

Revised plans for apartment building behind Ted's Frostop filed

New proposal aim to keep diner in operation, preserve historic site

BY JONAH MEADOWS

Staff writer

After battling fierce opposition last spring from neighbors and preservationists, the Robert family's real estate venture on Friday filed revised plans for the Ted's

Frostop site that would preserve the historic building — and aim to keep the diner in operation — while constructing a three-story apartment complex behind it.

The plans are a significant change from the Robert family's initial proposal, which called

for demolishing the 71-year-old neighborhood eatery at the corner of South Claiborne Avenue and Calhoun Street to make way for a student housing complex in partnership with Tulane University.

The revised plans would keep the Frostop building and a portion

of its parking lot intact while adding a covered patio area beside the restaurant.

"In an effort to strengthen Ted's Frostop's long-term economic viability, we plan to build a modern kitchen in the new development which will open up interior space to nearly double the diner's interior seating capacity," Matthieu Robert, principal of property own-

er RCR Ventures, said in response to written questions about the project. "We will also offer additional outdoor areas for customers."

Plans show the Roberts would also build a 40-foot-tall apartment building behind the diner with three floors, approximately 26 units and 29 new parking spaces

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The latest filing comes more than seven months after the Robert's original plans for the site ignited a firestorm of controversy. In a city that clings fiercely to its neighborhood institutions, Frostop's oversized root beer mug had been a symbol of the city's resilience after Katrina and the idea of demolishing it was met with fierce opposition — even though the Roberts

The new plan incorporates elements of mid-century modern design on the brick

"We feel strongly that this building is worthy and sig-

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