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August 7, 2017

Ms. Mary Jo Galindo and Historic Landmark Commissioners  
City of Austin  
Post Office Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767-8865  
Sent via E-mail

Re: 1616 Northwood

Dear Chair Galindo and Commissioners:

Preservation Austin supports the owner initiated local historic designation of 1616 Northwood, the McDonald-Doughtie House. The house is listed as contributing to the Old West Austin National Register District. It is an intact example of the Colonial Revival style.

According to the designation report and application, the house was constructed around 1937/1938. The first family to occupy the house was the McDonald family. Ben McDonald, who later became a noted Civil Rights leader, spent his early youth in this house. McDonald was a prosecuting attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Kansas City district. He later became Mayor of Corpus Christi and under his tenure advocated for and implemented civil rights ordinances and laws before the passage of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. He went on to become the founder of the first Human Rights Commission in the southern United States.

The Doughtie family purchased the house in 1940 and lived there several years. Venton Doughtie is regarded as one of the pioneers of aviation and engineering in Austin. He developed and coordinated pilot training for the Navy at the University of Texas during World War II. Doughtie remained at UT for a number of years and served as Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department.

For 60 years, Preservation Austin has been the leading protector of Austin's diverse cultural heritage through the preservation of historic treasures and places. As such, we believe that preservation of this unique resource celebrates our past, enhances livability and a sense of identity for our city.

Sincerely,

John Donisi  
President, Preservation Austin