



Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh

Give Life to History. SM

Board of Directors

Dan Holland,
Chair
Deborah Gross,
Vice-Chair
Chloé Velasquez,
Treasurer
Lee Ann Antol,
Secretary
Rachel Colker
Kemo Crawford
Jeff Gernert
Linda Gwinn
Colin Kelley
Tracy Montarfi
Matthew Ragan
Heather Sage
Sean Simmons
Dan Woodske

Advisory Committee

Scott Brown,
Citizens Bank
Lu Donnelly,
Carnegie Museums
Kim Falk-MacArthur,
Community Connections
Larry Glasco,
University of Pittsburgh
Randy Harris,
Historian
Stanley Lowe,
National Trust for
Historic Preservation
Jim Matthews,
National City Bank
Cathy Niederberger,
PNC Bank
Rob Ruck,
University of Pittsburgh
John Stephen,
Consultant
Douglas Skowron,
Skowron Real Estate
Richard Taylor,
Macedonia Development
Corporation
Althea Worthy,
Historic Preservationist

August 11, 2004

Marvin Brown
President
Homestead Borough Council
Homestead Borough Office
1705 Maple Street, Suite 112
Homestead, PA 15120

Dear President Brown:

The Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh (YPA) takes exception to the decision by the Steel Valley Historical Architectural Review Board to allow Anchor Properties, Inc. to demolish Chiodo's Tavern to make way for a Walgreens drug store. Chiodo's Tavern is a contributing structure to the Homestead National Register Historic District. Its loss would be a permanent scar on the historic fabric of the community and diminish the integrity of the Homestead Historic District.

YPA is a broad-based coalition of dynamic preservation leaders organized to ensure the active participation of young people in the preservation of historic resources. In 2003, we listed the Homestead National Register Historic District on our "Top Ten Best Preservation Opportunities in the Pittsburgh Area." Homestead's listing on our Top Ten List was based on the successful revitalization that has taken place along Eighth Avenue and the ability to repel a national drugstore chain (CVS) that would have ruined the historic district.

Across the country, national drugstore chains are targeting with success historic properties to acquire large parcels along historic main streets. This trend prompted the National Trust for Historic Preservation to list America's Main Streets on its "Eleven Most Endangered Historic Sites" in 1999. Such a push to locate new chain stores in Homestead's historic district without respect for the borough's historic and architectural character would be a great loss to Homestead.

Chiodo's stands as a rare living legend that, properly restored, could have new life as another restaurant or other use. Developers who choose to restore the property would be eligible for a 20% historic tax credit. Other tools may be able to be applied as well, including New Markets Tax Credits.

Chiodo's is a unique community asset, the value of which exceeds the price of its replacement value. To lose it now, as Homestead begins to rebuild itself, would be a tragic loss—culturally, architecturally, and historically. We urge you to reject the demolition proposal until a more viable preservation alternative is found.

Sincerely,

Heather Sage
Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh

C: Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Preservation Pennsylvania
National Trust for Historic Preservation