

From: Katie Cantwell [mailto:katie.cantwell90@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 12:16 PM
To: u4boe@u4sd.org
Subject: Construction at 603 W. Church St. Champaign

To whom it may concern,

I hope this missive finds you well. I am writing to express my concern about what I have heard about the planned demolition of the house at 603 W. Church St, otherwise known as the Burnham Mansion.

I have been a resident of Champaign for almost ten years, originally moving here for my BA at the U of I. Friends of mine living in Chicago sometimes ask me how I can stand to live in such a small place, to which I answer that a) Champaign is not actually that small and b) I am happy to live in a beautiful city that is full of history. Burnham Mansion at 603 W. Church St. is an irreplaceable part of our local history and destroying it would be paramount to tearing down a Frank Lloyd Wright house.

Albert Burnham built the house now well over one hundred years ago while he was also building some of the most beautiful and beloved structures in Chicago (the most well known being the Monadnock building). Burnham Mansion is a piece of Champaign's history as well as perhaps the last standing residential building built by one of the most famous architects of America. Surely where there is a will, there is a way to build without paving over local history. I have to wonder what message it sends to the young people of Champaign when we demolish valuable history.

Sincerely,
Katherine Cantwell

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kathleen Jones** <bootsjones1@att.net>
Date: Tue, Aug 8, 2017 at 3:07 PM
Subject: Save the Burnham House
To: u4boe@u4sd.org

Champaign Unit 4 School District
703 S New St
Champaign, Illinois 61820

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the demolition of the Burnham house. And by vehement, I mean that if I had the power to do so, I would curse the school and everyone involved in the project. I realize I sound like a nut for saying that but such is my passion for saving this building.

I won't belabor the architectural merits of the house. I know you have been schooled in its significance. But I wish I could make you understand the thrill I feel as I drive past this beautiful house as a reminder of Champaign's more glorious past. The sense of heritage and permanence far outshines the reality of parking garages and ugly high rise apartments encroaching on the fiber of historic neighborhoods.

As the National Trust for Historic Preservation says, "The preservation of historic buildings is a one-way street. There is no chance to renovate or to save a historic site once it's gone. And we can never be certain what will be valued in the future. This reality brings to light the importance of locating and saving buildings of historic significance—because once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever."

Please don't make the short sighted mistake of demolishing this property and teaching children that a parking lot or playing field is more important than heritage.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Jones
108 N Webber
Urbana, IL. 61802

Sent from my iPad

----- Forwarded message -----

From: '**Gisele Atterberry**' via **u4boe** <u4boe@u4sd.org>
Date: Wed, Aug 9, 2017 at 3:36 PM
Subject: Save Burnham Mansion
To: U4boe@u4sd.org

To the Unit Four Board of Education:

This email is sent in support of our local Preservation and Conservation Association as this organization advocates that the Burnham Mansion be saved from demolition.

Though the many years that house has served as an apartment building certainly have taken some toll, there is more than enough structural integrity currently present to indicate the remarkable talents of its architect. Further, the importance of the home as it represents the enduring legacy of the entire Burnham family, so instrumental to the successful growth of our community, should be honored.

To raze this house for a parking lot would constitute a tremendous loss.

I would hope that this home can escape its planned destruction. Time should be given to all those who are currently working to find a viable means by which this important structure may be maintained. With time and sensitive planning, we may well be able to save a handsome and highly significant part of our community's history.

Sincerely,
Gisele Atterberry
705 W. Washington Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Sent from my iPhone

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Chris Knight** <chrisknigh@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 2:46 PM
Subject: Burnham Mansion
To: u4boe@u4sd.org

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Champaign for 34 years. I own the Blind Pig bar and brewery, and enjoy the fact that Champaign has some beautiful Victorian homes. They add to the quality of life here.

I urge you not to demolish the crown jewel of those, the Burnham Mansion. Destroying such an historic landmark would be a tragedy for the community.

Please find a way to save this house. I would be happy to help in anyway that I can.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Knight
[217 721 0341](tel:2177210341).

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Julie Fiscella** <1juliesue@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 6:06 PM
Subject: Burnham House
To: u4boe@u4sd.org

This is a very special house in Champaign. This is not just any old house. Please familiarize yourself with its history before you do anything to it.

Once you come to understand the importance of this house, there are many options in front of you.

1. Allow the house to keep its current use.
2. Repurpose the use of the house while preserving its architecture.
3. Move it to a different location or allow someone else to move it.
4. Consider any other idea that does not involve tearing it down.

Sincerely,
Julie Fiscella

Sent from my iPhone

----- Forwarded message -----

From: '**Glen Goodman**' via **u4boe** <u4boe@u4sd.org>

Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 7:04 PM

Subject: No parking lots

To: u4boe@u4sd.org

Dear members of the board,

I'd like to add my name to the chorus of people who oppose tearing down my neighborhood's historic houses just so the administrators can have better parking. I am all for responsible expansion of Central, but privileging parking at an urban high school campus is crazy. I'm so sorry that we worked so hard to throw out many of the previous incumbents only to be presented with similarly vision-less members.

