

November 22, 1991

Dear Seymour,

The Phx office of Historic Preservation, under pressure from my Dist 3 Councilman, Alan Kennedy, scheduled a <sup>meeting for the</sup> designation of the Garden on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, and when that meeting was canceled, rescheduled for Oct 30, which also was canceled.

Two weeks ago I had a telephone conversation with Deborah Abell, Director of the Phx Office of Historic Preservation, and according to her, designation of the Garden would not take place in the foreseeable future.

Sharon, who is Allen Kennedy's right hand is a great supporter of the Garden. I'm afraid she might have offered Deborah Abell - by "ordering" her to include the Garden as a historic site.

In speaking with Deborah Abell a couple weeks ago, she said things like - "the Garden is Art, and H.P. does not recognize Art" and that she doubts the Garden is significant historically.

It seems to me that I'm in the middle of a political situation. If I were Mr. Goldwater, the designation would have already taken place. However, perhaps I can gain others, such as Mr. Goldwater to champion the Garden, and in the end I may end up with a much better base of support than I could have otherwise.

yesterday. I called Roger Brevort, who is Deborah Abeles' right hand. He told me that they like the Borden in the Office of H. P., but the question is - "Is it historic?" I asked him about the Mystery Castle. He agreed, that was a good question, and he was unable to give me an answer.

Then I brought up Watts Towers. I told him it now a National Landmark. He did not agree that it has that status, and he tried to tell me that it had received its recognition because of the culture it came out of ....

When I told him that the Borden was Phoenix's Watts Towers, he agreed.

I think that part of what I'm dealing with here is ignorance. How can I get some of the paperwork on Watts Towers? On one level, I don't feel that it would be profitable to argue with these people - but they should at least know what they're talking about.

I would appreciate your opinion, one more thing: Kennedy will be out of office Jan 1. Redistricting has completely cut up Dist 3 - and Kennedy will not run for City Council again. At this point he's a complete lame duck.

Last August I spoke with Scott Jacobson, who, at the time was the Director of the Phx Art Comm. He was willing to participate in a brainstorming session which would explore avenues of support for the Garden since the Commissions which might be helpful have counted themselves out: <sup>Phx</sup> Art Comm. and Office of H. P.

Sharon felt that Kennedy would be able to influence the Commissions - and asked me not to go ahead with the brainstorming session. So I held off. - but now, it doesn't seem as though I have made any gain.

I suppose it is not the worst thing for the Garden, not to receive H. P. status. and yet I would like it. In a few years, new people will probably be working in the office of H. P. Mr. Jon. I'll have a new Councilman. I may meet with greater success at that time.

Tell me what you think.

Ernie