

SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTURAL
HISTORIANS

28 August 2020

Mr. Rafael M. Leon, Chair
Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Cook County Building
121 N LaSalle St #1101
Chicago, IL 60602
ccl@cityofchicago.org

Re: Support for the Designation of the Emmett Till House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL, as a Chicago Landmark

Dear Mr. Leon:

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) strongly supports the proposed listing of the house in which Emmett Till was raised, located at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, as a Chicago Landmark.

Emmett Till (25 July 1941–28 August 1955) grew up in Chicago. At age fourteen, while visiting relatives near Money, Mississippi, he was brutally murdered after being accused of offending a white woman in her family's grocery store. His murderers were later acquitted. His mother's decision to hold an open casket funeral in Chicago led to international condemnation of Till's murder, highlighted the violence and brutality unleashed upon African Americans in the United States, and led to Till becoming a icon of the civil rights movement.

Till's murder and funeral, followed by the acquittal of his murderers, received national and international news coverage; in particular, African American newspapers such as the *Chicago Defender* covered the events extensively, and called on their readers to react to the acquittal by voting in large numbers. Till's death reverberated throughout African American communities, and led to protests and civil disobedience. Rosa Parks attended a rally for Till in Montgomery, led by Martin Luther King, Jr. Soon after, she refused to yield her seat on a segregated bus to a white passenger, leading to a year-long boycott of the Montgomery bus system. Parks, when asked to recount why she would not give up her seat and move to the back of the bus, recalled "I thought of Emmett Till and I just couldn't go back."

Emmett Till's murder, and the events that followed in its wake, are of national and international significance. Bestowing Chicago Landmark status upon 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue would acknowledge Till's life in Chicago, and call attention to the brief life that preceded his brutal murder. Such a designation would help to tell Till's story, including the terrible events that led to his death, the denial of justice embodied in his murderers' acquittal, and Till's posthumous emergence as an icon of the civil rights movement. The house in which Till was raised is of national, even international, significance, as the physical place most associated with his life. Few of the physical places associated with Till's murder survive. Bryant's Grocery, where the encounter that set into motion the fatal events has collapsed into a ruin; the Ben Roy Service Station, next to the grocery store, where Till encountered his accuser, has been demolished (and recently reconstructed), making the house at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue an even more significant connection to Till's life.

SAH joins with our colleagues at Preservation Chicago, the Hyde Park Historical Society, Ald. Jenette Taylor (20th), and all citizen efforts to list 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue as a Chicago Landmark. Listing will do much to commemorate not just the death of Till, but his life and its legacy. As our country goes through a painful soul-searching in reaction to the murders of George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Breonna Taylor, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and so many others, granting this dignity and reverence to the place where Emmett Till was raised is a small but necessary step toward national acknowledgment of the violence that has long defined the Black experience in America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'B', 'C', and 'G' in a stylized, cursive font, followed by a horizontal line.

Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C
Chair, Society of Architectural Historians Heritage Conservation Committee

cc: Mr. Kenneth Breisch, Ph.D.; Mr. Jeffrey Cody, Ph.D.; Mr. Anthony Cohn, AIA; Mr. David Fixler, FAIA; Ms. Priya Jain, AIA; Mr. Theodore H. Prudon, Ph.D., FAIA, Ms. Pauline Saliga; Ms. Deborah Slaton; Ms. Victoria Young, Ph.D.; Members, SAH Heritage Conservation Committee; Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20th), City of Chicago; Mr. Ward Miller, Executive Director, Preservation Chicago; Ms. Michal Safar, President, Hyde Park Historical Society,



CITY OF CHICAGO



JEANETTE B. TAYLOR
ALDERMAN, 20TH WARD

July 20, 2020

Mr. Maurice Cox
Commissioner, Department of Planning
City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle Street, Room 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

RE: Chicago Landmark Designation for the Till/Till Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence

Dear Commissioner Cox:

As the 20th Ward Alderwoman, I write in full support of a Chicago Landmark designation for the Emmett Till and Mamie Till Mobley House in the West Woodlawn community on Chicago's South Side.

