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February 13, 2019

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

Re: I.Q. Hurdle House, 1416 E. 12th Street, City of Austin Landmark

Dear Chair Galindo and Historic Landmark Commissioners:

Preservation Austin respectfully requests that the Historic Landmark Commission deny the application for relocation of the I.Q. Hurdle house, 1416 E. 12th Street, a City of Austin Landmark. We also support the neighborhood and Six Square in their opposition to the relocation of the house.

Additionally, Preservation Austin requests that the Historic Landmark Commission begin demolition by neglect proceedings against the property owner. The building has been vacant for several years and it needs maintenance and repair. Any steps necessary to halt the deterioration of the I.Q. Hurdle house should be taken immediately. Preservation Austin stands ready to assist you with this initiative.

Mr. I.Q. Hurdle was a well-know African American minister and educator. He served as president of the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas and as editor for their publication, Texas Standard. Mr. Hurdle was head of the science department of L.C. Anderson High School and principal at Blackshear, and later, Kealing Junior High, the first junior high for black students in Austin. He was the first black member of the National Education Association's Texas delegation in 1945. He was head of the 12th Street Christian Church and served as president of the Texas United Christian Missionary Convention.

The East Austin Historic Resources Survey, conducted in 2016 (Hardy Heck Moore), identified this property as individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Relocation of the house to another area will compromise its integrity and the ability to have it listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Location of a historic property is one of the seven aspects of integrity that is considered very important by the National Park Service when assessing eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance.

"Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The relationship between the property and its location is often important to understanding why the property was created or why something happened. The actual location of a historic property, complemented by its setting, is particularly important in recapturing the sense of historic events and persons. *Except in rare cases, the relationship between a property and its historic associations is destroyed if the property is moved.*"

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The City of Austin designation criteria states that for designation that a property “retains a high degree of integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places, that clearly conveys its historical significance and does not include an addition or alteration which has significantly compromised its integrity”.

The house is adjacent to the Eisenbeiser grocery and Southgate-Lewis House at the corner of East 12th and Comal creating an important context for 12th Street neighborhood. Loss of this house will further erode the integrity and history of this neighborhood.

We appreciate your consideration in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Vanessa McElwrath
President, Preservation Austin