

65-R-95

A RESOLUTION

Rejecting the Nomination for Designation of
the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center (LARC)
as an Evanston Landmark

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Goff, "the applicant", an Evanston resident, submitted a nomination for the LARC located on the Evanston Campus of Northwestern University, the owner, for consideration and designation as an Evanston Landmark, pursuant to Section 2-9-5 of the Evanston Historic Preservation Ordinance ("the Ordinance"), Title 2, Chapter 9 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the Evanston Preservation Commission (EPC) held a public hearing, pursuant to proper notice, on August 28, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the EPC considered the nomination and made determinations upon the evidence presented that the nominated structure met certain criteria for designation as an Evanston Landmark in subsections 2-9-4(A) and (B) of the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, although the LARC meets certain criteria for designation as an Evanston Landmark, its unique configuration renders adaptive reuse unfeasible as a practical matter; and

WHEREAS, said practical barrier to adaptive reuse is such that the EPC recommended that the City Council not grant Evanston Landmark status to the LARC; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the nomination; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Evanston, Cook County, Illinois:

SECTION 1: That the City Council hereby adopts the findings of the EPC and

finds pursuant to section 2-9-5 (G) of the Ordinance, that although the subject structure meets several criteria established by Section 2-9-4 of the Ordinance for Landmark designation, as follows:

1. The structure is noteworthy for combining engineering and architectural design, including being an example of an "exo-skeleton" structural system, and was recognized by a Chicago Chapter AIA Honor Award in 1967 (2-9-4(A)3); and
2. The structure was designed by a prominent architect, Walter Netsch, formerly associated with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (2-9-4(A)4); and
3. The LARC occupies a unique site on the lakefront, making it visible from many vantage points and has become a focal point on the Evanston lakefront (2-9-4(A)9); and

although the structure has sufficient integrity of materials and workmanship to consider it worthy of preservation or restoration, that nevertheless:

- a) Northwestern University does not plan to restore the structure, and has removed the telescopes which it was designed to house;
- b) Northwestern University does not plan to use the facility as a learning or research facility;
- c) Because of the peculiar and specific design and construction of the structure to the requirements of an observatory, the adaptive re-use of the structure for another purpose is extremely difficult;
- d) Because of the aforesaid peculiar design, the rehabilitation of the structure including abatement of hazardous materials (lead paint) is difficult and financially burdensome.

SECTION 2: That the City Council adopts the findings of the EPC that the potential contribution from the adaptive re-use of the subject structure for another purpose is not feasible, the rehabilitation of the structure does not outweigh any benefits to the general welfare

of the citizens of Evanston, Northwestern University has no plans for the continuous use of the structure as an educational or research facility.

SECTION 3: This resolution shall be in full force and effect following its passage and approval in the manner required by law.

Lorraine H. Norton
Mayor

ATTEST:

Justin Davis
City Clerk

Adopted: September 5, 1995