

Memorandum to: Community Development Authority

Regarding: Landscaping and Maintenance at the Historic Horse Barn (Livery), 200 N. Blount

From: Gigi Holland

Date: June 26, 2015

The Livery is part of a mini-historic district with four other buildings within a city block, all having landmark designations and descriptive metal plaques (see attachments).

In the late 1990s I had an office in the Livery building and have been a volunteer gardener there for approximately fourteen years. The original plantings have died and were replaced by hostas and ground cover around the sides and back. The front of the building to the right of the entry door and under the large front windows needs care and attention. The small memorial garden plot at the corner of N. Blount and E. Dayton streets honors Sol Levin, a former director of the City Planning Department and a director of the Land Trust. The CDA gave Gregg Rosenberg from the Land Trust and me permission to develop that garden area. I continue to take care of that area with help from neighbors and volunteers from the Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association.

Currently the landscaping of the Livery building is done in conjunction with the adjacent apartment complex. Because of the historic importance of the Livery building, I think that the landscape of the Livery should receive special care, nothing fancy but well planned and maintained. I'm asking for your backing in providing instructions to staff to ensure the care and good landscaping.

I'm asking that in the management contract of the Livery and apartment complex it says the following:

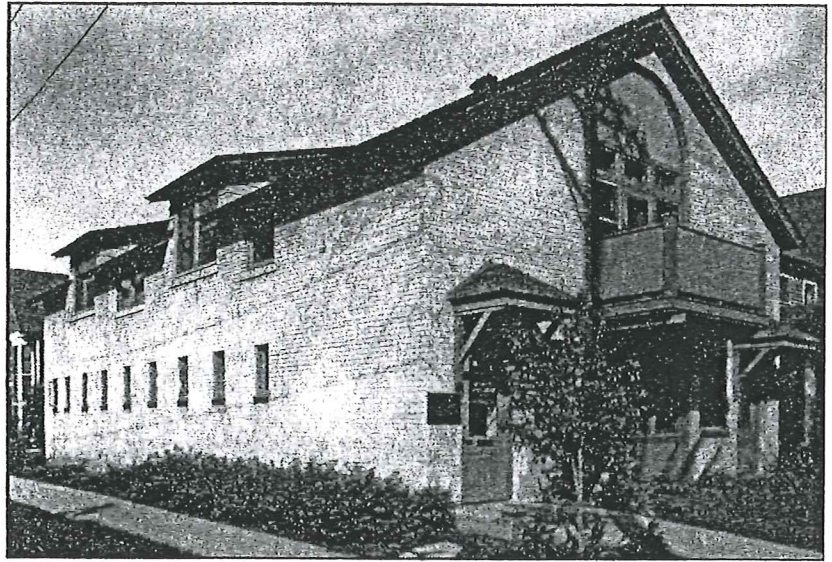
- 1) it acknowledges the special character of the Livery
- 2) that a professional landscape architect (either from the city or from the private sector) be hired to provide a design.
- 3) the management company follows an ongoing plan to maintain the plantings around the livery building.

I would be willing to initiate a fund-raising drive for new plantings.

Cc: Alder Ledell Zellers  
Patty Prime, President of Tenney-Lapham Neighborhood Association

Attachments:

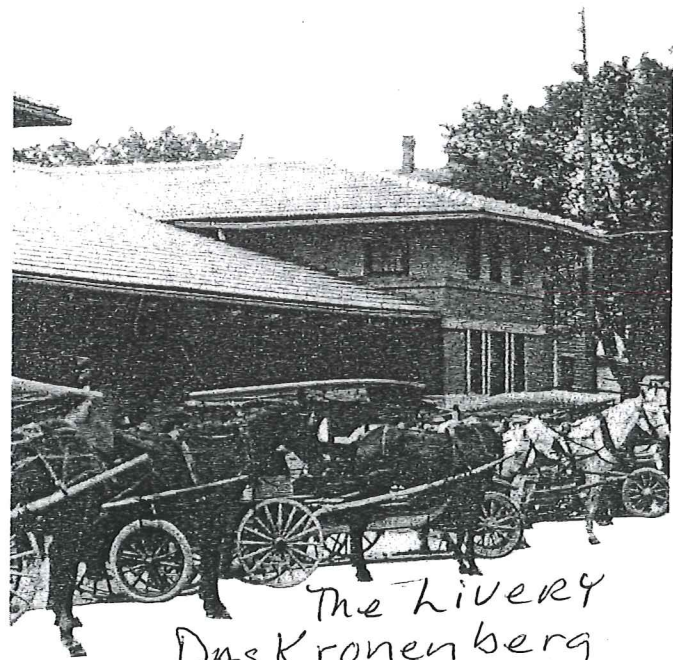
The Old Market Place  
Neighborhood:  
*A Walking Tour*



This plain, vernacular building was designed by city engineer John F. Icke and was built between 1910 and 1914 to serve as a municipal horse barn. It is significant as one of the few surviving buildings in Madison associated with the time when horses provided the power to pull city-owned wagons, carts, snowplows and fire engines.

The draft horses housed here were probably used to pull the equipment of the street and sanitation departments. The nine single-pane windows on the Dayton Street elevation were designed to provide light and air to each horse's stall. The wagons and livery gear were stored on the north side. The doorways under the arches on each end provided access to the hayloft.

The barn was used for horses through the 1940s, but as gasoline replaced horsepower, the building was converted to office space in 1946. For a time it housed the Madison Board of Park Commissioners, the City Welfare Department and the Madison Area Council on Retardation. In 1987, the Madison Mutual Housing Association renovated the building and converted it into their offices and two apartments.



The Livery  
Das Kronenberg  
City Market  
Hill House & Grocery  
Miller House  
Clay ARTS Studios

A Madison Heritage Publication

