

January 2, 2011

City of Madison
Landmarks Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

We recently had an opportunity to review the proposed footprint, setback and preliminary drawings for the home to be built for the Sager family at 209 N. Prospect Ave.

We were especially pleased by the consideration that the Sagers have shown as to the set back of the house, which maximizes the green space on the front lawn, and does not impede the view of the Ely House from either direction. Its careful placement also allows for a view of unbroken green space from the side windows of both immediate neighbors at 205 and 211 North Prospect Ave. Its modest dimensions definitely fall within the guidelines established for our historic district, and in addition its flat roof provides for a pleasantly low profile.

Concerning the Sager's modern design within this historic neighborhood, Jane Jacobs, in her classic book 'The Death and Life of Great American Cities' lauds cities that accommodate diversity. She writes that if real differences are expressed well in visual terms, if a form of order can be shown, then its freedom can be respected and 'the results can be something delightful'.

We congratulate the Sagers on their very thoughtful planning to date.

Sincerely,

Harvey and Trudy Barash
205 N Prospect Avenue