

Janice Melland
1120 Oregon
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

January 15, 2006

Lawrence City Commission
Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of the Historic Resource Commission's nomination for Hobbs Park to the Lawrence Register of Historic Places. I hope very much that the Commission will give this site the recognition which it deserves.

My home is just outside the 250-foot environs of the park - I frequently walk with my dog around Hobbs Park and have particularly enjoyed the Murphy-Bromelsick House renovation and the mural on the stadium wall at the ballfield depicting events and circumstances specific to historic East Lawrence. I am looking forward to the increased attention the Rails to Trails project also brings to this entire area and the willingness of developers to rehab buildings for residential and office use (on Pennsylvania St. for example) in a way that doesn't impinge on the traditional architectural styles of the neighborhood.

The park is truly a historic site with many important associations with our state's history and our nation's history. It's all to the betterment of East Lawrence, and the whole city, to have this park recognized as the historic site that it is.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my wishes to see this nomination accepted by the City of Lawrence.

Sincerely,


Janice Melland

Glenda Hewlett
1024 Pennsylvania Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

January 10, 2006

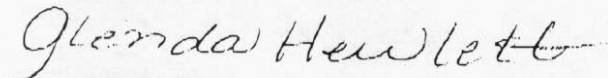
Lawrence City Commission
City Hall
547 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of the City's current proposal to place Hobbs Park on the Lawrence Register of Historic Places. I own my home at 1024 Pennsylvania Street, on two city lots, in the environs of the Park - which is historic in its own right -- by its architectural integrity, and the notoriety of its past inhabitants. I feel that it's well past time that this district and the park be recognized for the wealth of historic figures and events which passed through this portion of Old East Lawrence, since the City's founding in 1854.

I very much hope that Hobbs Park receives this recognition now and that the park is upgraded and maintained in the future, as befits a site which is important -- not just to our community -- but the state and nation as well.

Sincerely,


Glenda Hewlett

DIANA DUNKLEY
STUDIO 3D
1019 DELAWARE ST.
LAWRENCE, KS 66044
785-842-2858
ddunkleyat3d@earthlink.net

Friday, January 13th, 2006

Lawrence City Commission
Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

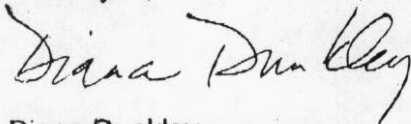
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for the City of Lawrence's nomination of Hobbs Park to the local historic register. I have owned my home and studio directly across the street from the park for almost fifteen years, and have watched the park evolve as one of the only open green spaces in East Lawrence. I know that the park and its environs have been preserved as public space since the days of the Quaker Meeting House, which stood there from 1872 to 1941. I would expect that the city designation of Hobbs Park to the local historic register would help to preserve it as a neighborhood asset for many years to come.

I was involved in the early development of the Hobbs Park Memorial project in 1997, which resituated the Murphy-Bromelsick House to the park's northwest corner as a tribute to John Speer, a Lawrence founder. I believe designating the park and the memorial as a historic site is an appropriate addendum to the city's efforts which created the new memorial.

I look forward to the protection and prestige which this new designation will offer my property for the long term, and encourage you to support the designation on behalf of the heritage of our neighborhood.

Thank you,



Diana Dunkley

EDWARD TATO

1016 Pennsylvania Lawrence, KS 66044

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4 January 2006

Lawrence City Commission
City of Lawrence
Box 708
Lawrence, Kansas 66044

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the city's nomination for placing Hobbs Park on the local historical register. As you know, Old East Lawrence already has two designated historic districts, and yet another will be sought with the redevelopment of the 800 Block of Pennsylvania Street. We also have various individual buildings listed, such as St. Luke AME Church.

As a past president of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association (ELNA), I have been a long-time supporter of the Hobbs Park project -- as preservation is one of the principal objectives of our neighborhood plan. Personally, and professionally, I can see many advantages this designation has for the neighborhood.

To begin with, I feel we need to remain attuned to the importance that the neighborhood, Lawrence and the state play in our country's long fight for civil rights and equality. The designation is a reminder of our commitment to these ideals, the sacrifices they require, and the vigilance they demand.

