



December 7, 2016

Hon. Anna Peterson, Mayor  
Members of City Council  
Civic Center  
555 Liberty Street S.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**Re: *Historic Resource Designation Case No. HIS16-24 - 2060 High Street SE***

Dear Mayor Peterson and Members of Council:

The South Central Association of Neighbors is pleased to support the historic designation for the house at 2060 High Street Southeast in Salem.

The residence meets the criteria set forth in SRC 230.010 (e)(1) and (2); specifically, the home is over fifty years old and it contributes to the character and historic identity of the neighborhood while making a contribution to the historic character of the neighborhood.

The 92-year old home, built by businessman Ed Viesko, is also “significant as an example of a particular architectural style” (see SRC 230.010 (e)(3)(i) in that its stucco, arched entranceways, half-round doors with ornate hardware, and steep pitch roof are common characteristics of the 1920-1940 English Cottage Style.

### **Historic McKinley Area**

Stretching south from Cross Street SE to Waldo SE along and near High Street, the house is in the historic McKinley area. There are numerous notable homes and architectural styles along or near High Street in the McKinley area. Historical anchors in the McKinley area include:

\* McKinley School, a state landmark (1915) at McGilchrist & High Street SE, designed by Oregon's first registered architect, George Morrison Post (1883-1966), a designer from Connecticut. Once described as an “architectural beauty surpassed by none on the (West) coast” – Capitol Journal, October 15, 1915;

\* the home of State Senator Frederick S. Lamport (1929), a beautiful Tudor Revival at Lower Ben Lomond & High, designed by the architect Otis J. Fitch. Mr. Lamport served in the Oregon Senate following his appointment by Governor Earl Snell. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places;



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*Salem, Oregon*

\* the nearby Smith-Ohmart House (ca 1870) on East Nob Hill built in the Italian Bracketed Style, home of State Representative Fabritus Smith, an Oregon Trail pioneer of 1846. The Smith-Ohmart House “predates by several years the Italianate house of Asahel Bush” (David Duniway, the first State Archivist of Oregon, in 1979) in Bush's Pasture Park. The house also is listed on the National Register of Historic Places;

\* the William McGilchrist Jr. House (1909-1912), a grand Victorian structure, at 510 Judson & High, was home to nurses that attended the newborn babies, assisted surgery and tended to flu patients when McKinley School served as a community hospital during the Great Pandemic. This residence is specifically identified on page 36 in the HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT of the Salem City Council to the U. S. National Park Service (Marianne Kadas, August 1992); and

\* at Waldo & High is the boyhood home of U. S. Senator and Oregon Governor Mark O. Hatfield. Unique to his boyhood residence is the observatory in the backyard that his father built to observe starlit skies.

We find the proposed historic resource – the Viesko Residence – demonstrates cultural significance and contributes to the historic character and identity of the neighborhood as required by the Salem Revised Code. We fully support the applicant's request and the Historic Landmarks Commission's recommendation to City Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Jeff Schumacher  
President  
South Central Association of Neighbors (SCAN)

cc: Commission Chair Andrew Hendrie, HLC  
Kimberli Fitzgerald, AICP, Case Manager