

# LANDMARKS COMMISSION 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Date Prepared:** February 1, 2023

**Legistar File ID #:** [64022](#)

## Landmarks Commission Administration

### Membership:

Former Chair Anna Andrzejewski resigned her position and attended her last meeting on March 7, 2022. The Historian seat had also been vacant since 2021. New members Edna Ely-Ledesma and Molly Harris were confirmed by the Common Council on May 24, 2022 and attended their first commission meeting on June 6, 2022. Ely-Ledesma was appointed to fill the Adult City Resident position. Harris was appointed to fill the Historian position. Ely-Ledesma and Harris meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards.

### Meetings:

The Landmarks Commission met 16 times in 2022. The commission continued meeting virtually in 2022 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### Policy Manual:

The commission did revise the policy manual in 2022 for gender-inclusive language.

### Data:

# City of Madison Parcels = 80,479

# historic parcels (properties in historic districts and landmarks outside of districts) = 2,016

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

5 local historic districts = 1,887 parcels in local historic districts

## Landmarks Commission Activity

### Certificates of Appropriateness: 43

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 44 projects (alterations, new construction, land combinations/divisions, and demolition) for Certificates of Appropriateness and approved 43 of those projects, with an approval rate of 98%. The Landmarks Commission denied one request for a land combination in the Third Lake Ridge historic district.

Through the policy document, the Landmarks Commission has provided the Preservation Planner and Community and Cultural Resources Planner with the ability to provide administrative approvals for certain types of work. The Preservation Planner and Community and Cultural Resources Planner administratively approved 178 Certificates of Appropriateness in 2022.

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:

<b>Certificates of Appropriateness</b>				
	Historic District/ Landmark	Landmarks Commission		Staff
		# Requests	# Requests Approved	# Requests Approved
New Construction	MH	0	0	
	TLR	4 accessory + 1 principal	5	
	UH	4 accessory (3 + 1 LM)	4	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	0 (+ 1 in UH)	0	
Alteration	MH	0	0	10 (5 + 5 LM)
	TLR	6 (5 + 1 LM)	6	82 (74 + 8 LM)
	UH	7 (6 + 1 LM)	7	51 (50 + 1 LM)
	MB	0	0	1
	FS	0	0	3
	Landmark	5 (+ 2 in HDs)	5	31 (+ 14 in HDs)
Demolition	MH	0	0	
	TLR	5 accessory + 3 principal	8	
	UH	3 accessory	3	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	0	0	
Land Division/ Combination	MH	0	0	
	TLR	5	4	
	UH	0	0	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1	1	
<b>Total</b>		44	43	178
<b>Approval Rate</b>			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: 84

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 84 building demolition requests for historic value (MGO 28.185(7)4.) and provided the findings and recommendations to the Plan Commission.

Adjacent to Landmarks: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the alterations/development to one building that was adjacent to a landmark where Plan Commission and Urban Design Commission review were needed (MGO 28.144).

Advisory Recommendations to PC: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Plan Commission on the demolition of the buildings at 915 W Johnson Street and 917 W Johnson Street related to State Compliance Review and the development at 415 N Lake Street.

Advisory Recommendations to UDC: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Urban Design Commission on the development at 415 N Lake Street.

Other reviews/recommendations: 5

The Landmarks Commission received two informational presentations for development projects, discussed the proposed Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Overlay District, and reviewed two ordinance text amendments.

Designations/Rescissions: 0

The Landmarks Commission did not receive any new landmark nominations.

National Register Nomination Reviews: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviews and provides comments on National Register nominations for properties and historic districts being listed on the National Register as part of Certified Local Government responsibilities. In 2022, the Commission reviewed one nomination for the Madison Saddlery Company at 313-317 E Wilson Street.

