

September 22, 2016

Mr. Sadowsky,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the possible historic designation of 2201 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. I feel that I and my family are victims of political propaganda. The technical definition of this term is information of a bias nature that is used to promote a particular political cause or point of view. Political propaganda is also defined as information that is not impartial and that is used to primarily to influence an audience and further a political agenda. Unfortunately, I feel that this is the case regarding my property. Therefore, I am submitting this document to give you and others an opportunity to see my point of view as it relates to the possible historic designation of 2201 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

I feel that in this case the house should not be designated as historic, because it was the individuals who lived in this house that made a positive impact on the community. Dr. J.M. Holloway and Mildred Holloway fought for equal rights for all African Americans in several communities in which they lived including Waco, TX and Dallas, TX. I am proud to say that my grandparents were trailblazers and champions of minority rights in the state of Texas. They both fought for equal rights in an era when African Americans were required to pay a poll tax to vote. However, it is the individuals not the house that should be recognized by the City of Austin. The house is not of historical significance I say this because they fought for equal rights of the African Americans in the community. My grandparents utilized churches, schools, hospitals and any other venues available to African Americans in order to pursue equal rights for individuals who resided in the so called "Negro District".

The original 1120 square foot structure was moved to its existing location and the addition of this structure was added on in the early 1970's. Therefore, this structure does not embody or distinguish characteristics of a recognized architectural style. This structure does not serve as an outstanding example of work of an architect, builder, or artisan who significantly contributed to the development of the city. This structure does not have a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, a neighborhood, or a particular group. This structure does not have architectural value as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian or vernacular structure; or represents an architectural curiosity or one-of-a-kind building. This structure is not significant, natural, or does the landscape include artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city. Also, this structure is not recommended in the East Austin Historical Survey and the structure is in poor condition. Therefore, there are no architectural reasons that this structure should be designated historical.

I feel as if my family is being punished because my grandparents made a good real estate investment in the 1940's. As a result of that investment and being an active part in the community, I am now in the position of having the City of Austin determine what my family can do with our property. Because of my grandparents property investment and community service, I am now in a position that will potentially that will cost my family a significant portion of their inheritance, my kids college education, etc. This appears to me as if history is repeating itself:

“In 1880 African Americans were widely scattered all across the city. However by 1930 African Americans were heavily concentrated in East Austin, this was a process that was encouraged by the 1928 City Plan, which recommended that East Austin be designated a "Negro district." City officials implemented the plan successfully, and most blacks who had been living in the western

half of the city were "relocated" back to the former plantation lands, on the other side of East Avenue (now [Interstate 35](#)). Municipal services like schools, sewers, and parks were made available to blacks in East Austin only. At mid-century, Austin was still segregated in most respects—housing, restaurants, hotels, parks, hospitals, schools, public transportation—but African Americans had long fostered their own institutions, which included by the late 1940s some 150 small businesses, more than thirty churches, and two colleges, Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College.”

I say that history is repeating itself because I am now at the mercy of the City of Austin (Historic Preservation Office), their decision to designate my property as historic will determine what my family and I can do with the property. The 1928 City Plan has now shifted, by this I mean that it is not determining where I can live, but I am now at the mercy of City of Austin (Historic Preservation Office) to determine if my structure is historic. Therefore, it appears to me that I have to go through this process and wait for the Historic Preservation Office to determine or give me permission regarding my family property. This goes against everything that my grandparents worked so hard to achieve. It is my suggestion that if you would like to place some historic value on my grandparents and their impact on the African American community in East Austin why not rename Alamo Park Community Center in their honor.

Thank you for your consideration,

Reedy Macque Spigner III

