

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Vanessa McElwrath, President
Lori Martin, President-Elect
Clayton Bullock, 1st Vice President
Richard Kooris, 2nd Vice President
Alyson McGee, Secretary
Clay Cary, Treasurer
Ken Johnson, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS

Richard Craig
John Donisi
Steve Genovesi
Eileen Gill
Ann S. Graham
Linda Y. Jackson
Dennis McDaniel
Scott Marks
Dewitt Peart
Blake Smith
Mickie Spencer
Michael Strutt
Allen Wise
Caroline Wright

REPRESENTATIVES

Michael Holleran, UTSOA
Charles Peveto, Austin History Center Association
Bob Ward, Travis County Historical Commission

STAFF

Lindsey Derrington, Executive Director

Emily Reed, Chair
City of Austin
Historic Landmark Commission

Re: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Dear Chair,

Preservation Austin respectfully submits our support for staff's recommendation to initiate historic zoning for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 1711 E. Oltorf Road. The building clearly meets two of five necessary criteria for designation: Architecture, as an incredible local example of Modern Movement religious architecture, and Historical Associations, as a significant landmark in South Austin's postwar growth (the Library of Congress defines the postwar period as lasting from 1945 to 1968). It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is well past the 50-year threshold.

Research produced by staff, along with our colleague Jason Haskins from Mid Tex Mod, have clearly established Prince of Peace Lutheran's standing among the most important religious buildings in Austin. Eugene Wukasch's design for this early A-frame church, and Octavio Medellin's stunning etched glass vestibule, comprise a total work of Modern Movement design from two of the best artists of their day. The building is an important, and early, marker of South Austin's suburban growth. It tells the story of our city's explosive building boom in the years following World War II, when Texas' population became majority urban rather than rural for the first time, and when returning veterans and their families fueled a prosperous new middle class supported by the G. I. Bill and FHA loans.

Given the size of the parcel in question, we would be pleased to work with the owners to help find a design solution that both preserves this historic building and serves their redevelopment needs.

Thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

Vanessa McElwrath
President of the Board of Directors

Cc:
Members of the City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission
Steve Sadowsky, City of Austin Historic Preservation Office