I support an accelerated schedule to consider this on the Commission on Chicago Landmarks' meeting agenda on August 6, 2020 to commemorate what would have Emmett Till's 79th birthday on July 25 and the 65th anniversary of his murder on August 28. Such a schedule might also see us getting to final approval of the designation during Black History Month in February 2021.

Blacks in Green™ and Preservation Chicago are drafting a Landmark nomination report for your department's consideration.

I look forward to talking with Planning Department staff soon about this opportunity to honor our nation's African-American history, the West Woodlawn community, and the ongoing fight for equity and justice in America. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Jeannette B. Taylor, Alderwoman, 20th Ward

cc: Eleanor Gorski, Department of Planning & Development
Dijana Cuvalo, Department of Planning & Development

Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House-Letter of Support for Landmarking

Elizabeth Blasius <elizabeth.blasius@gmail.com>

Tue 9/1/2020 5:30 PM

To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

I am writing in support of the landmarking of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House.

As Chicago moves forward with its plans to catalog monuments, appoint an advisory committee to identify which monuments warrant action, and to make recommendations for new monuments and create a platform for the public to engage in what aspects of Chicago's history we commemorate, our municipal landmarks deserve a similar assessment. Chicago's Landmarks are a type of monument; one to the architecture that tells our story as a city.

A recent piece in [The New Yorker](#) found that of the more than ninety-five thousand entries on the National Register of Historic Places, only two percent focus on the experiences of Black Americans. As a historian in Chicago I have thought a lot about that percentage in context with Chicago's designated landmarks. How many of our Chicago Landmarks represent the life, achievements and in the case of Emmett Till, the sacrifices of Black Chicagoans? I expect that a review of Chicago Landmarks would reveal a similarly low percentage, one that does not reflect the diversity of our residents and is similarly offensive. Landmarking the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House is a move in the right direction to designate landmarks that articulate the full breadth of what and who Chicago is.

It is important to note that the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House is not included in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey. The absence of the Till Home in its entirety means that it not only has received no recognition as a historic place, but that the home would have never been subject to Chicago's 90 day demolition delay ordinance and could have been demolished at any time. The Chicago Historic Resources Survey is not inclusive, and the data is out of date and should no longer be used to determine what is historic and more importantly--what is demolished without oversight.

I would like to remind the Commission that per the text of the Landmarks Ordinance the commission has the responsibility to "conduct an ongoing survey of the City of Chicago for the purpose of identifying those areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, and other objects of historic or architectural significance." A survey that includes data that is at best 25 years old and at worst 37 years old does not achieve this, and the data was not originally intended to assist in determining which buildings receive oversight in terms of demolition. The Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House is one of many significant cultural landmarks that were overlooked by the survey. How many more landmarks in Chicago have we left without recognition?

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Blasius
Architectural Historian
Blaservations, Inc.
2548 West Logan Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60647
(773)814-7845

blaservations.com

@blaservations

"Focused. I'm a hustler, and my hustle is trying to figure out the best ways to do what I like to do without having to do much else."

-Yasiin Bey (Mos Def)

1 September 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks
121 North LaSalle, Suite #1101
Chicago, IL, 60602
RE: Emmett and Mamie Till Home Landmark Nomination

To the Commission on Chicago Landmarks:

I would like to express my strong support for the Emmett and Mamie Till Home to receive landmark status from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. Emmett Till's brutal murder ignited the civil rights movement, much like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor's brutal murders ignited nationwide protests against racial injustice in 2020. His home should be preserved as a monument to his role in the civil rights movement.

Though the building itself is not distinctive from the surrounding architecture in Woodlawn, its historic significance is undeniable. Indeed, I would argue that its similarity to other residential two-flat structures in the neighborhood only emphasizes that anyone, from any neighborhood, from any humble beginnings, can alter the course of history, just as Mamie Till did. Her home must be preserved.

Only two percent of the landmarks in the National Register of Historic Places honor African American history. Landmarking the Emmett and Mamie Till home offers an opportunity to include more monuments to Black history in Chicago, where many civil rights activists and leaders spearheaded change and called out racial injustice.