## **Landmarks Commission Initiatives**

Historic Preservation Plan

Staff continues to work on implementing the priority strategies from the preservation plan. Staff has submitted a CLG grant application for a survey of archaeological resources in order to begin the process for the City being better stewards of our cultural resources and build a stronger partnership with our tribal partners. Additionally, staff has been working on an update to the National Register district portion of our website that will make it easier for property owners to find out if they are eligible for preservation tax credits. Additional updates to the website include a video guide for securing a Certificate of Appropriateness and updated links to additional resources.

Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee

To complete the ordinance update, the Ad Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) held three public meetings in February of 2022 and posted an online survey to gather input on the draft ordinance. Their last committee meeting on March 2, 2022. At that meeting, the committee voted to approved the draft ordinance and forward it to Common Council for introduction. Staff subsequently presented on the ordinance to the Economic Development Committee and the Housing Strategy Committee in April. The Landmarks Commission reviewed the ordinance at their May 9, 2022 meeting and recommended adoption. The updated ordinance was adopted on May 24, 2022, and became effective on June 8, 2022.

As part of implementing this ordinance change, staff has begun going to neighborhood association meetings to discuss the new ordinance and Landmarks Commission process. The Preservation Planner presented at the Marquette Neighborhood Association's Planning & Development Committee meeting on December 13, 2022, and additional meetings will take place in 2023.

#### Plan Commission Special Meeting

On December 8, 2022, the Plan Commission had a special meeting that focused on the Landmarks Commission's role in the advisory recommendation of historic value for the proposed demolitions that Plan Commission reviews. The Landmarks Commission Chair and Preservation Planner attended the meeting and participated in a discussion with the Plan Commission members to clarify what the Landmarks Commission is communicating to that body in their historic value reviews. The productive discussion strengthened the understanding of the process between the two commissions.

## **Historic Preservation Program**

#### Cultural Resources Planner

The Planning Division created a new position to address the growing needs of the Arts and Historic Preservation programs. Meri Rose Ekberg was hired as the Cultural Resources Planner. She splits her time primarily between Arts and Preservation with additional time working with the Neighborhood Planning team. This has created additional synergy between these programs and resulted in greater capacity for the Preservation Program to meet our regulatory obligations while also expanding our programming opportunities.

#### Awards

The City received two awards for the successful rehabilitation of the Gates of Heaven Synagogue. The City-owned landmark received its Certificate of Appropriateness from the Landmarks Commission in 2020. Madison Parks moved forward with the project and the City of Madison Engineering Division oversaw the construction. The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation gave their Preservation Award and the Wisconsin Historical Society gave their Board of Curators Historic Preservation Award to the project. In addition to preserving the structure, the research for the appropriate consolidant treatment for Madison sandstone is publicly available for property owners to be able to conserve their own early Madison buildings.

#### CLG Subgrants

An application was submitted in 2021 for the archaeological reconnaissance survey. The City was awarded the grant and contracted with SWCA to complete the project. Work is expected to be complete in the summer of 2023.

#### Annual Letters

Staff typically mails a letter to historic district property owners and to owners of landmark properties every other year. The letters describe the responsibilities of the property owner and the historic tax credit program where applicable. Letters were not mailed in 2022.

#### Work of the Preservation Planner

- Participated in the construction review of city-owned landmark and historic buildings
- Assisted city agencies with Federal and State historic compliance review applications
- Completed Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act, compliance review comments on behalf of the Madison Landmarks Commission
- Participated in the Façade Improvement Grant Program staff team
- Served as a judge for both the local and state-level National History Day competitions

- Presentations:
  - Madison Moves, Madison Trust for Historic Preservation webinar
  - How Can We Tell the Full Story? Landmarking Underrepresented Places in Your Community, Wisconsin Association for Historic Preservation
  - Madison Preservation Program, Madison Building Inspector Training
  - Hard Solutions: Demolition by Neglect, Wisconsin Local History & Historic Preservation Conference
- Served as the city's liaison for the Wisconsin Historical Society's recovery of a 3,000 year old dugout canoe from the bottom of Lake Mendota. Coordinated city agencies to assist with the recovery and relocation for conservation. The canoe is the oldest intact watercraft recovered in the Great Lakes region.