

8/22/2019

Dear Historical Landmark Commissioners,

My wife and I moved to the East Side in 2012, and were honored to have known the remarkable Eulalio Edward Rendon for the last six years of his life.

During that period, we spent many hours at his home at 1705 Haskell Street, either at meetings or family functions.

Our introduction to Welo's (as everyone called Edward Rendon), home was an interesting one-- the house façade, porch and walkways created by Edward Rendon's own hand labor, and remarkable masonry skills.

Never had we been in one place so teaming with advocates and activism. We later learned the house had been a hotbed of activism for more than 30 years!

- The Town Lake Boat Races were sent packing after community meetings at 1705 Haskell.
- The East Town Lake Citizen's Neighborhood Association, the first of its kind on the East Side, was founded at 1705 Haskell and continues on today.
- A Town Lake Park Master Plan predating the 2014 Master Plan by 30 years was first conceived at 1705 Haskell.
- The Holly Power Plant Decommissioning started here and ended in talks with the City leading to the dismantling and complete removal of the plant.
- The East Town Lake Citizens Park Planning Committee convened at 1705 Haskell to craft a community response to the Festival

Beach/Edward Rendon Park Master Plan that led to Council adoption of a compromise plan that let all sides of the debate win.

- Arte Texas launched at this location to begin restoration of local art murals.

Countless community-based events including charities, home repair and elder education programs and so many others were born or found expression in this home. Many more such events occurred before our arrival in the neighborhood. The house often teamed with prominent community organizers and advocates.

Most importantly, this home, though humble, a community found its voice and its strength. Community leaders emerged, now either respected or fondly remembered, from the front door of the home of Eulalio Rendon, and they helped Austin into a new era.

We hope that you will honor this wonderful center of caring, of community involvement, wealth of culture and now history, with historical designation. If any East Austin home deserves it, this one does.

Sincerely,

Phil Thomas & Carol Stall  
Holly Neighborhood

Dear Historical Landmark Commissioners & Steve,

08/25/2019

Hello my name is Elisa Rendon Montoya the youngest daughter of nine children of my parents Edward Rendon Sr. and Conception Martinez Rendon also Vice President of East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association . I am writing you today to speak about the community value that my father has brought to our community in East Austin. My family migrated here in the 1920's, a historical moment in the 1930's when my grandfather Pablo Rendon shot and killed with his rifle a 180 pound panther. My grandfather stands next to former Mayor Tom Miller in front of our very own state capitol. We come from along line of victorious victories we are very proud of our last name Rendon. My father was instrumental on every level grassroot politics, community organizing, local business, and most of all he created a large family of six generations. I am a proud daughter that has followed my grandfather, my father's footsteps becoming a community leader and activist in my barrio. I have lived three blocks from my father since 1989, it is very hard to see my neighborhood change so quickly , I am one of the few that continue to preserve my barrio. I pass by my father and mothers' home every day its very emotional for me but I am grateful that our legacy of our home is still there today. I was beyond honored that my father selected his youngest daughter me as executor of his will and estate, I do support the Historical designation for my parents and my childhood home.

Thank you for your time, thank for working hard to preserving the historical history of Austin.

Sincerely,

Elisa Rendon Montoya

2008 Haskell St.

Austin, TX 78702

Dear Historic commission board:

