



November 14, 2020

City of Austin
Historic Landmark Commission
Austin, Texas

Dear Landmark Commission Members:

Mid Tex Mod is the regional chapter of the nonprofit DOCOMOMO US, the American chapter of DOCOMOMO International advocating for modern design worldwide. We are committed to raising awareness of mid-century modern architecture in Central Texas. Our Mid Tex Mod Board of Directors opposes the demolition of the Delta Kappa Gamma building at 416 West 12th Street.

The property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, in the areas of education and architecture. The International-style Delta Kappa Gamma Building was designed in 1956 by noted Austin architectural firm, Kuehne Brooks & Barr, and its design respects and compliments the residential scale of the surrounding neighborhood. The building serves as the international headquarters of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, founded in 1929 to support women in education.

The property is recognized as a historically significant resource in the recently completed Old Austin Neighborhood Association Historic Resource Survey of Downtown Austin. The survey was grant funded through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant Program of the Texas Historical Commission and a Preservation Austin grant, and supported through the City of Austin's Historic Preservation Office. The survey received a prestigious 2020 Preservation Merit Award from Preservation Austin.

Mid Tex Mod strongly urges you to oppose the demolition of the architecturally and historically significant Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters Building at 416 West 12th Street.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Porterfield, Board President
Mid Tex Mod



Post Office Box 1282

Austin, TX 78767

www.originalaustin.org

13 November 2020

RE: 416 West 12th Street – demolition permit request

City of Austin
Historic Landmark Commission
Austin, Texas

Dear Historic Landmark Commission Members:

The Old Austin Neighborhood Association (OANA) Board of Directors opposes the demolition of the property at 416 West 12th Street.

Within OANA's boundaries (Lamar to Lavaca; Ladybird Lake to 15th Street), there is a unique neighborhood of old and new buildings. We advocate for the restoration of significant historic properties and support compatible development that helps maintain the historic and residential character of our neighborhood.

416 West 12th Street is included in the West-Downtown-Historic-Survey also known as the Historic Survey of the Old Austin Neighborhood. This survey was funded OANA funded with the support of the Texas Historic Commission and the City of Austin through for a Certified Local Government Grant.

416 West 12th Street is also listed as a historic property in the National Register of Historic Places (NR, 2012). Also, immediately to the east of this property is the Watson (A.O.) House, at 402 West 12th Street, a two-story nineteenth-century Austin Landmark.

As a property listed in the National Register of Historic Places 416 West 12th is cited under Criterion A for Education, as well as Criteria C for Architecture.

For these reasons OANA respectfully request your disapproval of the demolition permit request.

Sincerely,

Ted Siff, President

Board of Directors

Ted Siff, President

Perry Lorenz

Austin Stowell

Blake Tollett, Secretary

Charles Peveto

Diana ZunigaCharles Peveto

Ray Canfield, Treasurer

Michael Portman

Austin Stowell

Katie Jackson

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November 13, 2020

Terri Myers, Chair
City of Austin
Historic Landmark Commission

Re: 416 W 12th Street Demolition Permit

Dear Ms. Myers,

Preservation Austin exists to empower Austinites to shape a more inclusive, resilient, and meaningful community culture through preservation. We write today to express our opposition to the proposed demolition of 416 W 12th Street, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters Building. We ask that the Historic Landmark Commission instead support historic zoning for this significant property in the areas of Architecture and Historical Associations. As the property is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this demonstrated significance is supplementary.

Historical Associations:

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society is a significant organization supporting women in education through scholarships and a fellowship program. The Society was founded in 1929 by a University of Texas professor, Dr. Annie Webb Blanton, to encourage equal opportunities for women in education. Dr. Blanton was the first female State Superintendent of Public Instruction, making her the first woman elected to a Texas state office. By 1960, the Society had chapters in every state.

The Delta Kappa Gamma Society played a large role in women's history as an organization founded by women to support women, at a time when such support was scarcely found elsewhere. Women are typically left out of dominant historical narratives and underrepresented amongst protected heritage sites locally and nationally. We urge that this building be protected as landmark to women's agency and collective power.

Architecture:

The 1955 building is an excellent example of postwar modern design by Kuehne, Brooks, and Barr. It features an International Style façade, functionalist floorplan, and a more traditional aesthetic in its finishes. The women of Delta Kappa Gamma sought to accommodate a diverse range of functions that their ever-growing organization demanded. Uninterrupted planes of single materials were a signature of the firm and can also be seen in their work at the American National Bank (now the Starr Building).

