

Renewed Renewal order
#103

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2008-0019

HLC DATE:

May 19, 2008

June 23, 2008

June 30, 2008

PC DATE:

August 26, 2008

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission

HISTORIC NAME: Blondie Pharr House

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 801 Highland Avenue

ZONING FROM: MF-4-NP to MF-4-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from multi-family residence, neighborhood plan combining district (MF-4-NP) to multi-family residence, neighborhood plan – Historic Landmark (MF-4-H-NP) combining district zoning; or in the alternative, staff recommends release of the demolition permit upon completion of HABS Level III documentation. The house, while in a deteriorated state due to its long-standing vacancy and structural problems, is a good example of mid-1920s bungalow architecture, has distinctive shutters bearing a “P” (presumably for Pharr), and is associated with Blondie Pharr, a significant figure in music education in the city.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: May 19, 2008: Initiated the historic zoning case. Vote: 5-0 (Arend, Arriaga and Rosato absent). June 23, 2008: Postponed to a specially-called meeting on June 30, 2008. June 30, 2008: Recommended the proposed zoning change from multi-family residence, neighborhood plan (MF-4-NP) district to multi-family residence – Historic Landmark, neighborhood plan (MF-4-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 8-0.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from multi-family residence, neighborhood plan (MF-4-NP) district to multi-family residence – Historic Landmark, neighborhood plan (MF-4-H-NP) combining district zoning with an additional recommendation to modify the section of the parcel zoned historic to allow for additional development on the site. Vote: 5-2 (Small and Ewen opposed; Cavazos and Hui absent).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The house is not listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

CITY COUNCIL DATE: August 28, 2008

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1923 house is a good example of bungalow cottage design in West Austin, and is associated for over 60 years with Burnett ("Blondie") Pharr, the musical director of the University of Texas, composer of the University of Texas fight song, and leader of the first public school bands in Austin

Architecture:

One-story rectangular-plan clipped side-gabled frame bungalow with a central, partial-width clipped front gabled independent porch on ornamental metal posts; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; full basement set into the slope of the lot contains additional rooms.

Historical Associations

The house appears to have been built in 1923; the first occupants were Seth and Lola Brown, who rented the house. Seth Brown was a railroad fireman. From 1927 until the last tenancy in this house many years ago, the house was owned and occupied by Burnett "Blondie" Pharr, his wife Gladys, and daughter Gladys. Blondie Pharr (1898-1976) was the band director at the University of Texas, wrote the UT fight song, directed the first public school band at Austin High School, and managed the Caswell Tennis Center for many years. He also served as the principal and band director in Smithville schools from 1939 to 1950 while maintaining his residence here. The Blondie Pharr Tennis Center was named for him in 1976.

PARCEL NO.: 01080308010000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 3, Block C, Outlot 3, Division Z, Terrace Park

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: \$5,488 (owner-occupied), city portion: \$1,335.

APPRAISED VALUE: \$501,289

PRESENT USE: Vacant

CONDITION: Fair

PRESENT OWNER:

Trevor Dallas
703 Oakland Avenue
Austin, Texas 78703

DATE BUILT: ca. 1923

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: No non-historic alterations.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Burnett "Blondie" Pharr (1927)

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: The house is listed as non-contributing to the Old West Austin National Register Historic District, but Terri Myers, the



OPERATOR S MEEKS

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