City of Jacksonville, Florida

Donna Deegan, Mayor

Planning Department
Ed Ball Building
214 North Hogan Street, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 255-7800
www.jacksonville.gov

A NEW DAY.

October 26, 2026

Subject: Drew Residence at 245 W. 3rd Street, Jacksonville, FL 32206

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Jacksonville's Planning Department, please accept this letter for consideration of the application submitted by JAA Architecture. The property located at 245 W. 3rd Street, constructed in 1909, is recognized as a contributing structure within the Springfield Historic District. The home was built for Dr. Horace Rainsford Drew, a physician, physicist and grandson of Jacksonville pioneer, Columbus Drew. The building sits prominently on a corner near Hogans Creek, overlooking John H. Klutho Park.

Designed by architect Leroy Sheftall, the three-story, 7,500 SF home includes a basement (accessible from the street), an attic and a belvedere tower located on the third floor. The tower commands a sweeping view of Klutho Park. In addition to the tower, other significant features of the house plan include a second-floor balcony, originally built to allow a parent to rest an infant at night in the open air; and a third story attic which was converted to billiard room in the mid 1910's.

The Drew Residence blends the following architectural styles and elements: the Tudor Revival is characterized by half-timbered eaves; Queen Anne is showcased by a hexagonal side porch and tower; and Spanish/Mediterranean Colonial Revival elements are shown in the clay tile roof and porch parapet. The building also exhibits inventive uses of concrete blocks in Jacksonville as a building material. The blocks are cast as smooth, ashlar finished, and placed in the hexagonal columns, the belvedere tower and projecting bays. The base of the home is elevated higher than other homes in Springfield, which contributes to its vertical projection and taller stature. The vertical projection is also enhanced by multiple rooflines, gables and three-story tower.

The building was acquired by the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) Council and is currently undergoing rehabilitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Arimus T. Wells
Planning Services Manager – Historic Planning and Preservation
City of Jacksonville – Planning Department
214 North Hogan Street, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 255-7824