I strongly urge the Commission to approve this landmark nomination.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

Re: Society of Architectural Historians support for listing the Emmett Till House as a Chicago Landmark

Ward Miller Preservation Chicago <wmiller@preservationchicago.org>

Tue 9/1/2020 2:40 PM

To: Bryan Clark Green <bryancgreen@gmail.com>

Cc: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>; president@hydeparkhistory.org <President@hydeparkhistory.org>; Jeanette Taylor <Jeanette.Taylor@cityofchicago.org>; Helena Dean <HDean@sah.org>; Dijana Cuvalo <Dijana.Cuvalo@cityofchicago.org>; Matt Crawford <Matt.Crawford@cityofchicago.org>; Kandalyn Hahn <Kandalyn.Hahn@cityofchicago.org>; Pauline Saliga <psaliga@sah.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Mr. Green,

Thank you for your letter of support to nominate the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Home as a Designated Chicago Landmark.

We're very proud to share the news that the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, is on the Commission on Chicago Landmarks Agenda for this Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 12:45pm--meeting via Zoom, where it will hopefully receive a "Preliminary Landmark Designation." This would be the very beginning of such a process, but a very important first step, towards a full Chicago Landmark honor and designation.

September 3rd--the date of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks hearing, also marks the 65th anniversary of the beginnings of Emmett Till's visitation and funeral--attended by tens-of-thousands of people, with some estimates ranging to 100,000 mourners, so this is a very special anniversary indeed. And in this time of much social unrest, it's an appropriate time to honor Emmett Till and his mother, who was an advocate for so many of the social injustices.

Thanks so much for your support and that of the Society of Architectural Historians. As always we are so pleased to have the support of a national organization as well, especially one that's based in Chicago and in such a historic house and Chicago Landmark--The Charnley-Persky House.

As you'll note, I added a few more individuals to your cc list, as other individuals from the Department of Planning and Development, should also share your letter below, with the Landmark Commission members, noting the challenges of communications during this world health crises. We hope this is okay to share and of course, all our personal best to Ms. Pauline Saliga, as well.

Sincerely,
Ward

Ward Miller, Executive Director

[Preservation Chicago](#)
The Williams Building
205 W. Monroe, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60606-5006

c: 773.398.6432
o: 312.443.1000
wmiller@preservationchicago.org

On Aug 27, 2020, at 6:30 PM, Bryan Clark Green <bryangreen@gmail.com> wrote:

Mr. Leon,

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) strongly supports the proposed listing of the house in which Emmett Till was raised, located at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, as a Chicago Landmark.

SAH joins with our colleagues at Preservation Chicago, the Hyde Park Historical Society, Ald. Jeanette Taylor (20th), and all citizen efforts to list 6427 S. Lawrence Avenue as a Chicago Landmark. Listing will do much to commemorate not just the death of Till, but his life and its legacy.

Thank you,

Bryan Green

Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D.

420 South Pine Street

Richmond, VA 23220

bryangreen@gmail.com

<SAH_Emmett Till House_28 August 2020_FINAL.pdf>

Re: Society of Architectural Historians support for listing the Emmett Till House as a Chicago Landmark

Pauline Saliga <PSaliga@sah.org>

Tue 9/1/2020 2:55 PM

To: Ward Miller Preservation Chicago <wmiller@preservationchicago.org>; Bryan Clark Green <bryancgreen@gmail.com>
Cc: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>; president@hydeparkhistory.org <President@hydeparkhistory.org>; Jeanette Taylor <Jeanette.Taylor@cityofchicago.org>; Helena Dean <HDean@sah.org>; Dijana Cuvalo <Dijana.Cuvalo@cityofchicago.org>; Matt Crawford <Matt.Crawford@cityofchicago.org>; Kandalyn Hahn <Kandalyn.Hahn@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Ward,

Thank you for letting us know about the preliminary landmark hearing for the Till House on Sept. 3rd. I don't think any of us realized the date also would be the 65th anniversary of Emmett Till's visitation and funeral. It is a chilling realization. Thank you for your continued efforts to give a voice to new potential Chicago landmarks such as the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Home.

