

Dear Members of the Historic Landmark Commission,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed major alteration to the Carlson House at 378 N. Quince Street, a designated local landmark.

The Carlson House is not simply a residence located within a historic district—it is itself a historically significant landmark. Designed in the Carpenter Gothic architectural style, it is recognized as the first home of this style constructed in the Capitol Hill area and remains one of the most intact and significant examples of Carpenter Gothic residential architecture in Salt Lake City. Its landmark designation reflects its exceptional architectural and historical importance and the responsibility we share to preserve these defining characteristics for future generations.

After reviewing the proposed plans, I am concerned that the addition is incompatible with the home's historic character. Rather than complementing the existing Carpenter Gothic architecture, the proposed addition appears distinctly modern in its design and overall aesthetic. While thoughtful additions can allow historic homes to evolve to meet contemporary needs, they should do so in a manner that respects and reinforces the architectural features that make these properties worthy of landmark designation in the first place.

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties encourage additions to be compatible with the historic property while preserving its character-defining features. In my opinion, the current proposal does not achieve that balance. Approving a modern addition that is inconsistent with the home's defining architectural style risks diminishing the integrity of one of Salt Lake City's finest surviving examples of Carpenter Gothic residential architecture.

Because the Carlson House is an individually designated landmark, I respectfully urge the Commission to apply the highest standard of review to this proposal. Landmark designation should carry with it an expectation that alterations will preserve—not compromise—the architectural significance that warranted protection. I also encourage the Commission to consider whether a revised design could better reflect the scale, materials, detailing, and architectural vocabulary of the existing home while still accommodating the owner's needs.

Historic landmarks are irreplaceable community assets. Once their historic integrity is diminished, it cannot easily be restored. I respectfully ask the Commission to carefully consider the long-term preservation of the Carlson House and require revisions that are more compatible with its exceptional Carpenter Gothic character before approving this application.

Thank you for your time, your thoughtful consideration of this matter, and your continued commitment to preserving Salt Lake City's historic resources.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.