



October 27, 2015

Alderman Brian Hopkins
Second Ward
1400 N. Ashland
Chicago, IL 60622
ward02@cityofchicago.org

Re: 1936-38 West Augusta

Dear Mr. Hopkins:



The East Village Association has learned that a permit to demolish Leona's has been applied for. The building is the former **Pure Farm Products Company**, the only Ukrainian dairy in Chicago. It is an important vestige of the neighborhood's immigrant roots and one of the few remnants of Eastern European daily life at the turn of the twentieth century.

As you may be aware, this is the second time in eight years that this beloved building has been threatened. In 2007, EVA worked closely with Alderman Flores to downzone the property to prevent its replacement by a condominium development. While that effort successfully postponed the loss of this unique structure, it did not address the underlying problem: *the mistaken classification of the building as 'non-contributing' to the East Village Landmark District.*

During the designation process, the boundaries of the East Village Landmark District were carefully pared down to include only the most important buildings in the core of the neighborhood. It is difficult to understand why the district was extended across an alley to include the Leona's building, only to then designate it as non-contributing.

It is possible that the unusual composition of structures (a white-glazed brick former-dairy built around the base of an intact Victorian two flat) was viewed as an 'alteration' that didn't meet the 'integrity' requirement of the landmark ordinance. If that is the case, we believe this contradicts the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, which recognize such 'changes over time' as valuable and worthy of preservation.

Alderman, we ask for your support in reconsidering Leona's 'non-contributing' designation, which we believe is inconsistent with the condition, quality and local historic significance of the building.

Thank you

Scott A. Rappe, AIA
Planning, Preservation & Development Committee

CC: Eleanor Gorski, Dijana Cuvalo,
Cindy Roubik, Landmarks Division

