



PLANNING DIVISION STAFF REPORT

November 2, 2020

PREPARED FOR THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Project Name/Address: University of Wisconsin Arboretum NHL Nomination
1207 Seminole Highway

Application Type: Certified Local Government advisory comment

Legistar File ID # [62756](#)

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Background

The National Park Service recognizes the City of Madison as a designated Certified Local Government. While the Landmarks Commission has an obligation to comment on nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, there is no regulatory requirement for us to comment on nominations for National Historic Landmark status. As part of that process, the National Park Service notifies the chief elected local official. The Mayor forwarded that notification and invitation to comment on to the Landmarks Commission. All members of the public are welcome to comment, and as the City's body for stewardship of historic and cultural resources, the Landmarks Commission has an important role to play.

The National Park Service describes the National Historic Landmark program as:

“National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are historic properties that illustrate the heritage of the United States. The almost 2,600 NHLs found in the U.S. today come in many forms: historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts. Each NHL represents an outstanding aspect of American history and culture.”

While still an honorary designation, it is the highest level of historic designation available at the Federal level, requiring both a significant national story and an exceptionally high level of historic integrity. There are currently 43 National Historic Landmarks in Wisconsin, 8 of which are located in Madison.

University of Wisconsin Arboretum

The Landmarks Commission is asked to review the proposed nomination for the University of Wisconsin Arboretum and determine if the property meets the criteria for listing as a National Historic Landmark. This property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 28, 2019. Please review the submission for completeness and soundness of the arguments it presents. The commission should determine if it agrees with the areas of significance and the period of significance, in addition to any other comments the commission may have on the nomination.

Staff will compile the commission's comments and submit them for the advisory board's consideration. The National Park System Advisory Board National Historic Landmarks Committee will take the commission's comments into consideration when it reviews the nomination at its November 22, 2019 meeting. You can find information about the meeting and register to attend at:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/2020-november-meeting.htm>