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Cc: [HPD Preservation](#)
Subject: Time-Sensitive: Tonight Move to Designate (not Demolish) 130-year-old Folk Victorian Home at 812 W. Elizabeth St.
Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1:57:51 PM

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Dear Chair Heimsath, Vice Chair Featherston, Commissioners,

I urge you to tonight move toward designating the Click Family House (1890), at 812 W. Elizabeth Street, as an Austin Landmark. The Staff Report for tonight's meeting states that the property may meet at least two of the designation criteria for a Historic Landmark -- (1) for its Folk Victorian Architectural style and (2) for its historical association with the Click Family, ranchers from Dripping Springs and early South Austin residents.

Furthermore, it is one of only 25 properties in the 2016 Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Survey identified as "High preservation priority sites." According to the Survey, this means they were

initially determined to be individually eligible for NRHP [National Register of Historic Places] listing due to their outstanding architectural significance.

They are some of the oldest, rarest or best examples of building forms or architectural styles in Austin. They maintain their original architectural fabric to an outstanding degree and exhibit almost no alterations to their exterior appearance.

The Click Family House is one of the seven earliest High preservation priority sites -- all from the 1890's.

It is both old, approximately 130 years old, and rare -- one of seven.

Furthermore, the Staff Report states that the building "appears to retain high to moderate integrity."

My interest in this matter is as a neighbor in Bouldin Creek. I bought a little historic house in Bouldin Creek two years ago because I appreciate what is left of the historic character of the neighborhood and wanted to live in a diverse historic neighborhood at the heart of Austin. At least four small older houses in my block have been demolished since I moved here. They are being replaced by large walled

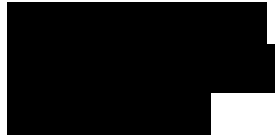
compounds.

I am further concerned to see that half of the sixteen Demolition and Relocation Permits on the agenda tonight are from Districts 3 and 9 -- which include Bouldin Creek.

However, I appreciate very much the HLC's recent move to designate a similar East Austin Folk Victorian home at 1100 E. 2nd St. as an Historic Landmark, based on its architecture and the historical associations of the home in the East Austin Historic Resource Survey. I also applaud the Planning Commission's subsequent endorsement over the owner's opposition.

I hope you will give the Click Family House at 812 West Elizabeth Street your support as well.
Many thanks.

Sincerely yours,
Catherine Hendren



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