Yours,
Glen Goodman

Sent from my iPhone

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From: **Joel Spencer** <zazoprene36@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 7:54 PM

Subject:

To: u4boe@u4sd.org

I strongly oppose the demolition of the Burnham mansion and the other surrounding properties related to the expansion of central high school. My family has been in the neighborhood since my grandfather returned from WW2. You are destroying the integrity and historical significance of our beloved city. Shame.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura and Zbigniew ?acniak** <laurazibilacniak@outlook.com>

Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 9:30 PM

Subject: Proposed house teardown

To: "u4boe@u4sd.org" <u4boe@u4sd.org>

To whom it may concern,

Please do not tear down a beautiful, historic house to make room for the school project. It would be a very sad and unnecessary loss for the city of Champaign. This city's history is a big part of what makes it so special, please don't take more of that away for something so insignificant as a parking lot, etc.

-Laura and Zbigniew Lacniak

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Pam M' via u4boe** <u4boe@u4sd.org>

Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 10:38 PM

Subject: Burnham Mansion

To: "u4boe@u4sd.org" <u4boe@u4sd.org>

I would like to take this time to ask that you reconsider tearing down the Burnham Mansion. I am sure that a use can be found for this beautiful home; I hope something better than a blacktopped parking lot. I am one of the many thousands born in the now gone Burnham City Hospital. I remember going by this mansion as a grade schooler (I went to both Lottie Switzer and Lincoln) and thinking how exciting it would be to actually grow up playing throughout this house. I am a retired high school math teacher and have been thinking of how the high school students could play a roll in the restoration of the Burnham Mansion to its former glory. This process could take several years, but I am sure it would be well worth painstakingly restoring the mansion. First of all, get an expert on restoration to go through the mansion and make a detailed account of just what needs to be done and in what order. The vo tech students could, with classroom teacher supervision, do a great deal of the restoration work. Deadlines would not be necessary. If the teachers and supervisors find that there is work which the students could not do, I am sure that there are apprentice programs from the various construction trades that could be called in to handle such work. The students would be learning a trade and doing something to be proud of and, at the same time, the school and city would be regaining one of its treasures.

Thank you for your time,
Pamela Current Moehle
1500 SW 22nd St
Blue Springs, Mo 64015
[816-229-8246](tel:816-229-8246)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mary-Ellen Fallon** <mefallon@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Aug 10, 2017 at 5:56 PM
Subject: Save the Burnham Mansion
To: u4boe@u4sd.org

To Whom It May Concern: I object to the Burnham Mansion@ 603 W. Church, Champaign being demolished. Please, won't you reconsider your decision about this before it is too late? Surely another use can be found for it.

Thank you.

Mary Ellen Fallon
107 W. Park Ave
Champaign, IL 61820

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lancaster, Chel** <chel@anl.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 11, 2017 at 10:19 AM
Subject: Please Reconsider Your Plans re: 603 W. Church
To: "u4boe@u4sd.org" <u4boe@u4sd.org>

I'm a Champaign native and a Central alum. I grew up in a Victorian home recently torn down near the school (403 W. University). Please don't further decimate this historic neighborhood by demolishing the Burnham mansion.

Certainly there are alternatives that will allow this neighborhood to retain it's majestic beauty.

Thank you,

Chel Lancaster

A. Chel Lancaster
Communications & Public Affairs
Argonne National Laboratory
[217.377.3877](tel:217.377.3877) cell | [630.252.6138](tel:630.252.6138)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Johnny Robinson** <johnny@johnnyrobinson.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 11, 2017 at 10:02 PM
Subject: Save the Burnham Mansion
To: u4boe@u4sd.org

I object to plans to demolish yet another part of our architectural heritage. The very thought of turning it into a parking lot is outrageous and offensive.
Johnny Robinson

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Michael Fitz' via u4boe** <u4boe@u4sd.org>

Date: Sat, Aug 12, 2017 at 5:33 PM

Subject: Adding my voice to the "Save the Burnham mansion" crowd

To: u4boe@u4sd.org

Hello,

I would respectfully like to voice my opinion that the school district demolish literally any other house in town besides this one. Daniel Burnham was a renowned architect and to demolish one of his masterpieces, particularly one of the few we even have in Champaign, is a foolish endeavor and will seem extraordinarily short-sighted in the future. The idea of turning it into a parking lot, specifically, is so grossly disrespectful to the community that the district should hang its head in shame for even contemplating it. If parking is an issue, perhaps it is time to explore other remedies. An urban school should not be demolishing historic homes for parking.

Again, I plead, please do not do this. It is a tragic mistake.

Sincerely,

Michael Fitz - 24, Urbana