Best wishes,
Pauline

Pauline Saliga, Executive Director
Society of Architectural Historians
1365 N. Astor Street
Chicago, IL 60610-2144
www.sah.org
psaliga@sah.org
312.543.1365

From: Ward Miller Preservation Chicago <wmiller@preservationchicago.org>

Sent: Tuesday, September 1, 2020 2:40 PM

To: Bryan Clark Green <bryancgreen@gmail.com>

Cc: ccl@cityofchicago.org <ccl@cityofchicago.org>; president@hydeparkhistory.org <President@hydeparkhistory.org>; Jeanette.Taylor@cityofchicago.org <Jeanette.Taylor@cityofchicago.org>; Helena Dean <HDean@sah.org>; Dijana Cuvalo <Dijana.Cuvalo@cityofchicago.org>; Matt Crawford <matt.crawford@cityofchicago.org>; Kandalyn Hahn <Kandalyn.Hahn@cityofchicago.org>; Pauline Saliga <PSaliga@sah.org>

Subject: Re: Society of Architectural Historians support for listing the Emmett Till House as a Chicago Landmark

Dear Mr. Green,

Thank you for your letter of support to nominate the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley Home as a Designated Chicago Landmark.

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Sincerely,
Ward

Ward Miller, Executive Director

[Preservation Chicago](#)
The Williams Building
205 W. Monroe, Suite 400
Chicago, Illinois 60606-5006
c: 773.398.6432
o: 312.443.1000
wmiller@preservationchicago.org

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Thank you,
Bryan Green

Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D.

420 South Pine Street

Richmond, VA 23220

bryangreen@gmail.com

<SAH_Emmett Till House_28 August 2020_FINAL.pdf>



5529 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637 + 773.493.1893

1 September 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks
Cook County Building
121 N LaSalle St #1101
Chicago, IL 60602
ccl@cityofchicago.org

Subject: Support for the Designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House, 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL, as a Chicago Landmark

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks:

The Hyde Park Historical Society joins with our colleagues Preservation Chicago, Alderman Jeanette Taylor (20th), the Society of Architectural Historians, Blacks in Green and the Emmett Till family to enthusiastically support the designation of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue as a Chicago Landmark. In addition to commemorating the memory of Emmett Till, this nomination recognizes the importance of the West Woodlawn neighborhood to African-American history in Chicago.

August 28, 2020 was the 65th anniversary of the murder of Emmett Till. This designation is long overdue.

Respectfully,

Michal Safar

Michal Safar, President
Hyde Park Historical Society

Hyde Park Historical Society
5529 South Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637 + 773.493.1893
www.hydeparkhistory.org

Preservation Chicago

Citizens advocating for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture

September 3, 2020

Brad Suster

President

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

Jacob Kaplan

Vice President

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois

Debbie Dodge

Secretary

Re: Landmark Recommendation for the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House

Stuart Berman

Treasurer

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks

We at Preservation Chicago fully and wholeheartedly support the consideration of The Emmett Till and the Mamie Till-Mobley House, in Chicago's West Woodlawn community as a Designated Chicago Landmark.

Board of Directors

Cathie Bond

Diane Gonzalez

Joyce Jackson

Jack Spicer

Andrea Reed

Charles Vinz

Joanne Yasus

We recognize the importance of the building, located at 6427 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, as the home of Emmett Till and his family, residing on multiple floors of the building, with Emmett and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, living on the second floor, with aunts and uncles on the first floor and cousins and extended family, living in the garden apartment. It was truly a family-oriented building in every regard.

The house is a direct connection and link to Emmet Till's life in Chicago – a child, a person, who walked to the nearby McCosh Elementary School, now renamed in his honor, and he was known for his acts of kindness, helping elderly neighbors and was well liked in the community.

Emmett Till's visit to Money, Mississippi, to spend time with his extended family, resulted in a tragic and almost unimaginable series of events, which are still difficult to comprehend, even 65 years later. The tragedy of those frightful days have been well documented, and part of history, so we should never forget – the murder of a young teenage child of 14-years of age from Chicago, caught in a world and nation of double standards and injustice.

Today's meeting of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks – September 3rd, marks the 65th anniversary of the beginnings of Emmett Till's visitation and funeral, held in part at Robert's Temple Church of God in Christ, on Chicago's South Side. A place where tens-of-thousands of mourners – some estimates placed at 100,000 individuals, gathered to pay respects to Emmett's mother and family, and to bear witness--by an open casket visitation, of such a heinous crime. It is almost provident that we are here today – on this 65th anniversary day, to encourage and support the Chicago Landmark Designation of his beloved Chicago home.

