

Dear City Council,

My name is Lily Aguillard Barfield, and we are so excited that 109 Stratford Street is being considered for the Protected Landmark designation. My husband and I are planning to open 109 Stratford Street as a charming Bed & Breakfast, so that both visitors and locals can appreciate this incredible piece of Houston's history. We hope it will be a gathering place for the community, and a place where people can appreciate the rich history and beauty our city has to offer.

When we first saw the house, it felt as if we were stepping back in time to the early days of Houston. The towering neoclassical columns and sprawling front porches took our breath away. The building is a true testament to the architecture and craftsmanship of the homes of the early 1900s. It is our hope that this property receives the Protected Landmark designation so that our community can enjoy its grandeur for years to come. We are thrilled to be stewards of this property and usher it into a new generation where many can enjoy its beauty.

I know we are not alone in our appreciation of both our property and the surrounding historic homes in our neighborhood. The Avondale neighborhood is filled with people passionate about historic preservation, and the designation of 109 Stratford Street as a Protected Landmark would be a big win for us history buffs! We feel incredibly lucky to be part of a neighborhood and city that celebrates its history and protects the beautiful buildings of the past. We ardently hope you will assign our property the Protected Landmark status, and look forward to hearing your decision. Thank you so much for your time and efforts to make Houston the best version of itself every day.

Best,

Lily Aguillard Barfield

Dear City Council,

I am writing in support of the Protected Landmark designation for 109 Stratford Street in the Avondale Historic District. 109 Stratford is a beautiful property with a rich, eclectic history that is cherished by the residents of the Avondale neighborhood, many of whom have lived nearby for decades and known several former owners. It is architecturally striking: with its large columns and expansive front porch, it both contrasts and complements the surrounding homes in the neighborhood, whose diversity of style and architecture makes the area quintessentially Houston.

This designation will not only protect the building's unique character but also enhance the neighborhood's cultural identity. In its next chapter as a bed and breakfast, 109 Stratford will offer visitors a unique opportunity to experience a property and neighborhood and that is both historic and uniquely Houston. Additionally, our goal is for the property to become a true gathering place for the neighborhood's residents, enhancing what is already a close-knit community.

I urge City Council to support this designation and recognize the importance of preserving our historical landmarks. By doing so, we ensure that Houston remains a vibrant and culturally rich city.

Thank you,

Thomas Barfield
Co-Founder & Managing Member
Marlene Hospitality

Dear Councilmember,

The John S. Stewart House at 109 Stratford Street in the Avondale neighborhood of Houston is one of the very few surviving residential examples of the Neoclassical Style that the city became known for in the aftermath of the oil boom of the early 20th century. It served as the longtime home of a rather prominent local family that is affiliated with the Stewart Title Company that is still in business to this day.

The Neoclassical Style is one of the fastest disappearing architectural styles in Houston. The Midtown section of the city originally had hundreds of examples of that style and unfortunately less than a handful of them survive to this day. The surviving examples have no protections, have been either altered for commercial use or saw their formal gardens lost to subdivision. The John S. Stewart House in adjoining Avondale still retains its original Neoclassical architectural style and gardens, giving the viewer a rare glimpse of what Houston would have looked like during the early 20th century.

While the John S. Stewart House may sit in a protected historic district, there have been legal attempts to challenge the city's historic preservation ordinance. A protected landmark designation would add another layer of protection that the structure will remain preserved for future generations.

The Houston Archaeological and Historic Commission voted unanimously to support the owner's request to have the John S. Stewart House designated as a protected landmark, and I request that you, as a Houston City Councilmember, vote in the same manner to preserve an important piece of Houston's history.

Thank you for your support,

Charles Stava

503 Avondale Street