

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

**On the Proposed Demolition of a Former Detroit Public Schools Building,
Thomas C. Houghten Elementary School**

**CITY OF DETROIT
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
MICHAEL E. DUGGAN, MAYOR**

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

The City of Detroit has proposed to demolish a former Detroit Public Schools building using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The building is identified as follows:

Thomas C. Houghten Elementary School
16745 Lamphere Street
Detroit, Michigan, 48219

The use of CDBG funds requires the City to document compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (hereafter: “the Act”) and the implementing regulations found in Title 36, Part 800, of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Act and the implementing regulations require the City to engage the public on any project which may adversely affect culturally- or historically-significant structures, properties or resources.

HISTORIC REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

Under the authority of the “Programmatic Agreement between the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the City of Detroit...,” the City of Detroit has determined that the former Thomas C. Houghten Elementary School (hereafter: “Houghten”) is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The building is situated near the center of a 3.4 acre site. The building is a two-story, flat-roofed, brick structure of Tudor inspiration with some Arts and Crafts style influences in the decorative brickwork. Houghten was constructed in 1924 by Redford Union Schools. The original building included seven classrooms and a kindergarten room. The building was named in honor of Thomas C. Houghten (1853-1918) who served as Redford Township Supervisor and Treasurer and helped organize the Redford State Savings Bank. In 1926, the Detroit School District adopted the school and constructed an addition onto the original building which added another eight classrooms and an office. The Detroit School District constructed the addition in order to accommodate the children of families that moved into newly-constructed homes in the area during the late 1910’s and early 1920’s.

Furthermore, the City of Detroit has determined that the proposed demolition constitutes an adverse effect upon this structure, per 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1). An adverse effect is one which would alter any of the characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A project that results in the physical destruction of the property is explicitly recognized as an adverse effect, per 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i).

Upon request and by appointment, interested parties may review any of the available documentation related to the subject property at the offices of the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department. The offices of the Planning and Development Department are located at the address listed below (See "PUBLIC COMMENT" Section). Anyone interested in setting an appointment to review any of the available documentation may send an e-mail to jmiller@detroitmi.gov or call 313.224.1508.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The City of Detroit invites all interested agencies, groups or persons to submit written comments for consideration. The City is particularly interested in comments concerning one or more of the following topics: 1.) the historic significance of the building and/or the site, 2.) an objection to or support for the demolition of the building, 3.) the effect of the proposed demolition on the surrounding neighborhood and community, 4.) an alternative use for the existing structure, 5.) a proposed future use for the site should the City proceed with the demolition, or 6.) ways in which the City could minimize or mitigate the adverse effect of the demolition.

The City of Detroit will accept comments by mail or personal delivery at the following address:

City of Detroit
Planning and Development Department
Attention: Ryan Schumaker
65 Cadillac Square, Suite 1300
Detroit, Michigan, 48226

The offices of the Planning and Development Department are open on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The City of Detroit will accept comments by e-mail at jmiller@detroitmi.gov. The subject line of the e-mail should read "Houghten Demolition Comments."

The City of Detroit will accept and consider all comments so received up to and until 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The City of Detroit does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, handicap, national origin, race, sex or sexual orientation. Persons or groups with discrimination complaints may file those complaints with the City of Detroit Human Rights Department, 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1026, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.