Preservation Chicago

Citizens advocating for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture

Emmett Till's death impacted the community and a nation, and had "sparked" many aspects of the Civil Rights Movement in the late 1950s and early 1960s. The dedication of his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, to share the story of her son's senseless death to the world, inspired many, including Dr. King, Rosa Parks, Congressman John Lewis and others. Today, in a time of social unrest in our nation, Emmet Till's name is still relevant and heard among peaceful protestors and on placards.

It is important, perhaps now more than ever to protect the legacy of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. And this house—their home, is a direct link to the life of Emmett and the work of his mother to make others aware of injustices in our nation and world and to further peace, equality and healing.

This building and its potential Chicago Landmark Designation—a great honor bestowed upon this home, will help to further that story, while also being a place of reflection, and also perhaps connecting us in some way to a child that became caught-up in a terrible nightmare of injustice, which fueled many changes and policies in the decades that followed. We therefore, without hesitation, recommend Chicago Landmark Designation of the Emmet Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House.

Special thanks to the family of Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley, including their cousins, Ollie Gordon and Mr. & Mrs. Wheeler Parker Jr., Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor, Members and neighbors of the West Woodlawn Community, including Naomi Davis of "Blacks in Green," the Hyde Park Historical Society — Michel Safer and Jack Spicer, William Eager, Senior Vice President of POAH-Chicago and Mr. Blake McCreight, owner of the property, who has consented to the designation. Also, Commissioner Cox, Dijana Cuvalo, Matt Crawford and Kandalyn Hahn of the Department of Planning & Development DPD-Historic Preservation Division; and to Mary Lu Seidel of Preservation Chicago and Jonathan Solomon of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, for their research and dedication to this project and compilation Preliminary Landmark Designation Report.

On behalf of so many supporters across Chicago and extending far beyond our City, we thank you for your support of this Preliminary Landmark Designation today.

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago

205 W. Monroe Street

Chicago, Illinois 60606



September 1, 2020

Dear City of Chicago Landmarks Commission,

The savage murder of Emmett Till, 65 years ago, forced a nation to face the real-world consequences of racism. His mother's insistence on an open casket ensured that people saw exactly what had been done to her son due to the color of his skin. And the photos by Chicago's *Jet* magazine, which reverberated around the world, helped bring the modern civil rights movement into existence.

In recognition of the lasting impact of Till's murder, his name is among the first of 40 martyrs inscribed on the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, AL. "Emmett Till's death woke the nation up to the horrific reality of racism in the Deep South," is how Tafeni English, director of the Civil Rights Memorial Center, recently put it. "The 65th anniversary of Till's murder also reminds us that today's Black Lives Matter movement is rooted in a struggle that has been going on for generations, and that continues to this day."

With plans being finalized to build the Obama Presidential Center close to Till's home, Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is proud to join the family and community to support designating Emmett Till's home, 6427 South Lawrence Ave., a Chicago Landmark. As an affordable housing developer in Woodlawn for the past ten years, POAH values and cherishes the community's role as a cornerstone of Chicago's culture and history.

An interesting thread connects Till to President Obama. At his 2008 inauguration, Obama credited Rep. John Lewis as the person who paved the way for him to become the first Black President. And it was Lewis who credited Emmett Till for inspiring him. As Rep. Lewis wrote shortly before his death, "Emmett Till was my George Floyd. He was my Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland and Breonna Taylor."

The Landmark designation is a fitting way to commemorate Emmett Till's life and legacy, as well as his mother's activism. And it will help enhance the understanding of Black history in America. POAH is confident that an Emmett Till landmark will inspire present and future generations and be a force for positive change.

Respectfully,

William Eager, Senior Vice President, POAH Chicago

September 2, 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

121 N. LaSalle

Chicago IL

Re: Landmark Status of Till-Mobley Home, 6427 S. St. Lawrence

Dear Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

I have long maintained that the story of the Woodlawn community, from its earliest days to the present, makes it one of the most significant and important neighborhoods in the city and nation. The Till-Mobley Home is a large part of that importance.

