swedish immigrants.

William & Edith Pearson owned the home from 1927-1954.

William Pearson was a house painter & carpenter.

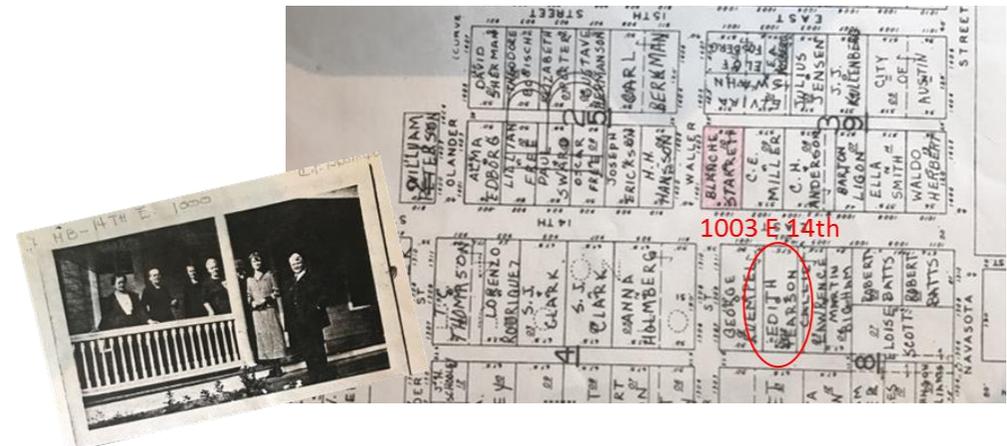
Harry & Elvera Collin owned the home from 1954-1972.

Harry Collin grew up in Swede Hill - his parents (Andrew & Augusta) lived one block over at 1004 East 13th Street.

Andrew Collin (Harry's father) worked as a stone cutter.

Harry Collin worked as a station operator, salesman at Standard Automotive and owner of Collin Auto Supply.

Home is an excellent example of an early 20th century working class home in a unique Swedish Austin neighborhood. Modest structures are worthy of preservation and contribute substantially to the historical fabric of the city.





1003 East 14th Street – Physical Condition

Home was lived in thru summer 2016 – pictures here were taken when home was listed for sale summer 2016.

Home condition does NOT preclude restoration / update.

Small preserved homes maintain the historical integrity of the city, NRHP districts & provide affordability.