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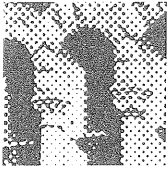
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October 6, 2008

Chair Laurie Limbacher & Commission Members
 Historic Landmark Commission
 City of Austin
 P.O. Box 1088
 Austin, Texas 78768

Dear Chair Limbacher & Commission Members:

The Heritage Society of Austin respectfully requests the preservation of the Gymnasium and Auditorium Buildings of the former Texas Blind, Deaf and Orphan School. We believe these structures should be preserved based on their merit as significant examples of the Modern architectural period representative of an important piece of Austin's history.



**HERITAGE
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Specifically, we believe the structures meet the criteria of subsection (§25-2-352(A)(3)(b)(i)) ("embodying the distinguishing characteristics of a recognized architectural style) and subsection (iv) ("possesses value to the community because it significantly represents the . . . economic, social, or historical heritage of the City or an area of the City . . .") of the City of Austin Code of Ordinances. The buildings are the work of Houston architects George Rustay and Foy Martin, and the designs utilize clean geometries distinctive forms, and attention to detail.

The preservation of these structures offers the City the opportunity to implement both the African American Quality of Life Initiative and the Climate Protection Program. The City has a stated objective to more prominently acknowledge and promote African American history, in part through recognized significant historic sites related to Austin's significant African American population. We urge the city not to eradicate, but instead preserve and promote these reminders of the important yet little known history of the former campus of Blind, Deaf and Orphan School for African-American students. The preservation and adaptive use of these structures will not only raise awareness of their history, but is also in alignment with Austin's Climate Protection Initiative to reduce landfill waste. The distinctive character of these buildings cannot be reproduced without great cost.

We encourage recognition of these resources as important reminders of Austin's diverse history and support their long term preservation. Thank you for your many hours of hard work to preserve what is best about Austin for future generations.

Sincerely,


 Jacqui Schraad
 Executive Director

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