As a resident of East Austin and neighbor of the property 1705 Haskell St, I am writing to ask that you help to preserve this property in the East Austin community, by supporting the proposal of making the home historic. Edward Rendon Sr. was a great leader in the East Austin community that helped preserve and beautifying many areas in East Austin while raising his family of 8 in East Austin, Edward Rendon Sr. saw a need in his community and begin to work diligently with different community members in the area to make that change a reality. He was not given money nor asked for money to make that change come about, his reward was seeing his community become the beautiful landmark it is today, and that is why Chicano park which was named by residents that grew up knowing has changed to Edward Rendon Sr. Park in 2007. He believed that his children, grandchildren and his neighbor's and their children deserved a place where families could go and enjoy themselves at their community park. He helped preserve Town lake which is now Lady Bird lake from the boat races in 1978, he locked arms with many others to help shut down the power plant, he helped house many families at Martin Middle school in 1966 when Cesar Chavez marched through Austin, so much more Mr. Edward Rendon did for his community but none of this would have been done without planning, meeting, outreach and organizing, these 4 things that I mentioned were all done in the 1705 Haskell st home. At the age of 90 years Mr. Edward Rendon was still present at city council for public hearings, regarding his neighborhood. He was a believer in using your voice and standing up for what's right. Not only as a neighbor but also as his granddaughter, I ask that you honor my late grandfather by preserving the 1705 property in honor of his hard work and dedication in making the neighborhood a safe and beautiful place it is today.

Thank you,

Caroline Escobar

Dear Members of the Historic Landmark Commission:

We support the designation of the family home of Mr. Eduardo Rendon, located at 1705 Haskell Street in East Austin, as a historic landmark. Mr. Rendon built the house at that address and raised his family in this home. Mr. Rendon was a hero to his family, his neighborhood, and the Mexican American community in general. Mr. Rendon was a leader in:

- The struggle to preserve Austin's Mexican American neighborhoods,
- Protecting local parks (for which Edward Rendon Park at Festival Beach was named),
- Mentoring several generations of youth living in ethnically segregated communities, and
- Providing stability and wisdom to others in these communities.

Due to Mr. Rendon's importance to East Austin as a whole, we strongly support designation of his home as a historic landmark. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Gilberto C. and Dr. Jane H. Rivera

East Austin Resident

July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission  
Austin City Hall  
301 W. 2nd Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Commissioners:

As a native Austinite, I write to express my strong support to declare the former home and property of the late Mr. Edward Rendon, located at 1705 Haskell St. Austin TX 78702, as a historical site in the city of Austin.

Mr. Rendon played an important part in the history of Austin. He was one of the leaders who fought for civil rights, equality, and property rights in east Austin. Mr. Rendon held many meetings with local neighborhood leaders and Austin politicians at his home which dealt with the civil rights movement in the 1960s, the Austin boat races in the 70s, the Holly Power Plant, and other issues that affected the east Austin area. Indeed, Mr. Rendon was honored by the city of Austin when it named the Town Lake park area near his home as "Edward Rendon Park."

During the past dozen years, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Rendon and attending meetings at his home which dealt with issues affecting the east Austin area. Mr. Rendon was a role model for his family, and his children and grandchildren are carrying on the tradition of community workers. Mr. Rendon welcomed friends of the family such as myself to his home and he beamed with pride as he watched his children and grandchildren carry on the work that he started in the community.

I hope that the City of Austin Historical Landmark Commission approves of the designation of the Edward Rendon home as a historical site. It deserves to be remembered and recognized as the home of one of Austin's historical leaders and as a historical meeting site for community leaders who worked to correct injustices in Austin.

Sincerely,

Larry Amaro, MSW (Ret.)  
512-658-2962

July 22,2019

To: City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission  
From: Daniel Llanes, member \_ PODER, Raza RoundTable,  
ANC Exec. Committee

Dear Commissioners,

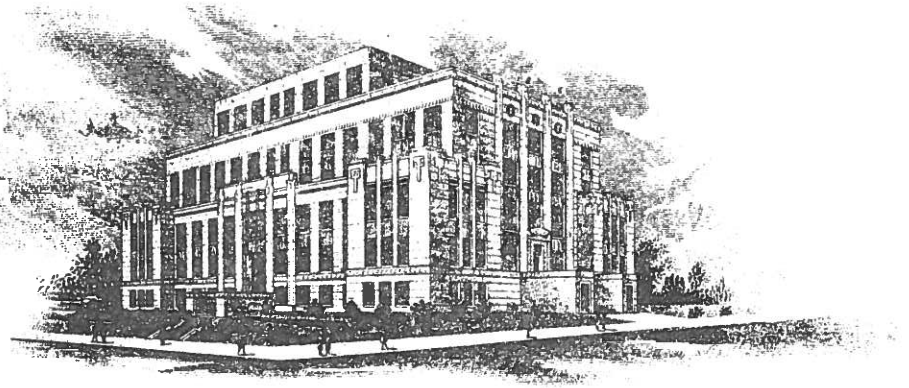
Please accept this letter of support for agenda item # 1705 Haskell St., Rendon House.

