

From: John Schlaefer [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 10:32 AM
To: Scanlon, Amy
Cc: Bidar-Sielaff, Shiva; matthewsage [REDACTED]
Subject: Project at 209 N. Prospect

Landmarks Commission
Madison Municipal Building
Madison, WI 53701

February 21, 2011

RE: Project at 209 N. Prospect

Dear Members of the Landmarks Commission:

I am writing in support of Julie and Matt Sager's proposal to build a contemporary house at 209 N. Prospect, next to the landmark Ely House. Even though the architecture of the proposed building is contemporary, and thus vastly different from the Ely House, by placing it far back from the sidewalk and making it a rather small building, intentionally, the Sagers and their architects have been very diligent in fitting it into the site with minimal visual impact on the surrounding houses.

I grew up a block away from the site of this project, and recently moved back to the same apartment I grew up in. I have a graduate degree in urban planning. Architectural history has been my passion for over forty years. With that background, I am excited about the Sager's project, because it advances the continuum of architectural styles that have been built in University Heights over the last hundred years, while respecting the Ely House very adeptly.

As I am sure you know, many landmark houses have been built in University Heights over many years, some designed by world famous architects, some by the very best of Madison's architects. All of these buildings create an architectural continuum in the neighborhood, from Frank Lloyd Wright's "Airplane" house to the Postmodern house on Van Hise. The Sager's project adds the twenty-first century to that continuum in an exciting way.

When I first heard that a house was going to be built on this site, I had serious concerns about the affect it could have on the landmark Ely House. In seeing the plans for the project and in getting to know how much respect the Sagers have for the Ely House, my concern has turned into excitement. The Sagers have consciously planned their project to be small, and have set it far back on the lot, so as to minimize the visual impact it has on its next door neighbors. Because of the setback, it will not be visible to pedestrians or cars going north on Prospect, until they are right in front of it. Pedestrians and cars going south up the hill will see it minimally until they get almost in front of it. In both cases, the house will be so small, compared to its neighbors, that it will not detract from them conspicuously at all.

This is a very well thought out project that will be an excellent addition to this historic neighborhood. It deserves your approval.

Sincerely,

John Schlaefer
1814 Kendall Ave.