

RESOLUTION 10-58

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, TENNESSEE TO DESIGNATE 412 MCLEMORE AVE, COMMONLY KNOWN AS RITTER MORTON HOUSE OR ALSO "THE KISSING HOUSE", MAURY COUNTY TAX MAP 028B "A" PARCEL 008.00, AS A HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT SITE

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of Spring Hill to promote the preservation and protection of the physical character and quality of life in the city; to promote the educational, cultural civic awareness and general welfare of the city while providing a sense of commitment and continuity between the past and present through the encouragement of preservation and protection of historically significant sites and structures; and to foster civic pride and historic recognition through the preservation of the City's heritage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. David Motil, owner of 412 McLemore Ave, commonly known as Ritter Morton House or also "The Kissing House", pursuant to Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-405(2)(d) of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code, has requested that this site be designated by the City of Spring Hill as a Historically Significant Site.

WHEREAS, Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406 of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code provides that sites in the City of Spring Hill will be designated as Historically Significant Sites by resolution of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen upon recommendation of the City of Spring Hill Historic Commission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spring Hill Historic Commission has recommended this site for such designation having met the Criteria for Designation of Historically Significant Sites as defined in Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-407 of the City of Spring Hill Municipal Code.

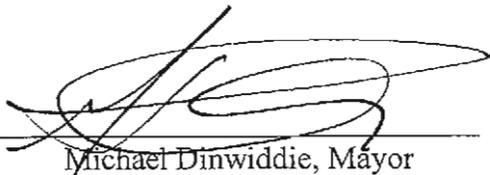
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee that 412 McLemore Ave, commonly known as Ritter Morton House or also "The Kissing House", Maury County Tax Map 028B "A" Parcel 008.00, is hereby designated as a Historically Significant Site.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Spring Hill, Tennessee, this 21st Day of June, 2010.

ATTEST:

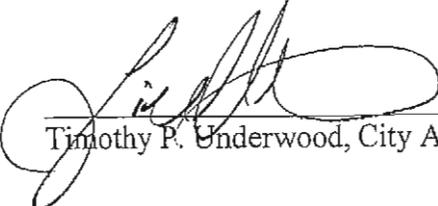


April Good, City Recorder



Michael Dinwiddie, Mayor

LEGAL FORM APPROVED:



Timothy P. Underwood, City Attorney

SPRING HILL HISTORIC COMMISSION AGENDA APPLICATION

Date: 4-28-10

Name of Applicant: David Motil Phone: 931-486-1196

Address: 412 McLemore Avenue

Name of Property Owner: David Motil Phone: 931-486-1196

Address: 412 McLemore Avenue

Maury Co. Williamson Co. Tax Map: _____ Parcel # _____

Request for Designation of Historically Significant Site:

I, David Motil, pursuant to Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-406, request that the property and/or site located at 412 McLemore Avenue, be designated by the City of Spring Hill as a Historically Significant Site.

The aforementioned property and/or site is (check all that apply, provide additional detail as necessary):

- Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history or is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance;
- Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction;
- A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- A religious property with historic importance;
- A cemetery; or
- Other (Please specify); _____

Request for Removal of Designation of Historically Significant Site:

I, _____, pursuant to Municipal Code Title 2, Chapter 4, Section 2-409, request that the property and/or site located at _____, be removed from the designation of Historically Significant Site within the City of Spring Hill.

**SPRING HILL HISTORIC COMMISSION AGENDA APPLICATION
(CONTINUED)**

Request for Design Review:

I, _____, pursuant to Subdivision Regulations Article IV 4-101.7 – 4-101.9, request that the property and/or project located at _____, be placed on the Historic Commission agenda for the purpose of Design Review.

This form, along with (7) copies of the property or properties in question must be filed with the application fee, twenty one (14) days prior to the Historic Commission meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.



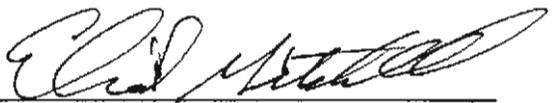
Applicant's Signature

Date Received by Historic Commission: April 30, 2010

Placed on Historic Commission Agenda for meeting to be held on: ~~Monday~~, TUESDAY, JUNE 1st, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Recommended Not Recommended

AD
6/1/2010



Secretary of Historic Commission

Remarks:



Highlights

History:

The “Kissing House” is proudly listed on the National Register of Historical Places and is one of the few in the area that feature the Carpenter Gothic-style architecture. It is called the “Kissing House” because in the late 1800s a Spring Hill woman, Sara Odil, was betrothed to Hugh Brown, who was 15 years older than she. Without Sara’s knowledge, the man was also involved with several other women.

A newspaper announcement in Nashville revealed to her, after their engagement, that he had married another woman in Nashville. She and her family sued Hugh Brown for the breach of promise to marriage, one of the first of such cases.

The jury sided with Sara Odil and she was awarded \$2,800, which she used to buy the house. For years, the “Kissing House” was also known as the Odil home. Tombstones of the Odils and the Browns are located not far from the house in the Spring Hill cemetery.

