

More cities ban big homes on small lots

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Cities across the United States are limiting what homes can be torn down and replaced with huge so-called McMansions, it was reported Monday. Preservationists decry the demolition of older, more modest homes, while residents complain expensive new homes raise property taxes, USA Today reported. In Atlanta, an ordinance approved last week bans construction of giant homes on small lots, while in Edna, Minn., new zoning requires deeper setbacks on narrow lots to limit the size of new homes. In Austin, Texas, a change in zoning limits the size and height of homes replacing teardowns. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has identified 300 communities in 33 states that experienced a rush to teardown older existing homes. The trust is drafting a resource guide for their Web site that includes sample ordinances from across the country, USA Today said.

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