

LANDMARKS COMMISSION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner, Planning Division

Date Prepared: July 8, 2020

Legistar File ID #: [61243](#)

Landmarks Commission Administration

Membership:

Heather Bailey started as the Preservation Planner on January 7, 2019. Stuart Levitan served his maximum term, and his last meeting was on July 29, 2019, after serving as Historian since 2007 and 6 years as Chair. Betty Banks was confirmed by the Common Council on October 1, 2019 to fill the Historian seat. Maurice Taylor was confirmed by the Common Council on October 15, 2019 to fill the Real Estate Professional seat. Banks and Taylor meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards.

Meetings:

The Landmarks Commission met 19 times in 2019. 20 meetings were scheduled and two meetings were cancelled; one cancelled meeting was rescheduled.

Policy Document:

The commission reviewed and made minor revisions to the policy document. The commission adopted the revised document on November 11, 2019.

Data:

City of Madison Parcels = 80,098

historic parcels (properties in historic districts and landmarks outside of districts) = 2,026

182 designated landmarks (53 are located in historic districts and 129 are located outside)

5 local historic districts = 1,897 parcels in local historic districts

Landmarks Commission Activity

Certificates of Appropriateness: 51

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 52 projects (alterations, new construction, land divisions, and demolition) for Certificates of Appropriateness and approved 51 of those projects, with an approval rate of 98%. The Landmarks Commission denied one request for the installation of aluminum trim on a landmark in the Mansion Hill historic district. One additional project comprised of two COA requests for a land division and new construction was reviewed by the Landmarks Commission, but was later withdrawn by the applicant and is not included in these totals or in the chart below.

Through the policy document, the Landmarks Commission has provided the Preservation Planner with the ability to provide administrative approvals for certain types of work. The Preservation Planner administratively approved 137 Certificates of Appropriateness in 2019.

Approvals were often modified from the original submittal based on recommendations from the Preservation Planner and/or the Landmarks Commission.

The chart below shows the specific break down.

Certificates of Appropriateness				
	Historic District/ Landmark	Landmarks Commission		Staff
		# Requests	# Requests Approved	# Requests Approved
New Construction	MH	0	0	
	TLR	2 accessory	2	
	UH	3 accessory	3	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	0	0	
Alteration	MH	4	3	33
	TLR	19	19	45
	UH	12	12	29
	MB	0	0	4
	FS	1	1	5
	Landmark	12 (9 + 3 in HDs)	11 (9 + 2 in HDs)	37 (23 +14 in HDs)
Demolition	MH	0	0	
	TLR	0	0	
	UH	2 accessory	2	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	0	0	
Land Division/ Combination	MH	0	0	
	TLR	0	0	
	UH	0	0	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	0	0	
Total		52	51	139
Approval Rate			98%	100%

Historic Districts:

MH=Mansion Hill
 TLR=Third Lake Ridge
 UH=University Heights

MB=Marquette Bungalows
 FS=First Settlement
 Landmark=Designated Madison Landmark

Historic Value Reviews: 79

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 79 building demolition requests for historic value (MGO 28.185(7)4.) and provided the findings and recommendations to the Plan Commission.

Adjacent to Landmarks: 3

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the alterations/development to three buildings that are adjacent to landmarks where Plan Commission and Urban Design Commission review were needed (MGO 28.144).

Advisory Recommendations to PC: 3

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Plan Commission on the construction of a single-family home at 301 E Dean Avenue, construction of a mixed-use commercial building at 636 W Washington Avenue, and construction of an apartment building above the parking podium at Judge Doyle Square.

Advisory Recommendations to UDC: 3

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Urban Design Commission on the construction of a single-family home at 301 E Dean Avenue, construction of a mixed-use commercial building at 636 W Washington Avenue, and construction of an apartment building above the parking podium at Judge Doyle Square.

Other reviews/recommendations: 5

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the Demolition by Neglect of the landmark property located at 121 Langdon Street, proposed telecommunications facility at 317 State Street, amendment to section 41.09 of the Madison General Ordinances to clarify when a Certificate of Appropriateness is required at Forest Hill Cemetery, Mifflandia Neighborhood Plan, and the Appeal of the finding of Demolition by Neglect of the landmark property located at 121 Langdon Street.

Designations/Rescissions: 0

The Landmarks Commission did not receive any new landmark nominations.

National Register Nomination Reviews: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided comments on National Register nominations for properties and historic districts being listed on the National Register as part of Certified Local Government responsibilities. Staff prepared a letter to the Wisconsin Historical Society summarizing the Commission's comments related to the review. In 2019, the Commission reviewed nominations for the King Street Arcade and 6115 N Highlands Avenue.

Landmarks Commission Initiatives

Historic Preservation Plan:

Work on the Historic Preservation Plan continued in 2019. Two public meetings were held and the Historic Preservation Plan Advisory Committee met five times in 2019. The Historic Preservation Plan Advisory Committee recommended approval of the Historic Preservation Plan at its final meeting on December 18, 2019.

Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee:

The Ad Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) met 13 times in 2019.

Historic Preservation Program

CLG Subgrants:

Formal applications were not submitted in 2019.

Spring Letters:

Staff typically mails an annual letter (“Spring Letter”) to historic district property owners and to owners of landmark properties. The letters describe the responsibilities of the property owner and the historic tax credit program where applicable. Spring Letters were not mailed in 2019.

Work of the Preservation Planner:

- Participated in the construction review of city-owned landmark and historic buildings
- Assisted city agencies with compliance review applications (121 reviews)
- Participated in the Façade Improvement Grant Program staff team
- Conducted Community Development Block Grant Environmental Reviews
- General management of historic preservation program
- Served as a judge for both the local and state level National History Day competitions
- Attended the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions annual meeting
- Presented at the Wisconsin Local History Annual Conference