

**From:** [Ben Suber](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment Not on 3/9 Agenda: Historic Preservation  
**Date:** Sunday, March 6, 2022 7:13:51 PM

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Good evening,

I hope you had a great weekend. I, like many in Agoura Hills, am saddened to see the demolition of the Fitzgerald's/Agoura Market/Stage Door Theatre building this week.

I appreciate the City's statement about it and the Historical Resources Assessment. But I think the City needs to do more to practice historic preservation, especially in Old Agoura & the Historic Quarter.

One way to do so is one I highly highly applaud as Mayor Lopez called for this in response to the demolition: a Historic Property Register. These registers work. My hometown in Tempe, AZ has used one since 1982 and Tempe has strong criteria for preserving historic buildings. This register has been at the forefront of saving historic properties from the bulldozer including the Hayden Flour Mill, C.T. Hayden House (aka Monti's La Casa Vieja), the Tempe Hardware Building and the Andre Building.

A smaller move is also rooted in a Tempe practice called a "Certificate of Appropriateness." This is a minor entitlement Tempe uses to preserve exterior appearances on potentially historic properties.

The City of Tempe, AZ has had 40 years of good practice in preserving historic buildings, but it's not been perfect. Some buildings have been damaged or destroyed by fire, like the Salt River Railroad Bridge (2020), Hayden Flour Mill (3 times, 1890, 1917 & 2002), Andre Building (1999), Peterson/Chipman Building (1990) and the Mons Ellingson Warehouse (1987).

The worst example of loss is the Miller Block, which was a commercial building on the National Register of Historic Places built in 1900. It was demolished in 1997 to make way for a new 2-story commercial building that is now home to a Starbucks & a vacant space formerly occupied by Gordon Biersch. I vividly remember this debate as a 4th grader at Kyrene Del Cielo Elementary School in Tempe, AZ.

I don't want to see any more "Miller Blocks" or "Fitzgerald's" in Agoura Hills. Agoura Hills is doing well with environmental protection and let's keep the good work going! Why not do the same with our historic preservation efforts? It would be a fitting way to mark our 40th anniversary as an incorporated city and with buildings like Seminole Hot Springs Inn, Reyes Adobe and the Old Agoura Post Office still standing (don't forget Chief White Eagle!), it is not too late....

Thank you for hearing me out. I hope you have a great week ahead!

Ben Suber  
Agoura Hills resident  
Tempe, AZ Native

Sent from my iPhone