

## Agenda Item 6

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission  
FROM: John Southard, Historic Preservation Officer  
DATE: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Demolition Permit Application for 600 West 5th Street



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On Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, a demolition permit application was submitted for the circa 1922 Guthrie House (600 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street), an adobe farmhouse classified Historic Eligible by the City of Tempe Historic Preservation Commission on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (see <https://www.tempe.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/374/2856?npage=6>). The 1997 “City of Tempe Multiple Resource Area Update” identified the house as a potentially National Register-eligible contributing property and rates the integrity as “Fair” (see attachment “Guthrie House – 600 W 5th – 1997 CoT MRA Update.pdf”). Based upon a comparison of the 1997 inventory form photo and Google Street View images from December 2007 and January 2021, it does not look as if the home has been altered since evaluated for the MRA update. The 1997 inventory form documents the following pre-1997 alterations:

Various small additions to side and rear; front window replaced with French doors

Per the HP ordinance (§ 14A-7(j)), Historic Eligible properties are subject to a stay of demolition no longer than 30 calendar days from the date of demolition permit application submittal. As relates to this application, the thirty calendar day period runs through November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. During this period, the Historic Preservation Office is to assess adverse impact, seek alternatives to demolition, and may consult with the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council. Specifically,

When a permit or other approval is sought from the city to demolish or remove a property classified as historic eligible, issuance of the permit or approval shall be subject to clearance by the HPO. Such clearance must be issued within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of application, during which time the HPO will assess adverse impact, suggest alternatives, and may consult with the [C]ommission and [C]ity [C]ouncil. If, by the end of the thirty (30) day period, no clearance has been issued or no alternative agreeable to the applicant has been suggested, the original request shall be granted, provided all other applicable requirements have been met.

In accordance with § 14A-7(j), the Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the proposal and determined that demolition of the Historic Eligible circa 1922 Guthrie House (600 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St.), an example of a local variant of the Bungalow-style design, would adversely and irreversibly impact the historic nature of this property.

The Historic Preservation Office received a request to agendize this matter for discussion at the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Commissioner comment and, at the discretion of the chair, public comment will be entertained at said meeting.