This National Register-listed building is recommended for individual landmark status in the recently completed Historic Resources Survey of Downtown Austin. Sponsored by the Old Austin Neighborhood Association, the survey was supported by a Certified Local Government grant received by the City of Austin and a matching grant from our nonprofit. Preservation Austin further supported the community's hard-fought efforts with a 2020 Preservation Merit Award this fall for their public service.

The survey's purpose is to recommend significant landmarks and potential districts for designation, and to provide the information needed to make educated decisions about demolitions such as this. Significant resources go into these efforts with the understanding that they will make a difference to preservation outcomes moving forward. The city must stand by its historic resource surveys, in good faith, to protect our significant buildings and landmarks. We urge the Historic Landmark Commission to do so here.

Austin cannot afford to lose this piece of women's history or afford to lose another potential local landmark. Thank you for your service, and for all you do to protect Austin's heritage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clayton Bullock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clayton" and last name "Bullock" clearly distinguishable.

Clayton Bullock

Gaudette, Angela

From: Sadowsky, Steve
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 7:46 AM
To: Gaudette, Angela
Subject: Fw: 416 West 12th

Steve Sadowsky
Historic Preservation Officer
City of Austin, Texas
974-6454

From: City of Austin <noreply@coadigital.onbehalfof.austintexas.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:21 PM
To: Sadowsky, Steve <Steve.Sadowsky@austintexas.gov>
Subject: 416 West 12th

This message is from Bob Ward. [REDACTED]

November 13, 2020

To: City of Austin, Historic Landmark Commission
Re: 416 West 12th St

Dear Historic Landmark Commission members,

It has come to our attention that the house at 416 West 12th is slated for demolition. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters was located at this site and the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Founded in 1929, the Delta Kappa Gamma Society grew from a dozen women in Austin to over 70,000 across the United States and Canada with an emphasis on supporting women in education through scholarships and other programs.

As Austin continues to grow and lose much of its historic fabric, it is important to preserve some of the few remaining examples of historic architecture and cultural importance. The Travis County Historical Commission asks that you oppose the destruction of this property.

Respectfully,

James Robert "Bob" Ward
Chair
Travis County Historical Commission

PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

Although applicants and/or their agent(s) are expected to participate in a public hearing, you are not required to do so. This meeting will be conducted online and you have the opportunity to speak FOR or AGAINST the proposed development or change. Email or call the staff contact for information on how to participate in the public hearings online. You may also contact a neighborhood or environmental organization that has expressed an interest in an application affecting your neighborhood.

During a public hearing, the board or commission may postpone or continue an application's hearing to a later date, or recommend approval or denial of the application. If the board or commission announces a specific date and time for a postponement or continuation that is not later than 60 days from the announcement, no further notice is required.

A board or commission's decision may be appealed by a person with standing to appeal, or an interested party that is identified as a person who can appeal the decision. The body holding a public hearing on an appeal will determine whether a person has standing to appeal the decision.

An interested party is defined as a person who is the applicant or record owner of the subject property, or who communicates an interest to a board or commission by:

- delivering a written statement to the board or commission before or during the public hearing that generally identifies the issues of concern (*it may be delivered to the contact person listed on a notice*); or
- appearing and speaking for the record at the public hearing; and:
- occupies a primary residence that is within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development;
- is the record owner of property within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development; or
- is an officer of an environmental or neighborhood organization that has an interest in or whose declared boundaries are within 500 feet of the subject property or proposed development.

A notice of appeal must be filed with the director of the responsible department no later than 14 days after the decision. An appeal form may be available from the responsible department.

For additional information on the City of Austin's land development process, please visit our website: www.austintexas.gov/abc

Written comments must be submitted to the board or commission (or the contact person listed on the notice) before the public hearing. Your comments should include the board or commission's name, the scheduled date of the public hearing, the Case Number and the contact person listed on the notice.

Case Number: PR-20-149763 - 416 W 12TH ST

Contact: Angela Gaudette, (512) 974-3393

Public Hearing: Historic Landmark Commission, Nov. 16, 2020

☐ I am in favor

☒ I object

Brad Dziedzic
Your Name (please print)

1212 Guadalupe St #205 Austin TX 78701
Your address(es) affected by this application

Brad Dziedzic
Signature

11.6.2020
Date

Comments: This building is a beautiful example of Midcentury modern architecture Circa 1956 with clean elegant lines. It adds alot to the neighborhood it should be a Historic Landmark.

If you use this form to comment, it may be returned to:
City of Austin Housing and Planning Department
Historic Preservation Office, ATTN: Angela Gaudette
P.O. Box 1088
Austin, TX 78767-8810
E-mail: preservation@austintexas.gov