The Rendon family and the Rendon House at 1705 Haskell are deserving of historic recognition.

I encourage you grant the Rendon Family and their Partiack's house with a historic designation.

Thank you,

Daniel Llanes  
512-431-9665



MARGARET J. GÓMEZ  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

700 LAVACA, SUITE 1510  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767  
P.O. Box 1748  
854-9444

Ms. Bertha Rendon Delgado

Dear Ms. Delgado:

It is my honor to write about your grandfather, Mr. Edward Rendon, Sr., a lifelong resident of East Austin, Texas. He lived proudly in East Austin, raised his family and taught his children and grandchildren to become involved in the community for their rights and the rights of others.

Mr. Rendon participated in the community for the rights of our gente by joining Paul Hernandez, Gavino Fernandez, and others, to keep the community and its assets together for future generations. Bertha, you are carrying out your grandfather's legacy of speaking out in the community to defend others while at the same time keeping his legacy of involvement going forward to influence others. Mr. Rendon was always present when the barrio needed his support. He marched, he encouraged other people, and he showed them how to overcome fear of being criticized. I see you doing the same thing. Mr. Rendon's involvement and commitment to human rights earned him a great reputation and a park in the barrio to be named for him.

This park helps to keep the memory of Mr. Rendon alive each day for those of us who knew him as well as those who want to hear and stand up like he did.

You must be very proud of being a Rendon as is your mother and family. Felicito a la familia Rendon for el gran regalo de el Senor Edward Rendon, Sr.

Sincerely,

Margaret J. Gomez  
County Commissioner,  
Precinct 4





## People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources

To: Historic Landmark Commissioners: Sarah Valenzuela, Alexander Papisiliou, Terri Myers, Emily Hibbs, Mathew Jacob, Kelly Little, Blake Tollett, Emily Reed, Emily Hibbs, Ben Heimsath, Kevin Koch, Witt Featherston

From: Susana Almanza, PODER

Date: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Subject: Support Historic Designation for 1705 Haskell Street – Edward Rendon Sr. house

PODER is requesting that the Edward Rendon Sr. home located at 1705 Haskell Street be given the designation of Historic.

Mr. Edward Rendon Sr. is recognized as an elder and leader of the Mexican American community of East Austin. His involvement in improving the East Austin community is recognized by so many. His home is recognized as the place where Mr. Rendon Sr and his family members participated and hosted numerous community events. From neighborhood parties to hosting political candidates.

Mr. Edward Rendon Sr. was a former president of the East Townlake Citizens Neighborhood Association. With his leadership, the community worked to establish the present Holly Shores Master Plan. Mr. Rendon Sr. also worked to close the toxic Holly Power Plant. His dedication to the community will forever be honored.

Again, we ask for Historic designation for Mr. Edward Rendon Sr.'s home, located at 1705 Haskell Street.

Dear Historical Landmark Commissioners and City Staff,

There is so little being saved and so much being lost of the Historic Eastside Barrio. I am sorry not to be able to attend your Meeting Monday night, so please accept this email as my citizen testimony in favor of historical preservation of the home.

Senor Rendon was key leader of the old community who should not be forgotten. The architecture of his home is an authentic testament of our humble community, as deserving of respect as the palatial homes that are routinely designated as landmarks. The Rendon House is a humble O'Henry House or "log cabin" sort of landmark, that requires your compassionate protection to survive.

