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10/22/07

October 11, 2007

City Manager
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Re: NW 5th Avenue Structure Survey

Mr. Blackburn,

At the Community Redevelopment Agency meeting on 9/17/07, CRA staff and the historic preservation planner presented a structure survey of the NW 5th Avenue neighborhood to the CRA, with the recommendation that the structure survey be referred to the City Commission, with further referral to the Historic Preservation Board.

Embedded in that structure survey was a section that listed nine (9) structures that "appear to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Registry of Historic Places".

Subsequent to the 9/17/07 CRA meeting, I discovered that that one of the structures on this list is a house that I own.

The reason stated for including the house that I own is that it is a frame vernacular house.

Of the ten (10) architectural styles mentioned within the survey, frame vernacular is the cheapest, least decorative, least distinctive, and most common form of construction.

Frame vernacular constitutes 60.5% (158) of the 260 structures in the neighborhood.

Please be advised that I was never notified or consulted regarding this matter. Please be advised that I have no desire for my house to be included on this list or considered for eligibility.

Jennifer L. F. Nash of Environmental Services, Inc. was responsible for conducting the structure survey. According to my phone conversation with Ms. Nash on 10/10/07, I need only request that my house be removed from this list, and it should be removed, with no further effort or action required on my part.

I hereby formally request that my house located at 912 NW 3rd Avenue be removed from this list prior to any further referral by the City Commission.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Robert Pearce

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Submitted to
MUTNY

Fifth Avenue Nomination Consideration for Property Owners

■ National Register

- ❖ If a property owner (or majority of property owners for district) objects to National Register nomination then the property cannot be listed (file notarized objection letter).
However, the property may be reviewed by the Keeper of National Register/National Park Service for a determination of eligibility which, if deemed eligible, will require that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation review/comment on any impact that a federal project (or federally funded project) may have on that resource.
- ❖ Listing in the National Register honors the property by recognizing its importance to its community, State, or the Nation.
- ❖ Under Federal law, private property owners can do anything they wish with their National Register-listed property, provided that no Federal license, permit, or funding is involved.
- ❖ Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them, or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so.
- ❖ Owners of listed properties may be able to obtain Federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. In addition, Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.
- ❖ 2007 Proposed Preserve Historic America Act will add tax credits for homeowners for their primary residence.

■ Local/State (Per Section 112 of Comprehensive Plan)

- ❖ A local register of historic places is created as a means of identifying and classifying various sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts as historic and/or architecturally significant. The local register will be kept by the city manager or designee.
- ❖ Placement of sites, buildings, districts, etc., on local register--Initiation. Placement of sites, buildings, structures, objects or districts on the local register may be initiated by the city commission or the historic preservation board. In addition, placement may be initiated by the owner of the site, building, structure, object or area; or, in the case of a district, by the owner of a site, building, structure, object or area within the proposed district.
- ❖ In order to be listed on the local register, a site, building, object, structure, or district must be determined to be significant and to possess integrity. To be significant, a building, object, structure, or district must meet at least three of the criteria listed below, or, if approved by a six to nine vote of the historic preservation board, it must meet at least one of the criteria listed below.
 - ❖ Is associated with events that are significant to our local, state, or national history;
 - ❖ Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
 - ❖ Represents the work of a master;
 - ❖ Possesses high artistic values; or
 - ❖ Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- ❖ Nominations of individually listed properties to the local register of historic places by the city commission or the historic preservation board must have the consent of the property owner or must be approved with a four-fifths vote of the city commission and a six-ninths vote of the historic preservation board.
 - ❖ Operational policies cover: Certificate of historic significance, modification of existing zoning and building code requirements, issuance of certificates of appropriateness and demolition permits, Ad valorem tax exemptions, demolition by neglect.
 - ❖ State of Florida grants-in-aid program is competitive but also another resource for rehabilitation funding