

**From:** [Ainsel Fallon](#)  
**To:** [Crane, Fatema](#); [Landmarks Preservation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Cameron Talle Danesh](#); [Vincent Luo](#)  
**Subject:** LPC Thomas Block Preservation  
**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 10:07:34 AM

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Dear Landmarks Preservation Commission Members,

Apologies that we are unable to come in person to your meeting, as we are currently on summer break. We are writing in regards to the proposed demolition of the Thomas Block, whose EIR on which you have the opportunity to comment. The Thomas Block, dating from 1904, is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Downtown Berkeley. It is an outstanding example of such a building from the early twentieth century, out of the many in Downtown. The proposed demolition of this important piece of Berkeley's history naturally raised concern among us advocates of historic preservation.

Although we as students support more housing throughout Berkeley, we believe there is also room to preserve those buildings that are integral to our city's identity and urban heritage. As such, we humbly ask you to comment on the EIR to object to the proposed demolition of the Thomas Block and instead encourage alternative housing developments. Furthermore, we believe the LPC should move to landmark the Thomas Block as a part of downtown's historical fabric. Besides already being on the LPC's Potential Initiations list, the building has met the criteria for City Landmark status. That state of California also identified the Thomas Block as a "Contributor to the Shattuck Avenue Downtown Historic District" As such, protecting its historic and architectural value is not a political or anti-housing statement, but rather an obligation as part of the LPC's mission.

Sincerely,  
Historic Preservation Club, UC Berkeley