

Dear Members of the HPC,

RE: Design proposals for 2375-99 North Terrace Avenue SFHs

I am the current owner of the Victor Waldheim House at 2386 North Terrace Avenue, a house which will look these proposed homes straight-in-the-eye. From my porch, I see a site which has never had historical significance, wasn't even a part of the North Point Historic District (until about 3 weeks ago), and is only notable for the swarms of dragonflies that appear for about 24 hours of the summer (an impressive event!). The lots are back-dropped by the CSM Medical Center parking structure, a notably non-historic, unrepentant structure.

When my home was constructed in the North Point, it was not historically significant and the Victor Waldheim family did not say "Let's build a historically-appropriate home". Instead, North Point homes were all state-of-the-art homes, ultra-modern to their time. Each house used the most modern of materials, each house incorporated the most modern of construction methods and design techniques, each house was built with state-of-the-art amenities (again, for their time), and most homes (while today, we call them "historic") differed radically from their neighbors. As a result, while almost every home in the North Point Historic District differs sharply from its neighbor, all of them share a common genetic marker, that being that they were all modern for their time.

THESE PROPOSED HOMES ARE, QUITE SIMPLY, THE LATEST REPRESENTATIONS OF WHAT MODERN ARCHITECTURE LOOKS LIKE. These proposed homes are completely consistent with both the history and spirit of the North Point and need to be treated with respect.

My home is of Four-Square design while a neighboring home may be of Colonial/Revival, another of Tudor/Gothic, another of Prairie Design, another of Art and Crafts, another of Shaker/Federal, and on and on. It is vulgar to ask modern architecture to have servants quarters in the attic, detached stables, service entrances, cisterns, or gas lighting in some crude attempt to create something "historical". Leave that to the Walt Disney Company and other *kitsch-meisters*.

It's been said that "a camel is a horse that was designed by a committee". Please don't make that mistake.

"Honor the past by embracing the NOW"
Just like Victor Waldheim.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen F. Thiel