

Historic home demolished

My wife and I were the residents of 361 N. Citrus Avenue, on the corner of Oakwood Avenue, one block west of the Hancock Park community. We sold the property on Sept. 18, 2019, less than five weeks ago as I write this.

The historic 1927 Tudor Revival home was an Architect's Show Home, one of the first houses in the area, and it had historical significance given the neighborhood and features like a beautiful, original Batchelder fireplace, hand-carved ornamentation around the front entrance, hand-painted beams, leaded glass diamond-paned windows and more.

When we were considering offers to purchase our house, we made it known that it was important to us that the house was not to be torn down due to its aesthetic and historic contribution to the community. We stated that our decision to sell to someone would hinge on that.

According to a former neighbor, a demolition sign went up on October 18, one month after the sale closed. The sign was placed inside the dining room window, behind shrubbery, making it difficult to see. Upon further investigation, we learned that the house was scheduled to be demolished the week after the sign was noticed.

I am enclosing the letter sent to us from the ultimate buyers when we were considering multiple offers. The letter writer knew that we had no interest in selling to someone who would tear down the historic house. This house was well main-

tained, including retrofitting of the foundation, brand new plumbing, new electrical work and responsible landscaping. It was not a "tear down" structure; it was considered a crown jewel in the neighborhood.

Our fear of someone purchasing it to tear it down was due to the larger than average lot size and the disregard we have seen to respecting the aesthetic integrity of the neighborhood.

As anyone can see in reading the letter that we received, the buyers completely misrepresented themselves and their intentions. They apparently requested a demolition permit the day they took ownership of the house. But they never clearly posted the notice to inform neighboring residents.

We loved the property and took great pride in ownership and in maintaining it while it was in our care, and we are fully aware that once we accepted this offer, anything could potentially happen. However, we were not aware that their letter was full of lies. To our knowledge, there was not even an attempt to salvage any of the architectural elements from the home that they thanked us for preserving.

The loss of an exquisite, landmark home leaves a hole in the historic character of this portion of the neighborhood. Here's a link to our former home, now just rubble: tinyurl.com/y638aqze.

Our neighborhoods and our communities deserve better than what happened at 361 North Citrus Avenue.

**David and Cassidy Cole
Formerly of Citrus Ave.**