



City of Phoenix

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

July 14, 1992

Ms. Marion Blake
10023 North 13th Place
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Dear Marion:

This letter is to provide a written response to your letter of June 26, 1992 and follow up to our July 9, 1992 telephone conversation concerning an appeal of the Historic Preservation Commission's (HPC) determination of eligibility for the Thompson Rock Garden. As we discussed, the Commission did not take formal action relative to the designation of the Rock Garden on the Phoenix Historic Property Register (PHPR). Its formal action was to vote not to proceed with a Commission-initiated designation.

The Commission also made a policy decision on how to consider the property in light of the fact that it does not meet the fifty year old age criteria for designation. Information was presented to the Commission on the process used by the National Park Service for evaluating properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years. It was explained that, to properly make a determination, it will be necessary to prepare a historic context on Folk Art, defining its geographic limits and applicable time period. Next, all properties related to this historic context would need to be identified and evaluated. The comparative value of the Rock Garden could be determined once this information base has been developed.

Despite this, a designation request can, however, be initiated by the property owner. I have enclosed a copy of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and a flow chart which details the designation process. For you to formally begin the process, please submit a brief letter to the Commission requesting that a designation meeting be scheduled plus a list of all property owners within three hundred feet of the Rock Garden. The names and addresses of these property owners should be obtained from the Maricopa County Tax Assessor's Office. With this information, we can assist you in filing a zoning application for a historic preservation overlay for the site. For the HPC's consideration of the item, a historic context, as previously mentioned, also should be developed. I have enclosed materials from appropriate National Register Bulletins and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation concerning the content of this report and the qualifications needed for personnel involved in its preparation. Also enclosed, for your information, is a list of consultants which we typically use for the preparation of historic contexts.

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I would like to reiterate that the HPC did consider the opinions that were expressed by the various individuals who sent letters on your behalf. There was no issue with their credibility as experts in the field of art. However, opinions alone are not sufficient for designation, particularly when justifying exceptional significance. There must be documented evidence on how the property meets the criteria in accordance with the procedures described in the attached bulletins. The fact that the necessary information was not available in the appropriate format to support exceptional significance was the basis of the HPC's decision.

I hope this letter, as well as the enclosures, provide the necessary information you have requested. If you have further questions about the HPC's decision or the process for initiating designation as the property owner of the Rock Garden, feel free to call me at 261-8699.

Sincerely,



Deborah Edge Abele
Historic Preservation Officer

DEA:071492/vjv

Enclosures: HPOZ Flow Chart
 HP Ordinance
 Rezoning Submittal Check List
 National Register Bulletin 16
 National Register Bulletin 22
 Federal Register - Part IV
 Consultant List