

NATIONAL  
TRUST  
FOR  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION®

**Southern  
OFFICE**

August 7, 2009

Herb Gomez, Chairman  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1755 Florida St.  
Third Floor  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Mr. Gomez,

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has been made aware of the Capitol Lofts proposal for the entire block of North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol Drive and North Seventh Street in the Spanish Town Historic District. Spanish Town is Baton Rouge's oldest surviving suburb and oldest residential neighborhood. We understand that seven contributing structures will be demolished for the Capitol Lofts project to be built. The proposal is out of scale with its immediate context and is not reflective of the historic character of the district as a whole. Capitol Lofts, as proposed, would place great developmental stress on the remaining adjacent historical structures. Additionally, this project could send the historic district down the path which could lead to delisting due to the demolition of contributing buildings. For these reasons the National Trust joins its local and statewide preservation partners in opposing the Capitol Lofts project as proposed for the historic district of Spanish Town.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation ([www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org)) is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the Trust was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at our Washington, DC headquarters, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with the Trust's 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states. We join our statewide partner the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation; our local partner the Foundation for Historical Louisiana; and the Historic Spanish Town Civic Association in their effort to preserve the historic district of Spanish Town.

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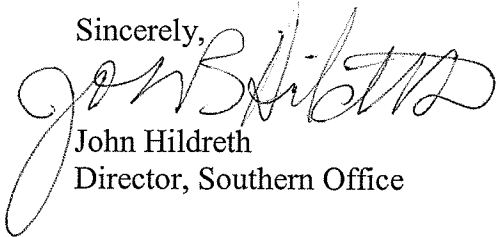
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We urge you to uphold the recently established design guidelines for Spanish Town. The National Trust will continue to support the Baton Rouge preservation community in its effort to protect Spanish Town. We extend this support to the city of Baton Rouge in the form of technical and financial assistance for conducting feasibility and alternative design studies. If you are interested in pursuing any of these options please contact Joseph McGill in our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hildreth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John Hildreth  
Director, Southern Office

cc: Foundation for Historical Louisiana  
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation