



South River City Citizens Inc.
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www.srccatx.org

Megan Spencer,, Vice President
Cynthia Milne, Co-vice President
Will Andrews, Treasurer
Dan Fredine, Secretary
Mary Friedman, Membership Secretary

Historic Landmark Commission
City Hall
301 W. 2nd St.
Austin, TX 78701

December 11, 2020

RE: SRCC opposition to demolition of 1400 Drake, case HDP-2020-0400

Dear Commission Members:

On November 17th 2020, the general membership of the South River City Citizens (SRCC) Neighborhood Association voted to oppose the demolition of the home at 1400 Drake. **Our opposition stems from the following main issues:**

The home is modestly sized and would be affordable as rental property. If demolished, it is unlikely to be replaced with a similarly affordable home. The home contributes to the pending Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register Historic District. The house is a classic vernacular 1930s cottage, common in its time. Today, this cottage is a vanishing resource type and reflects blue-collar family housing in South Austin. This home represents the eclectic and diverse character of Travis Heights.

Sincerely,

Megan Spencer
Vice President
vicepresident@srccatx.org

CC: Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Officer

Gaudette, Angela

From: Melanie Martinez <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 13, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Jacob, Mathew - BC; Papavasiliou, Alexander - BC; Little, Kelly - BC; McWhorter, Trey - BC; Heimsath, Ben - BC; Myers, Terri - BC; Featherston, Witt; Tollett, Blake - BC; Koch, Kevin - BC; Valenzuela, Sarah - BC; Bertron, Cara; Sadowsky, Steve; bc-Caroline.Wright@austin.texas.gov; Gaudette, Angela; PAZ Preservation
Subject: 1400 & 1402 Drake Ave., HDP-2020-0474 & HDP-2020-0400

*** External Email - Exercise Caution ***

Dear Commissioners,

I'm a long-time resident of Fairview Park, and one of the many neighbors who spent the past 15 years working toward our National Register historic district designation. I also volunteer on the SRCC's Preservation Committee but I'm writing as an individual and not on behalf of that group.

I oppose the demolition of **1400 & 1402 Drake Ave. (HDP-2020-0400 & HDP-2020-0474)** for the same reasons as previously stated. This house is contributing to our historic district, and its location, while not considered "unique," does not diminish the value of a character-defining home on a corner lot. As you know, a historic district considers the whole, and not just landmark-status properties. While we can't forbid these demolitions, it would be helpful to know the plans for these lots. Sadly, demolitions on a corner lot seem to cause a cascade of demolitions down the block, leading to more losses. Demolishing 1402 Drake, as well, only exacerbates this effect.

I hope this commission can encourage the owner of these properties to work with the SRCC's Preservation Committee and the city's Preservation Office to develop a plan that would retain the facades of these homes while still being able to remodel and expand in a sensitive way. I'm sure there must be an alternative to demolition.

Thank you for your consideration,
Melanie Martinez
1214 Newning Ave.

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