



MARQUETTE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
A Place for All People - Established 1968
953 Jenifer Street
PO Box 3223
Madison, WI 53704

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April 21, 2015

To: Stuart Levitan, Chair City of Madison Landmarks Commission

Re: Demolition of the house at 906 Williamson Street

At the Marquette Neighborhood Association (MNA) meeting of April 16th, the MNA Board voted to oppose demolition of the existing house at 906 Williamson.

To meet demolition criteria of neighborhood plans, projects need to be exceptional. The proposed project that would replace the house at 906 does not meet that criteria. Therefore, MNA opposes demolition unless the project incorporates affordable housing and additional green space. Green space, at a minimum, should include increased set-back along the Paterson Street sidewalk to accommodate existing trees and future tree growth and plantings between the sidewalk and the building.

In addition, to meet neighborhood expectations, the project proponents should incorporate significant affordable housing as advocated in neighborhood plans. The proponents should apply with the City for affordable housing funds that may become available and should pursue other avenues for support of incorporation of affordable housing.

The existing building has historic merit, contributes to the fabric of the neighborhood and represents housing historically used by working class families. And while in need of repair the house is not beyond renovation. Without substantial improvements to the proposed project that would replace this house, the project can not meet the high bar set in neighborhood plans for demolition of existing structures built before 1945.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the Marquette Neighborhood Association Board during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Lynn Lee: President, MNA Board