

Bertron, Cara

From: Bertron, Cara
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 1:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: Cervantes, Rosa; Sustaita, Debra; Sadowsky, Steve (Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov)
Subject: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street
Attachments: HDP-2017-0513.pdf

Hi all,

I'm writing because you are listed in the City's Community Registry for the Montopolis neighborhood. You may have received a notice of a proposed demolition at 919 Valdez Street (see attached). The Historic Landmark Commission first heard the case at its October 23 meeting and postponed it, requesting more information about the property. The case will be heard again on November 27.

I'm wondering if you might have information about the history of the building or the congregations that occupied it. We know that the building was moved to the site around 1957 and housed two Assembly of God congregations: Gethsemane Assembly of God from 1962 to 1973, then Templo Getsemani de las Asambleas de Dios from 1977 to at least 1986 and likely later. The property was sold this past August. I've reached out to the sellers, but have not yet heard from them.

Do you have any additional information or suggestions as to where I should look? I would appreciate any information or ideas you can send by Monday, November 13. Of course, you are welcome to attend the public hearing on November 27 if you like; it will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, at 6 p.m.

Best,
Cara Bertron

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

Bertron, Cara

From: Delwin Goss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 6:15 PM
To: Bertron, Cara
Subject: Re: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street

I've reached out to the members of the Montopolis Community Alliance. A number of them have lived in Montopolis for multiple generations. No one could remembr anything that might indicate this home is of historical significance. Not saying the home was originally some how historic before it was moved to Montopolis but after moving the only things of note were the two churches.

thanks,
del

Delwin Goss President
Montopolis Community Alliance (M.C.A.)
Vice President C.L.A.S.P. Citizen Led Austin Safety Partnership

<http://www.claspatx.com>

Florence's Comfort House Vice President

<https://www.facebook.com/florencescomforthouse/>

City Of Austin Electric Board

<http://www.austintexas.gov/electricboard>

Recipient:

Austin Habitat for Humanity Extra Mile Award 2004

Graduate Inaugural Class Austin City Works Academy 2009

Texas Habitat for Humanity Leadership Conference 2010 Exceptional Service Award

Central Texas Crime Prevention Association 2011 Citizen Award

Presidential Service Award for Community Service 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

City of Austin, Texas; Austin Animal Services Golden Paw Award 2012

Coming of Age/ Travis County, Texas Recognition Award for over 2000 Community Service hours in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

Austin Habitat for Humanity Fuller Award for Life Time Achievement 2014

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Thu, Nov 2, 2017 at 1:11 PM, Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Bertron, Cara

From: Bertron, Cara
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 12:14 PM
To: 'Fred McGhee'
Subject: RE: Property in Montopolis neighborhood

Hi Fred,

Thanks for your quick response—much appreciated. I did see the photo in your book. Do you have any additional information on the property, or ideas as to where documentation might exist?

I'm going to follow up directly with an email to neighborhood stakeholders and will include you. They may have already received the public hearing notice, but it will be good to make sure.

Cara

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Fred McGhee [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 3:41 PM
To: Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Property in Montopolis neighborhood

Good Afternoon Cara,

Thanks for reaching out. This church is featured in my book "Austin's Montopolis Neighborhood" on page 88. There is little doubt that the property is an important part of the Montopolis community's religious history. That's why my book has so many pictures of churches in it.

Has this demolition permit been referred to the Contact Team for review and comment? It would be foolish for the landmark commission to approve the demolition permit in this case without a formal consultation. It would also be wise for the current owner to consult with the contact team.

Best,

flm

On Oct 31, 2017, at 09:50, Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Hi Fred,

I don't think we've met formally, but I'm the new-ish Deputy Historic Preservation Officer at the City. I'm reaching out to you because I'm researching a property in the Montopolis neighborhood, 919 Valdez,

and was wondering if you might have any information on it. The building was moved to the site in 1957 and housed two Assembly of God congregations, Gethsemane Assembly of God from 1962 to 1973, then Templo Getsemani de las Asambleas de Dios from 1977 to at least 1986 and likely later. The property was sold this past August and is now proposed for demolition.

I haven't been able to find information on either congregation or other activities at the building, but the Historic Landmark Commission postponed the case at its last meeting in hopes of learning more. I've reached out to the sellers with a request for a conversation and am waiting to hear back. Do you have any information or suggestions as to where I might look?

Thanks in advance for any ideas or leads.

Cara

Cara Bertron

Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 | cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Fred McGhee
To: [Bertron, Cara](#)
Cc: [Susana Almanza](#)
Subject: Re: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street
Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:45:14 AM

Hello Cara,

My recommendation is that the Historic Landmark Commission should withhold a demolition permit recommendation until a proper and good faith effort has been conducted to ascertain the property's historical significance.