It is imperative that the Till-Mobley Home be added to the roll of Chicago's landmarks. Additionally, while it is heartening to see that so many people are wholeheartedly in support of the designation, it is also of critical importance that the current owners of this property be made aware of its significance so that they may also agree to bestow landmark status on the building.

Sincerely,

Mike Medina

Woodlawn Ave., Chicago

Emmett Till's Home

nina dellaria <nina.dellaria@gmail.com>

Wed 9/2/2020 5:34 PM

To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Commission Members:

I was born and raised in Chicago and am a current resident of our beautiful yet challenging city. I am writing to you today to express my strong support for making Emmett Till's home in Chicago a landmark. White supremacy, its deadly past and present, and the hatred it spawns is our national shame. Recognizing the Till home in this way will instruct us and lead us forward. It is the landmark we need.

Black Lives Matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Anita Dellaria
701 S. Wells St #2903
Chicago, IL 60607

Support for the Mamie and Emmett Till home

Julie W <jagrobwhit@gmail.com>

Wed 9/2/2020 8:37 PM

To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

Dear Chicago Landmark Commissioners,

Many homes in Chicago tell a story, they add to the character and personality of our city. My family and I live in the Gold Coast neighborhood where many houses tell the story of people who lived here in the late 19th century. It is now up to us to preserve the history of the 20th century and few homes in Chicago tell a story as nationally important and significant as the Mamie and Emmett Till home at 6427 S St. Lawrence Ave.

The story of Emmett Till and his mother Mamie Till-Mobley, has been shared and taught in history books, schools, and classrooms around the country for decades. I am concerned and confused by the lack of historic marker at their home, their story was an indisputable catalyst in the brave civil rights movement of the 1960's. We must act now to preserve this building not only for the city of Chicago, but for the country. This home represents a well documented and important time in American history, with historic protection it can continue to honor the tragic, but brave story of Mamie and Emmett Till that inspired many to fight for equality and justice.

As you consider the many stories and buildings that tell the story of our city and decide which stories deserve preservation it is overwhelmingly obvious that this home holds important historic value; I urge the commission to protect it with landmark status.

Sincerely,
Julie Whitted

1345 N. Astor St.
Chicago, IL 60610

Preservation Chicago

Citizens advocating for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture

September 3, 2020

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois

Re: Landmark Recommendation for the former Illinois Bell Building, 225 W. Randolph St.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

Preservation Chicago is very pleased to recommend the former Illinois Bell Telephone Building, located at 225 W. Washington Street as a Chicago Landmark.

The building designed by architects Holabird & Root in 1966, is a fine representation of a mid-century-modern office building design for a downtown Chicago location, and at one time part of network and cluster of several office building structures built by the company and its corporate parent over time in this immediate vicinity, beginning in 1911. Several of those earlier nearby office buildings were also designed by the architectural firm of Holabird & Root and have been redeveloped and repurposed for residential uses.

As part of the American Bell System and serving as the primary regional headquarters for AT&T, and later Ameritech, the Illinois Bell Building and the company became the primary telephone provider for Chicago, the metropolitan area and the State of Illinois for many decades. The controversial breakup of the Bell System, and to some degree AT&T, led to many mergers and the loss of the company's name.

Noting the significance of the Illinois Bell and Bell Companies to Chicago and its history extending to today, with AT&T and the noted work of Holabird & Root architects, we at Preservation Chicago fully support the designation of this mid-20th-century building as a Chicago Landmark.

Looking to the future, we should encourage the Chicago Landmark Designation of other mid-20th Century modernist and post-modern buildings. These include structures like the Lakeside Center of McCormick Place by C.F. Murphy, with Gene Summers and Helmut Jahn, the Thompson Center by Murphy/Jahn, the Hartford Insurance Company Building/100 S. Wacker, and such buildings as 10 and 120 S. Riverside Plaza, both designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill and worthy of a Chicago Landmark honors and protections.

These were all award-winning buildings, published in journals of architecture and periodicals around the world. In some instances, like the Lakeside Center of McCormick Place, the building was as notable and as structurally remarkable as our most famous tall superstructures of the period, the John Hancock Building, Standard Oil/Aon Center and the Sears Tower. Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Preservation Chicago

Citizens advocating for the preservation of Chicago's historic architecture

Ward Miller, Executive Director