At the same time, all these districts, and the environs rules they invoke, are one of the best tools for maintaining the particular character of this neighborhood. Most of our homes are simple, vernacular dwellings that, while increasing in value like all of Lawrence, are still relatively more affordable than other neighborhoods, especially those adjacent to our downtown.

For 150 years, people in this neighborhood have built, added to, or remodeled these modest houses, using sweat equity as their means for creating a home and stabilizing the neighborhood. Old East Lawrence still offers opportunities for people who cannot necessarily afford to purchase their dream home as a "finished product."

I am confident that a historical designation at Hobbs Park will only enhance this phenomenon. As a homeowner, and realtor, living within the proposed environs, I truly don't see any negative aspects to this opportunity. I know that, at its core, the value of my property, and the equity I have put in it, rest in our neighborhood's and city's unique character. I have confidence that this nomination protects this character -- and my investment.

Sincerely,



Ed Tato
1016 Pennsylvania

Zachary Lerner
946 Pennsylvania Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

December 16, 2005

Dear City Commissioners,

In April 2004, my brother and I had the good fortune to be among the first people notified that 946 Pennsylvania was up for sale. Having searched for a home to buy for several months, we were elated to find one that so closely resembled our idea of the ideal house. Our offer was accepted by the previous owners, the Wards, and we closed a month later.


Since then, we have only become more aware of how lucky we are. The neighborhood is one of a kind. All of our neighbors are open and friendly, and almost everybody is aware of happenings in the community. The East Lawrence Neighborhood Association annual block party is held down the street every year, in conjunction with the Penn House, and offers a meal to anyone who attends, a free bike repair clinic, and activities for kids. These organizations exemplify the caring and open-minded spirit of the neighborhood.

I support designating Hobbs Park as a local historical site, and the inclusion of its 250' environs. Our house is among the properties that the proposed designation will affect. I believe that the historical designation can bring deserved stability to this historically rich neighborhood.

My brother and I have begun to uncover part of our house's history. Built in the 1890's or earlier, the house has impressive gingerbread ornamentation around the front porch. Our house, along with neighboring 942 Pennsylvania, appears on page thirty-eight of the book *In Plain View: A photo/document of Old East Lawrence*. Local legend and a July 18, 1970 *Journal-World* article strongly suggest that our home was involved in a police shoot-out, during that summer of unrest, as evidenced by bullet holes still present in our siding and furnace flue.

I believe that our neighborhood merits the protections and benefits that designation of Hobbs Park will bring. It has been an enriching experience to live in an old house like ours--an honor that future generations ought to be able to enjoy as well.

Sincerely,



Zachary Lerner

-----Original Message-----

From: Nace, Mark S [mailto:nace@mail.ku.edu]

Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2006 2:42 PM

To: Lynn Zollner

Subject: Supporting Murphy-Bromelsick House on the Lawrence Registry of Historic Places

Lynn,

We would like to comment to the City Commission in support of the Murphy-Bromelsick House nomination for the Lawrence Registry of Historic Places.

We believe the Murphy-Bromelsick House is noteworthy for several reasons and surely deserves the designation.

First, the historic value of the home to the community supercedes debate. In fact, Kathy has fond recollections of attending the Bromelsick Christmas party at Hoch Auditorium when in gradeschool.

Lawrence, as a tourist destination, would be enhanced by the registration of this house and others like it. Following through with the designation to makes sense.

The house is an architecture style which is increasingly rare in Lawrence today; as a representative of the earliest structures in the city lived in by "average" people. It represents the working class neighborhood it is situated in quite well.

The remarkable investments made by the East Lawrence community and the City of Lawrence to rescue the house are evidence of a community vitality which deserves notice and support.

We believe that East Lawrence has great potential. This designation would further encourage the positive developments and investments already occurring in the neighborhood.

The designation can add nothing but stability and puts the neighborhood and the city on a positive path for the future.

As resident home owners in the neighborhood of Hobbs Park and the Murphy-Bromelsick House, we strongly support this effort and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark & Kathy Nace

1012 Pennsylvania St
Lawrence KS 66044

