

February 27, 2023

Esteemed Historic Landmark Commission:

My name is Paul Byars, and I am writing in support of Item #21 on the March 1 agenda, the permit numbers are PR-2023-005113 and GF-2023-013758. Mary is my older sister. Our parents purchased their first house in Hyde Park on Avenue D in 1979. They moved to tarrytown in 1983, raised us there, and still live in that same house. I purchased my house in east Austin in 2014, and my sister purchased 509 Texas Ave in 2015. The home had been a rental property for decades, so she had to make a significant investment in the house (foundation work, window replacement, etc.) to bring it "up to par."

My sister's boyfriend Eric has lived in Hyde Park and North Loop since 2013, where he is raising his 7 year old daughter, Gracyen. They are looking to move in together, and they are proposing a partial demolition of Texas Ave because neither of their homes are currently large enough to accommodate this growing family. This partial demolition is not profit motivated and their plan is to use this property as their homestead for the long-term.

Finally, Staff has concluded that the property does not meet the necessary criteria for landmark status and has recommended approval of the permit. I encourage you to follow the staff's recommendation to allow them to proceed so hopefully I can continue to live close to my sister and her family. Thank you for your consideration.


Paul Byars