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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Madison Trust Opposes Demolishing Homes on W. Gilman for Parking Ramp

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation is opposed to a parking ramp plan for downtown Madison that would destroy three historic homes on West Gilman Street.

"We're opposed to demolition of historic homes, especially when they are a contributing part of a historic district," said Joe Lusso, President-Elect of the Madison Trust. The three threatened properties have all been identified as contributing properties to the Mansion Hill Historic District, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The properties are:
219 W. Gilman, built in 1883 for H.L. and Mary Gage
223 W. Gilman, built in 1924 for Joseph and Louise Pearson. Designed by architect Edward Tough, it is noted for its Craftsman style
225 W. Gilman, built in 1898 for Hubert and Margaret Schmitz

"We recognize the need for vibrant businesses in the historic shops on State Street," said Lusso. "There may be room for parking expansion on the site of the surface lot by Pizzeria Uno, but it should be limited in size to spare the three Gilman properties."

"This is a sensitive area, between a historic residential neighborhood and a historic business district," said Lusso. "We cannot encourage property owners to neglect their buildings and then justify demolition due to poor conditions."

The Trust is also concerned about the impact of increased car traffic on the Mansion Hill neighborhood, one of Madison's greatest historic assets.

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit, volunteer group established in 1974 to help preserve the architectural and historic heritage of the greater Madison area through advocacy and education.

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