

Good Morning,

I am writing to ask you to historically landmark the Edward Rendon, Sr. house on 1705 Haskell Street. Any future changes at this property should be conducted within a context of historic preservation. Your responsibility here is clear.

As is so often the case, this is not just an empirical question of establishing whether the property, which sits inside a cultural landscape, meets the necessary criteria, although it clearly does. It is also a question of equity. Mr. Rendon was a noteworthy member of his community--our community--and his legacy is deep. Yet why is the staff recommendation to initiate historic zoning contaminated by a poison pill to focus "particularly on the criterion for architecture?" Including such a stipulation in a professional recommendation of this type reveals most interesting prejudices and inequities that have characterized our profession from the beginning and continue to bedevil it still. If it still isn't clear to the staff, it should be clear to you that true historic preservation is about more than architecture.

I urge you to see through the smoke and to do the right thing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at this email address or at (512) 275-6027.

Regards,

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