

Resolution to Recommend the Creation of a Study Committee for Braun Court

Whereas Braun Court, consisting of the buildings at 313-327 Braun Court, was constructed from 1914-1918 as seven nearly identical gable-front houses with full-width front porches. They were slated for demolition in the early 1980s when a Save Braun Court campaign was undertaken by Ann Arbor citizens. By 1984 the buildings were converted to commercial use, with restaurants, bars, shops, office space and a shared paver courtyard. The buildings were previously included in the Individual Historic Properties Historic District between 1994 and 2001,

Whereas the Historic District Commission believes Braun Court contributes to the built environment, character, and history of Kerrytown, Fourth Avenue and the Farmers' Market by virtue of its age, scale, design, materials and massing, and the Court's unique milieu – “mews” setting of narrow court running between main street and alley. Houses face court and were all alike,

Whereas the Historic District Commission believes Braun Court contributes to the social history of Ann Arbor as the center of the City's LGBTQ community from the mid-1990s to 2020, home to the Jim Toy Community Center, Aut Bar, and Common Language Bookstore, and seen nationally during a Braun Court celebration on June 26, 2015 when a Michigan couple's United States Supreme Court case made same-sex marriage legal nationwide,

Whereas historic preservation is a public purpose, and the city may regulate the construction, addition, alteration, repair, moving, excavation, and demolition of resources in historic districts within the city as provided in Chapter 103 of Ann Arbor City Code,

Whereas by resolution City Council may appoint a study committee to research and evaluate properties to determine their historic significance to the community,

Therefore the Historic District Commission respectfully requests that City Council appoint a study committee to research and document the historic significance of Braun Court, and once that study is complete, to weigh the merits of creating a local historic district there.