

**Re: Preliminary Designation of the Pioneer Arcade: 1535 N. Pulaski Rd.**

Bill Smiljanich &lt;wsmilj1@gmail.com&gt;

Wed 11/2/2022 12:57 AM

To: ccl &lt;ccl@cityofchicago.org&gt;

Cc: Kandalyn Hahn &lt;Kandalyn.Hahn@cityofchicago.org&gt;

[Warning: External email]

Dear Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and DPD-Historic Preservation on Staff,

The North and Pulaski Historical Society strongly supports the conclusions of the Preliminary Summary of Information Report for the Pioneer Arcade, at 1535 N. Pulaski Rd.

Since 2010, our organization has dedicated itself to documenting the history of the built environment and the collective memory of the North and Pulaski area of Humboldt Park.

Our members have pursued a commitment to bring all of our abandoned places and forgotten spaces back to life to serve the neighborhood once again.

Current and former residents have been dreaming about restoring the former Pioneer Arcade for almost two decades. So, we believe the time is now to recognize the an important place of leisure and fun for generations of working-class Chicagoans, the time is now to recognize the genius of architect Jens J. Jensen, and the time is now to save a rare example of Churrigueresque Spanish Baroque architecture in our city.

As a matter of equity, we hope that the commission agreeing to the potential landmarking of the Pioneer Arcade will be the start of recognizing many forgotten gems on our beloved West Side.

In conclusion, we urge the Commission to vote in favor of the preliminary landmark designation and move towards a final designation.

Sincerely,  
William Smiljanic-Perez  
Executive Director  
The North & Pulaski  
Historical Society

Sent from my iPhone

November 3, 2022

Commission on Chicago Landmarks, Permit Review Committee

Chicago City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60606

c/o Chairman Ernie Wong

Re: The Pioneer Arcade Building, 1535-1545 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

We at Preservation Chicago fully support the Chicago Landmark Designation of the Pioneer Arcade Building, located at 1535-1545 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago.

The Pioneer Arcade Building, along with the New Apollo Theater, located across the street, were recognized as part of our Preservation Chicago--Chicago 7 Most Endangered Buildings program in 2015. These two structures, along with the Pioneer Bank, also a designated Chicago Landmark, were anchor buildings to this important commercial intersection and shopping district in the West Humboldt Park Community of Chicago. Unfortunately, over time, this area has suffered from disinvestment.

The Pioneer Arcade Building is a highly decorative cream colored terra cotta building, in a Spanish-Revival style and designed by architect Jens J. Jensen. It's also a fine example of a recreational hall building type, featuring bowling alleys and billiards and dating to 1925.

Over many years we have worked with the current owner, Hispanic Housing and its director, Paul Roldon, the North-Pulaski Historical Society and its members towards a good preservation outcome and use for this special building.

We are of the opinion that the proposed reuse of the historic Pioneer Arcade Building and a Chicago Landmark Designation of the building is an excellent outcome. We look forward to the owner, developer and City of Chicago, working together towards a beautiful and architecturally compatible addition to the rear sections of the building, integrating historic features of the interior of the building, beyond the ornamental façade. We therefore, fully support the Preliminary Landmark Recommendation for the Pioneer Arcade Building.

Sincerely,

*Ward Miller*

Ward Miller, Executive Director