

Brummett, Elizabeth

From: Melanie Martinez [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2021 3:57 PM
To: Featherston, Witt; Tollett, Blake - BC; Koch, Kevin - BC; Little, Kelly - BC; Heimsath, Ben - BC; bc-Caroline.Wright@austin.texas.gov; McWhorter, Trey - BC; Myers, Terri - BC
Cc: Bertron, Cara; Sadowsky, Steve; PAZ Preservation
Subject: HR-2021-0441041807 BRACKENRIDGE STREET--opposed

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Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of the soon-to-be-official Travis Heights-Fairview Park National Register District, and a volunteer with neighborhood's Preservation Committee. However, I am not writing on behalf of that group, but as a long-time resident.

I am opposed to the demolition of 1807 Brackenridge, based on its value as a contributing property to our historic district, and as a representative property of so many of our historical residents. This is the beauty of our historic neighborhood--it was economically diverse. The vast majority of our contributing structures were the homes of working people. If we keep demolishing every home that doesn't meet the high bar of being the residence of a person of note and deemed to lack community value, there won't be a historic neighborhood at all one day.

I am sad that there is so little hope for preserving this home, which is in good condition and would make a wonderful home as it is, or with an addition and updates. (If kept as a rental property, it might even qualify for tax credits for rehabilitation, thanks to our National Register district designation.) This is a fairly visible location on the edge of our district. However, the character of the new build (old demolition) next door, combined with this one, will further degrade the defining, historic character of this block as people enter the neighborhood.

I have been to too many meetings where we are told to create a local historic district if we want to save these homes that are obviously the core of our historic character, but can't qualify as landmarks. We are using all the tools available without that Local District designation. We need help, so I appreciate anything this commission can offer to help us preserve our South Austin story.

Sincerely,
Melanie Martinez

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