



14 November 2017

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Louisville Metro Council
Louisville City Hall
601 West Jefferson
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Dear Louisville Metro Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of the local landmark designation of the circa 1924 Dr. John Walker Moore House at 609 Blankenbaker Lane. My name is Betsy Hatfield and I am the executive director of Preservation Kentucky, the statewide nonprofit that facilitates the sustainability of Kentucky's historic buildings, rural landscapes and prehistoric sites through advocacy and education.

Our mission is to make Kentucky communities stronger, healthier and economically sustainable. Among our goals is to advocate the economic development benefits of historic preservation for community revitalization and resiliency, jobs, tax revenues, heritage tourism, cultural enrichment and placemaking – a term used to describe how we manage the historic assets that make our cities and towns special; contribute to the unique and authentic character of our communities; and connect us to our heritage.

The Moore House's location on top of Poplar Hill integrally distinguishes and links the history of the neighborhood along Blankenbaker Lane, with homes ranging in date from the 1790 Locust Grove to the 1930s. It is a significant, contributing element to the historic architecture and cultural landscape of Louisville; and is surrounded by National Register Historic Districts and properties, and National Register eligible districts and properties.

The Moore House sits on the western edge of the National Register listed Country Estates of the River Road Historic District; the eastern edge of the National Register eligible district of River Hill and Stonebridge; and the southern edge of the 1790 Locust Grove National Historic Landmark. If the City of Indian Hills were to create an historic district, the John Walker Moore House would be a significant contributing resource.

The Moore House was designed in the Colonial Revival Style by American architect Carl Augustus Zeigler, whose other notable designs include National Register eligible homes on River Hill Road, and nearby Mockingbird Valley Drive and Green Hill Lane. The architectural merits of the home include 22-inch-thick limestone walls, double stone chimneys, double hung windows, a solid wood panel front door flanked by sidelights, and interior gumwood paneling. The home was built by Italian craftsmen in a technique designed to withstand the ravages of time, which it did: the original stone walls survived a fire in 1950 and still stand today. After the fire, the home was remodeled by the firm of notable architect Stratton Hammon, whose photographs and drawings of it are part of the Filson Historical Society collection.

The Moore House retains its integrity in design, materials and craftsmanship, and in location, setting and feel. It meets eight of the nine criteria used by the Landmarks Commission to apply local landmark designation, all of which speak to the architectural, aesthetic, historical, cultural, social, locational and craftsmanship contributions of the home – and are part of the visual, tangible and intrinsic assets that distinguish the area, the placemaking that makes the community special, authentic and distinctive.

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Louisville's architecture is as rich in diversity, style, form and function as the topography that has helped shaped it. Keeping Louisvillians connected to their architectural heritage is critical to the identity of the city, and maintaining the integrity of our historic architecture is paramount to placemaking. People want to experience the interesting places that we preserve, but you cannot recreate the place created by historic buildings. Once they are lost, so is a piece of our heritage and the sense of place that distinguishes Louisville.

In economics, it is the differentiated product that receives a monetary premium. If, in the long run, a community wants to attract capital to attract investment, it must differentiate itself from anywhere else. Through historic preservation a community can express its diversity, identity, individuality and the elements that make it different and distinguish it from others.

We respectfully ask that you accept the local landmark designation of the Dr. John Walker Moore House, and by doing so acknowledge the importance of and respect for our heritage, and the placemaking that makes Louisville the special community that it is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Betsy Hatfield". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Elizabeth A. "Betsy" Hatfield
Executive Director