This means that the current property owner should hire a qualified and credentialed consultant. Once a written document containing findings has been produced and shared with the commissioners as well as the community, everyone will be in a better position to act.

Regards,

flm

On Nov 2, 2017, at 13:12, Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Fred—

So sorry; I meant to include you on the email I just sent. It's pasted below.

Cara

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Bertron, Cara

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 1:12 PM

To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: Cervantes, Rosa <Rosa.Cervantes@austintexas.gov>; Sustaita, Debra <Debra.Sustaita@austintexas.gov>; Sadowsky, Steve <Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov>

Subject: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street

Hi all,

I'm writing because you are listed in the City's Community Registry for the Montopolis neighborhood. You may have received a notice of a proposed demolition at 919 Valdez Street (see attached). The Historic Landmark Commission first heard the case at its October 23 meeting and postponed it, requesting more information about the property. The case will be heard again on November 27.

I'm wondering if you might have information about the history of the building or the congregations that occupied it. We know that the building was moved to the site around 1957 and housed two Assembly of God congregations: Gethsemane Assembly of God from 1962 to 1973, then Templo Getsemani de las Asambleas de Dios from 1977 to at least 1986 and likely later. The property was sold this past August. I've reached out to the sellers, but have not yet heard from them.

Do you have any additional information or suggestions as to where I should look? I would appreciate any information or ideas you can send by Monday, November 13. Of course, you are welcome to attend the public hearing on November 27 if you like; it will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, at 6 p.m.

Best,
Cara Bertron

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov
<HDP-2017-0513.pdf>

Bertron, Cara

From: Fred McGhee <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 2:28 PM
To: Bertron, Cara
Cc: Susana Almanza; Sadowsky, Steve
Subject: Re: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street

Hello Cara,

Appreciate the update. I would be happy to furnish information in my possession, but please allow me to clarify: I will not do so for free.

My CRM firm, the only African-American and Disabled Veteran one in the United States never mind Austin, has been in business for over fifteen years. I've done my share of pro bono work.

Gentrifiers need to be made to understand that proper historic preservation and environmental due diligence is a normal part of doing business. Really the only question at hand is whether the city agrees and/or to what degree.

Regards,

flm

On Nov 13, 2017, at 13:59, Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Hi Fred,

Thanks for your email. The HLC did postpone a decision on the application, and staff has been working on additional research. We've checked City directories and historical newspaper archives, and have reached out to the property sellers, the Assemblies of God USA, and stakeholder groups registered with the City for that area to ask for any information on the property's significance and/or additional research leads.

If you have additional information, please let me know.

Cara

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Fred McGhee [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov>
Cc: Susana Almanza [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street

Hello Cara,

My recommendation is that the Historic Landmark Commission should withhold a demolition permit recommendation until a proper and good faith effort has been conducted to ascertain the property's historical significance.

This means that the current property owner should hire a qualified and credentialed consultant. Once a written document containing findings has been produced and shared with the commissioners as well as the community, everyone will be in a better position to act.

Regards,

flm

On Nov 2, 2017, at 13:12, Bertron, Cara <Cara.Bertron@austintexas.gov> wrote:

Fred—

So sorry; I meant to include you on the email I just sent. It's pasted below.

Cara

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov

From: Bertron, Cara

Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2017 1:12 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Cervantes, Rosa <Rosa.Cervantes@austintexas.gov>; Sustaita, Debra <Debra.Sustaita@austintexas.gov>; Sadowsky, Steve (<Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov>)

Subject: Question about property in Montopolis - 919 Valdez Street

Hi all,

I'm writing because you are listed in the City's Community Registry for the Montopolis neighborhood. You may have received a notice of a proposed demolition at 919 Valdez Street (see attached). The Historic Landmark Commission first heard the case at its October 23 meeting and postponed it, requesting more information about the property. The case will be heard again on November 27.

I'm wondering if you might have information about the history of the building or the congregations that occupied it. We know that the building was moved to the site around 1957 and housed two Assembly of God congregations: Gethsemane Assembly of God from 1962 to 1973, then Templo Getsemani de las Asambleas de Dios from 1977 to at

least 1986 and likely later. The property was sold this past August. I've reached out to the sellers, but have not yet heard from them.

Do you have any additional information or suggestions as to where I should look? I would appreciate any information or ideas you can send by Monday, November 13. Of course, you are welcome to attend the public hearing on November 27 if you like; it will be held at City Hall, Council Chambers, at 6 p.m.

Best,
Cara Bertron

Cara Bertron
Senior Planner / Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department
(512) 974-1446 / cara.bertron@austintexas.gov
<HDP-2017-0513.pdf>