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September 13, 2013

Chair Laurie Limbacher and Commissioners  
Historic Landmark Commission  
City of Austin  
Post Office Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767-8865  
Sent via E-mail

Re: C14H-1989-0010, Dabney-Horne House, 507 W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street

Dear Chair Limbacher and Commissioners:

We understand that you may be considering a proposal to relocate the historic landmark Dabney-Horne house on its existing site in order to allow for more intense development of the remainder of the site. While we have not yet been privy to the specifics of these plans, insofar as we understand the proposal from the application materials and from walking the site, we have concerns about this latest proposal. We'd like to express our concerns regarding the general concept. We recommend that the Landmark Commission take into account the following concepts.

- 1) The siting and setbacks of the historic house are now and should continue to be in keeping with the setbacks that are typical of other older and landmarked homes in the area.
- 2) Non-historic additions could be removed if they do not contribute to the historic character of the landmark property.
- 3) New construction on or adjacent to the property should be consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Standard 9 states, "*New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*"

This is an important case that may influence treatment of other landmarked properties both in West Campus and throughout Austin. We trust that the Certificate of Appropriateness review will conform to the Standards and city requirements as always. Thank you for considering our input, and all you do to protect the historic assets of our city.

Sincerely,

Tom Stacy  
President



