

Joel & Elli Schwiesow
912 Saint Andrew Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

RECEIVED

Monday, May 19, 2008

MAY 20 2008

Members Rapid City Council
City/School Administration Building
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

Rapid City Growth
Management Department

Dear Council Members:

We live at 912 Saint Andrew Street in the historic West Boulevard district. Since last August we have appeared before the Historic Preservation Committee three times, August 2007, January 2008 and May 2008. In January 2008 we received the Committee's favorable vote to change the front elevation of our home. On the other two occasions our plans have been turned down. The state office of Historic Preservation has denied all three of our proposed plans.

We have had plans drawn that would add a sunroom to the rear of the house, change the roof line to accommodate living space on the second floor of the house and add an oversized garage that will accommodate automobiles, exercise equipment and storage of outdoor furniture.

Unfortunately, to accomplish the changes we wish to make, which would turn the house into a home that will meet our needs as we age, requires changes to the exterior of the house. Herein lays the problem. Historic Preservation rules (regulations) do not permit changes to the exterior of structures within the historic district. We love the neighborhood and desire to stay in the area but we want to make improvements to modernize this 1945 house and so we approach the City Council seeking permission to make the changes realizing it will result in the house becoming a "non-contributing" structure within the historic district.

We have enclosed a copy of the exterior elevations of our proposed plans. We have also attached several photocopies of neighborhood homes. We believe the changes we want to make will not detract from the neighborhood but will blend very well with the eclectic nature of the homes in the district. At present we are surrounded on two sides by rentals. If reasonable changes are not allowed to the homes in this district we believe the neighborhood is in real danger of becoming a collection of rundown rental properties.

Please give our request your favorable ruling. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joel and Elli Schwiesow