Thank You for your Service to All of our Historical Heritage.

Sincerely,

Dave Santos  
Eastside Heritage Activist

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,

flm



**MONTOPOLIS**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Fred L. McGhee, Ph.D.  
President, Montopolis CDC  
[fmcghee@montopolis.org](mailto:fmcghee@montopolis.org)  
[www.montopolis.org](http://www.montopolis.org)

Dear Historic Landmark Commissioners:

I am writing in support of Historic Preservation Office staff's recommendation for historic zoning of the late Mr. Edward Rendon's former home, located at 1705 Haskell St.

Mr. Rendon was a venerated neighborhood leader and activist in the East Town Lake community from the 1970s up until his death in 2018. His numerous contributions and accomplishments are highly significant in the context of the neighborhood's history as a former working class Mexican American enclave. To wit, in 2007, the City of Austin officially designated a portion of Holly Shores (at Festival Beach) as Edward Rendon, Sr. Park in recognition of his extraordinary service to the community. Below I list some of Mr. Rendon's most notable achievements:

- Served as President of the East Town Lake Citizen Neighborhood Association (1975-1999)
- Led the movement to close the nearby Holly Power Plant (1990-2007)
- Co-organized the movement to stop the Town Lake boat races on Holly Shores alongside Austin's storied Brown Berets (1978)
- Served as a founding member of Austin's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Respected as an East Austin business owner known professionally for his talents as an expert stonemason. His company, Edward Rendon Masonry, completed stone masonry projects locally and beyond on neighborhood homes (including his own), at Cristo Rey church, and at Tom Miller's home

Mr. Rendon's former home at 1705 Haskell St. thus appears to meet the requirements for landmark designation based on his significance as a prominent Mexican American community leader and businessman in the East Town Lake district, and per the following eligibility criteria:

1. **Architecture:** the house retains architectural integrity; the stone façade exterior, which can be seen in photos taken in the early 1930s and which remains today, lends a distinctive vernacular quality.
2. **Historical association:** the house has a history dating back to the early 1930s in what was long a working-class neighborhood.
3. **Community Value:** Mr. Rendon moved into the house in 1962, and lived there for almost 60 years. During that time, Mr. Rendon hosted many important community-based events and initiatives in his home, including:
  - a. Weddings for several of the Honorable Judge Perkins' family members

- b. Planning meetings for Edward Rendon Sr. Holly Shores Master Plan stakeholders, including dignitaries Lady Bird Johnston, Mayor Carol Strayhorn, and community members Marcos DeLeon, Hortencia Palamores, and Paul Hernandez (1979)
- c. Primary staging site for free Haskell St. Halloween Block Party community events.

Mr. Rendon's former home at 1705 Haskell St. contributes to the historic character of the East Town Lake district. Considering its distinctive vernacular aesthetic in the context of Mr. Rendon's importance to Austin's Mexican American community, the house represents an architectural, cultural, and historical anchor for many long-term residents. Were Mr. Rendon's former home demolished, the community would surely lose an important asset that embodies aspects of both its tangible and intangible heritage. A vote in favor of historic zoning is a vote to protect it.

Sincerely,

Kristen Hotopp

East César Chavez resident

Sector 7 Representative, East César Chavez Contact Team

Dear Steve and Historical Commission,

There have been so many homes torn down in our community that have value, not just to the community, but also to Austin. I count 11 within 500 feet of my block. If this continues there will be nothing left for future generations to see actual contributions made by their ancestors

Mr. Rendon was an important and vital part of East Austin. A park on Lady Bird Lake being named after him should be proof of his importance. Don't let the legacy of your tenure and this commission be like the 1928 laws that kept people of color east of East Blvd (now I35). Let it be that you made sure the contributions made by leaders like Mr Rendon were memorialized for future generations.

Gwen O'Barr  
1604 Canterbury Street