

From: John Holzhueter [mailto:holzhueter@uwalumni.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:00 PM
To: Fruhling, William; Scanlon, Amy; Martin, Al; Murphy, Brad; Monks, Anne
Subject: Vallender building

Dear Commissioners:

In the late 1990s, Mayor Sue formally declared me an honorary citizen of Madison. Had she made me a resident, I might have been, as Mayor Dave has suggested, eligible to pay Madison taxes. I declined, I hope gracefully.

I am writing, however, about a matter of more than local concern to an honorary resident. It is in fact a matter of national concern: the preservation of the Vallendar building.

Madison proudly and rightfully has seen some of its high-style German Romanesque (Runbogenstil) buildings placed on the city, state, and national registers of historic structures. There are not many in the U.S., and the city has superb examples by August Kutzbock-- buildings of national importance.

Rarer still are vernacular (low-style, if you will) buildings in the German Romanesque in the U.S. The Vallender building is one of them. For about thirty years I have admired that little building, uttering thanks to the Preservation Gods that it and the other historic structures in the 100 block have remained standing as a reminder of Madison's architectural past and especially its German heritage (Vallender and the fire station especially). A marvelous survival, worth crowing about and preserving.

Please allow Madison to preserve its folk architecture as well as its fine architecture by making sure the Vallender building is saved. Prove to the country that Madison knows the value of buildings that ordinary German immigrants created, not just the buildings created for the elite.

Your fellow citizen,

Jack Holzhueter