

From: Bryan Ogg [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 19, 2024 6:22 PM
To: Bryan Ogg
Subject: This is NOT preservation
Attachments: [20240119_144320.jpg](#); [20240119_144408.jpg](#); [20240119_144350.jpg](#)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Categories: Public Comment

CAUTION: This e-mail originated outside of the City of Naperville (@naperville.il.us).

DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you confirm the incoming address of the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, a Call to Notice board in the extreme northwest corner of Naperville's one-and-only historic district was brought to my attention. I was shocked, to say the least at what I saw. The images attached to this email were not photoshopped or altered.

The house at 223 Center was built around 1865 for George Steinger. Several related Steinger families (brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts and uncles) came to Naperville in 1845 from Pennsylvania. They were among several German-speaking families of farmers, craftsmen and women who chose Naperville as their new home. The Steiningers occupied the home at the corner of Center Street and North Avenue for 76 years. The last Steinger was Mrs. David "Hattie Steinger" Sollenberger. From 1941 to 1972, the house was owned by Mrs. Edward "Caroline Bapst" Goetsch and her daughter, Mrs. Carl "Loretta Goetsch" Zietsma. The last name I was able to track through county records was William Costello (of Coleman & Costello, 109 N. Mill Street), who bought the property in 1973.

The Steiningers were not famous nor powerful politically or financially. But culturally, like so many hard-working, God-fearing (they were members of the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed church as well as many German-speaking congregations) they contributed to the fiber that made Naperville the strong, industrious, family-centered community that attracts so many new families today. The home was built in the vernacular or working-man's style. It is a common design. But the Steinger house, like the Jacob Bucks 1875 home directly north, is part of a neighborhood; a part of a whole. Chipping away at the Historic District is not preservation and is not good business. Building massive homes will raise assessments and force out those who most appreciate the older and simpler homes of yesteryear.

I do not believe making a "Hollywood set" of Naperville's built environment is preservation by any degree or definition. The historic ordinance developed, approved, and amended over the last 40 years was meant to preserve our built environment and consequently improve the appeal, culture, and charm of our community. If you agree, please forward this to as many people as you can. Please let our council and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) members know you care (emails below). The wanton

destruction of our old buildings is accelerating, seemingly unchecked. There are three vacancies on the HPC. Who will protect our Past for our Future? If I was able, I WOULD!

Very Sincerely,
Bryan J. Ogg

Historic Preservation Commission
iwickib@naperville.il.us

Mayor & City Council
council@naperville.il.us

From: Marianne Kuhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Iwicki, Brad
Subject: 223 Center St.

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Categories: Public Comment

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I am writing in concern about the chipping away of our history in Naperville. The historic district was created to ensure our history could be preserved for generations to come but it appears those rules have been broken in some cases to allow such destruction as is happening on Center St. Part of the charm of Naperville is the many bits of our past that are still visible as a reminder of life in our town in the early days. I hope this kind of thing doesn't happen again. It is so important to keep those memories alive.

Sincerely, Marianne Lisson Kuhn

From: Elisabeth Engl [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 3:40 PM
To: Council; Iwicki, Brad
Cc: Erman USA
Subject: Fwd: This is NOT preservation

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Dear Mr. Wehrli and Mr. Iwicki,

As residents of the historic district, we are saddened by the demolition of this historic home and agree with Mr. Ogg. Naperville's historic district is truly distinctive and part of its nationwide allure (case in point, we moved across the country to be able to call such a wonderful community home).

If people do not want to live in a historic home, there are plenty of other neighborhoods to choose from.

It appears either rules were flouted, or our rules need to be more effective to prevent them being taken to such an extreme.

Knowing our preservation officers work hard to enforce the code, I hope better procedures can be found so that our beautiful district can remain historic.

Best wishes,
Elisabeth Engl and Erman Misirlisoy,
220 N Sleight Street

From: Bryan Ogg [REDACTED]
Date: January 19, 2024 at 6:22:12 PM CST
To: Bryan Ogg [REDACTED]
Subject: This is NOT preservation

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Very Sincerely,
Bryan J. Ogg

Historic Preservation Commission
iwickib@naperville.il.us

Mayor & City Council
council@naperville.il.us

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40119_144350.jpg>

From: Mike Tannura [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2024 9:45 AM
To: Council; Iwicki, Brad
Cc: marissa arnold
Subject: 223 N Center Demolition

Categories: Public Comment

CAUTION: This e-mail originated outside of the City of Naperville (@naperville.il.us).

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Dear Mr. Wehrli and Historic Preservation Commission:

The unapproved demolition of 223 N. Center Street is an insult to every homeowner and developer in Naperville. A severe penalty should be imposed on its owner, and the historic district rules should be strengthened.

Anyone with the means of a teardown would do so in the historic district based on its ideal location between downtown and the train station. The only thing that prevents it is the historic designation, which is why so many new homes have been built to the immediate north, south, and west.

The demolition of this house appears to be a flagrant violation to build a new house on the best land. Now that demolition is complete, it appears that they are going to ask for forgiveness after the fact. It's a slap in the face to everyone that follows homebuilding and renovation rules inside and outside the historic district, beyond the loss of history associated with the now-destroyed home.

If a severe penalty is not imposed and rules not strengthened, then the historic district no longer exists.

Thank you,

Mike

Mike and Marissa Tannura
213 N Sleight Street
[REDACTED]