

**Note to Commission  
2021 Van Hise Ave  
Sellery House**

The new owners of this Prairie Style house wish to construct a sizable side addition and enclosed garage. As this is such a substantial proposal, I encouraged their architect to come before you for an informational presentation before their final submittal and subsequent public hearing. The proposal will have to be referred for final action to allow for the required public notice.

While the materials, and detailing of the proposed addition appear to follow the landmarks ordinance guidelines, staff is concerned about the broadness of the addition as it relates to the current proportion of the original facade. The last sentence of the Landmarks ordinance, section 33.19(12)(d)7 - Additions Visible from the Street and Alterations to Street Facades states the following: "side additions shall not detract from the design composition of the original facade."

The house is considered a Pivotal structure within the University Heights Local Historic District. The file notes express the following:

"2021 Van Hise is an excellent example of prairie school architecture produced by a follower of the trend in Chicago.... Not only is 2021 Van Hise impressive for design and craftsmanship, but it represents a regional expression of the prairie style and makes for interesting comparison with work in the idiom done by Madison architects."

I have also found a write up on 2021 Van Hise Ave by K Rankin from her Styles notes:

"Sellery house, 2021 Van Hise Ave., 1910: Designed by a less well known architectural firm from Chicago, Murphy and Cloyes, this house appears to a near-copy of the Schultz House in Winnetka, IL, designed by George W. Maher and built in 1907. Maher's Schultz house has the same shape of battered walls, a similar segmentally arched door hood with small horizontal ears to each side, a feature Maher used quite often for doors and also dormers. Also copied were the three planes of roof shingles, which, with the bracketed shelf under the second story windows, serves to emphasize the Prairie Style horizontality of the design. Several houses in Madison were built with this refinement of the roof shingles, but most have been reroofed and this graceful feature removed. In the casement windows of this house, the upper part of each sash has muntins in an X-shape. The Schultz house has more expensive leaded glass windows, but the creative use of non-historic forms like these unusual muntins, is what George Maher was known for."

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rebecca Cnare  
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