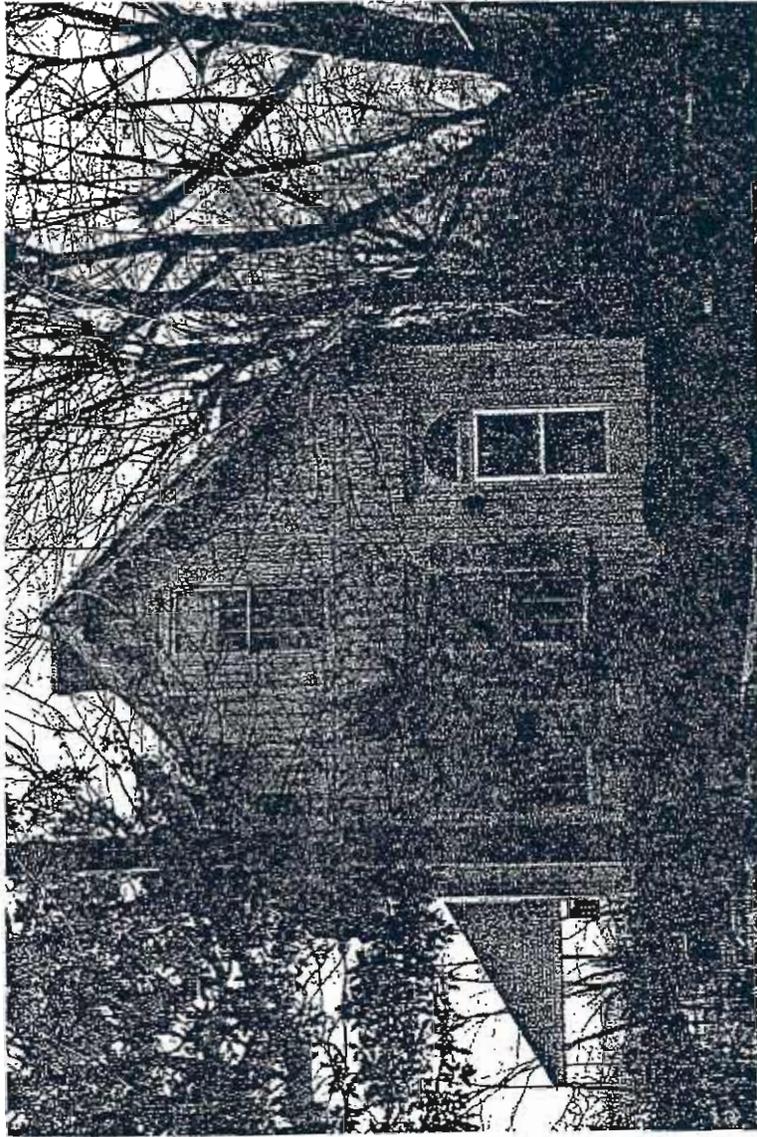
A play has also been written about the story entitled “The House that Kisses Bought”.

the sometimes heavy classicism which dominated the landscape. The symmetry so essential to the classical style gave way to a taste for visual picturesqueness and a growing desire for more freedom in floor plans. In most buildings there was an emphasis on the vertical, pointed arches, and in spires, towers, turrets, and crenelated battlements. During this Gothic Revival period, several popular stylistic offshoots developed. One of these was termed "Carpenter Gothic" because the elements of the Gothic were depicted in wood rather than stone or other materials.¹⁵ Spring Hill has two very fine examples of this somewhat rare architectural derivation which are being added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ritter-Morton House was built by Peter Ritter, who came to Spring Hill after the Civil War, sometime before 1878. It has vertical clapboard with high gable roofs characteristic of the Gothic Revival. The distinctive vertical siding has a delicate arched border at the ceiling line of the first floor and decorative brackets support the barge-board trimmed eaves along the front and sides.

The first floor has two side-by-side windows, each six over six double hung sash with louvered shutters and moulded lintels. The off-side wooden door is multipaneled and has a single pane fanlight within a surround which corresponds to the lintels above the windows. The upper story has one central

¹⁵ Georgia Department of National Resources, Historic Preservation Handbook (Atlanta: Department of Natural Resources, 1974), pp. 46-47.



Photograph 23. Ritter-Morton House

window like those below. An interior central brick chimney provides for fireplaces in the main rooms. The stone foundation has been reinforced with concrete in recent years for during the tornado of 1963, the house was picked up, but returned to its foundation. "Wayside" was located in the lot adjacent to the Ritter-Morton house and was demolished in the same storm.

A more refined example of the Carpenter Gothic style is the Grace Episcopal Church located on the north end of the main street in Spring Hill. Nashville architect P. J. Williams drew the plans for this place of worship which was built in 1876 and 1877. The building is also distinguished by fine vertical wooden siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof which here is topped by a cupola and cross. A gothic stained glass window dominates the slightly projecting front central wall which also features a multipaneled circular window. A criss cross decorative border breaks the continuous upward lines of the front at about nine feet above the cut stone foundation. The slightly projecting eaves and plain boxed cornices of the shingled roof are stark in their simplicity and call attention to the fine arches of the vertical woodwork ending just beneath the roof line.

The single door to the foyer is four paneled with an ogee surround which is also seen above the study entrance to the left. A brick flue rises from the right rear above the medium