

Support for approving Chicago Landmark nomination for 6427 S. St. Lawrence

Jonathan D Solomon <jdsolomon@saic.edu>

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To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Good morning,

I am writing to support the Commission on Chicago Landmarks approving the Chicago Landmark nomination for the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House at 6427 S. St. Lawrence (Agenda Item #2).

Thank you,

Jonathan Solomon, AIA

Associate Professor
School of the Art Institute of Chicago



LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

People Saving Places

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September 30, 2020

(SENT VIA EMAIL)

Chairman Rafael Leon
Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Attention: Kandalyn Hahn

RE: Proposed Landmark Designation for the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 South St. Lawrence Avenue

Dear Chairman Leon and Members of the Commission,

Landmarks Illinois is in full support of the proposed Chicago Landmark designation for the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House at 6427 South St. Lawrence Avenue.

The house is an extremely important reminder of the tragic murder of Emmett Till, brought on by systematic racism that is still prevalent in our society today. The well-documented events of Emmett's journey from his Woodlawn home to Mississippi to the return of his body to Chicago and public funeral at Roberts Temple, also a designated Chicago Landmark, makes this designation especially important to preserve the places that remind us of this injustice.

As the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized Roberts Temple on its annual 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list last week due to its need of major capital investment, it will be important for multiple partners also to invest in the Till home. Landmarks Illinois commends Emmett Till's family, Preservation Chicago and Blacks in Green for its leadership and our organization is happy to assist with these preservation efforts.

We thank the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, division staff and Alderwoman Taylor for assistance toward protecting this important place in Chicago's history. We encourage documentation and research to continue of other places of cultural and social historical significance for potential Chicago landmark designation and Landmarks Illinois stands ready to assist with those efforts as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa DiChiera
Director of Advocacy

October 1, 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

Chicago City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Re: The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago

Dear Mr. Chairman and Member of the Commission,

It is with great honor that we at Preservation Chicago, fully support the Chicago Landmark Designation and the Report from the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development, for The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, located at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, in the West Woodlawn Community of Chicago.

We were proud to assist in the preparation of research and documents for this Chicago Landmark Designation, and to bring attention to this home, which has been a site of pilgrimage to so many. We are hopeful that the recognition of this important site, will be a further reminder of its history and link to the Till Family, the tragic story of Emmett Till—a 14 year-old child caught in a nightmare of events in Mississippi, and remembering the courage of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley “to never forget.” And her efforts to share with the world, the brutal injustices of our society—and to work towards a better nation and equality for all people.

We along with members of the Till Family, Alderwoman Taylor, Members of the West Woodlawn, Woodlawn, Hyde Park and the Preservation Community, all support the designation of this home—belonging to Emmett Till, Mamie Till-Mobley and their family, and noting its important history and link to the national Civil Rights Movement.

This past week, on approximately the 65th anniversary of Emmett Till's funeral, the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced their “11 Most Endangered Buildings in America,” which included “Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ,” where Emmett Till's visitation and funeral was held. This is a Designated Chicago Landmark, which we all helped towards this honor and recognition back in 2005-2006, however, this is a building in tremendous need. We at Preservation Chicago, want to encourage the City of Chicago and the Department of Planning and Development's Historic Preservation Division, to assist and to work with the congregation and ownership, towards a resolution of required structural repairs to stabilize this Landmark to ensure its preservation well into the future. We are hoping that the

Adopt-a-Landmark program, and other incentives may be applied to help preserve this important building and site.

We are also hopeful that other sites, of cultural and historical importance, as well as those of architectural significance or of great architectural character to communities throughout our City, will become a major component of the INVEST South/West program, looking to the immediate future.

We as a City also need other tools to protect important buildings and to help holistically grow communities across Chicago, and would implore the use of "Conservation Districts", which are also to be introduced as "Neighborhood Character Districts-NCD's" in the immediate future. However, time is of the essence and these ideas and proposals have been languishing for years and years.

Thank you for your consideration of support of The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobely House and Home as a Designated Chicago Landmark. This is just the right time in history to finally recognize this building.

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago

Commission on Chicago Landmarks Perkins-Nordine House Comments

Thank you for designating Perkins-Nordine House as a Landmark. The house was the location for the Emmy and Grammy Nominated Artist for the "Video for the Ear" PBS Documentary and the record album "Stare with your Ears". Ken Nordine was a voice-over and commercial recording artist. Best known for his series of Word Jazz albums and syndicated radio shows on National Public Radio's "Now Nordine" and "Word Jazz".

Ken Nordine was an Artist, Writer, Musician and Chicago's original Hipster. The Beat Generation was an art movement in the 1950s and Ken created something new, Spoken Word over Cool Jazz.

Sincerely, Carl Palmer