



Serving East Austin Since 1972

November 1, 2019

Dear Council Members,

We ask that you designate the Herrera Home at 1805 E. 3rd Street as an historic landmark. The City of Austin's own Preservation Office enthusiastically recommends and endorses this honor. Likewise, the community is very excited about venerating the Mexican-American women who lived at this humble home and who did so much for their community. What more could you want in a landmark?

Visible evidence of the accomplishments of important Mexican-American community members' impact on Austin is vanishing before our eyes. Moreover, East Austin is woefully underrepresented in historic landmarks compared to West Austin.

To consider all sides, we understand the owner's antipathy as he planned to demolish the home and build anew. However there is a solution to this as there is plenty of room for two structures on the lot. Naturally work must be done to further preserve the structure. A Planning Commission member went on record saying it was a simple thing to renovate such a frame house. Let's face it, where there's a will, there's a way.

Ultimately we hope the owner respects the area history and the extant community enough to work with the city. There is plenty of room at 1805 E. 3rd Street for both preservation and growth to co-exist—the best of both worlds.

For the future, let your actions reflect your respect for history, the Mexican-American Community and a culture threatened by gentrification.

And finally, let this chapter of Austin's story live on and ideally become a symbol of inspiration and strength for generations yet unborn.

Sincerely,

Bertha Delgado
Carol Stall
Phillip Thomas
Elisa Montoya
Reuben Montoya
Ricardo Luna
Hilario Delgado

cc: Steve Sedowski, Bertha Marie Delgado