



**Landmarks Illinois Statement to the Arlington Heights Board of Trustees  
Regarding 716 N. Dunton Ave.  
Kendra Parzen, Advocacy Manager  
February 5, 2024**

Good evening, my name is Kendra Parzen, and I am Advocacy Manager for Landmarks Illinois, the statewide nonprofit organization helping people save the historic places that are important to their communities. I am also a fully qualified architectural historian according to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's standards for that profession. I strongly oppose the appeal before you this evening to demolish the historic house at 716 N. Dunton Ave. I became aware of the application to demolish 716 through local advocates from Arlington Heights, who reached out to my organization for support because they find this building so significant to the history of their community.

We've heard many excellent comments this evening that I will endeavor not to repeat. However, I would still like to address the assertion by the applicant's attorney that 716 has no significant architectural or historical value. You've already heard this evening about the School of the Art Institute survey and that only 38 properties in that survey received the exceptional designation. 716 N. Dunton Ave., a beautiful and intact example of the Italianate style, was one of these properties. It is common and accepted for significance in historic preservation to be determined based on a building being an outstanding example of its type, as in the case of 716.

The applicant's attorney also referenced the National Register of Historic Places. As has been provided to you all, the State Historic Preservation Office has also issued an opinion that 716 should be evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Lastly, I can offer my expert opinion that based on visual analysis of the exterior, 716 N. Dunton today retains sufficient material integrity to communicate its historic and architectural value, and contrary to the claim of the applicant, previous changes have not eliminated that ability.

Third, regarding the assertion that the house is too deteriorated to remain standing, architect Kurt Skrudland has already offered his expert opinion that is not the case; however, should the Board believe additional information is warranted, my organization can provide a list of engineers or architects specifically qualified in the assessment of historic buildings that can provide an opinion as to whether it is truly unsalvageable.

In conclusion, I encourage the Board to uphold the Design Commission's decision so that this architectural gem can continue to contribute to the character of Arlington Heights. Thank you for your consideration.