

East Lawrence Neighborhood Association

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To the Commissioners,

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is very pleased to have the opportunity to encourage the City Commission to designate these dozen or so properties as Landmarks on the Lawrence Register of Historic Places, as recommended by the Historic Resources Commission. This designation is consistent with the East Lawrence Neighborhood Plan adopted by the City in 2000 that has a stated goal of encouraging the preservation of our housing stock especially those appropriate for preservation and rehabilitation. We are pleased that Professor Domer chose to do a study of the homes in East Lawrence to help identify and formally document those homes that have such significance and furthers the knowledge of where our City comes from. This formal documentation by Dr. Domer's study gives additional credence that these homes are worthy of the Local Registry. The project was done with the sweat of numerous volunteers giving their time for no personal benefit, so that we have a broader base from which to draw as we plan for the future.

East Lawrence has been recognized for having one of the largest stretches of undisturbed vernacular housing stock anywhere in the Midwest. The City has decreed a Cultural District within boundaries that these homes occupy. Recognizing the significance of these homes helps to justify that Cultural District and enhances the justification for a 9th Street Corridor Project that is just now beginning to unfold. Designation helps our neighborhood and the city in a variety of other ways. It helps give us a sense of place. It demonstrates how we solve problems. It shows the evolution of a town. It shows the resourcefulness of our early settlers as these homes were built with mostly local materials. The architectural styles paint the picture of how folks came to settle the frontier and how this town was built. And the stories surrounding these buildings will continue to enhance the Neighborhood, the Cultural District and the City as a whole for years to come.

The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association requests that Landmark Status be granted for each of the properties under consideration.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Aaron Paden, President,
East Lawrence Neighborhood Association