

Note to Commission
Steensland House, a designated Landmark
315 N. Carroll Street


This spring, during all the rain, lightning struck the chimney on the Steensland House and knocked off one corner and created cracks down to the roof. Bethel Lutheran Church, which owns the building, received an estimate from a contractor hired by their insurance company that restoration of the chimney would cost about \$5500. The church decided that the chimney had to be dealt with as soon as possible, for safety reasons, and removed the chimney a few days after the lightning strike. They are planning to use the insurance settlement for other purposes.

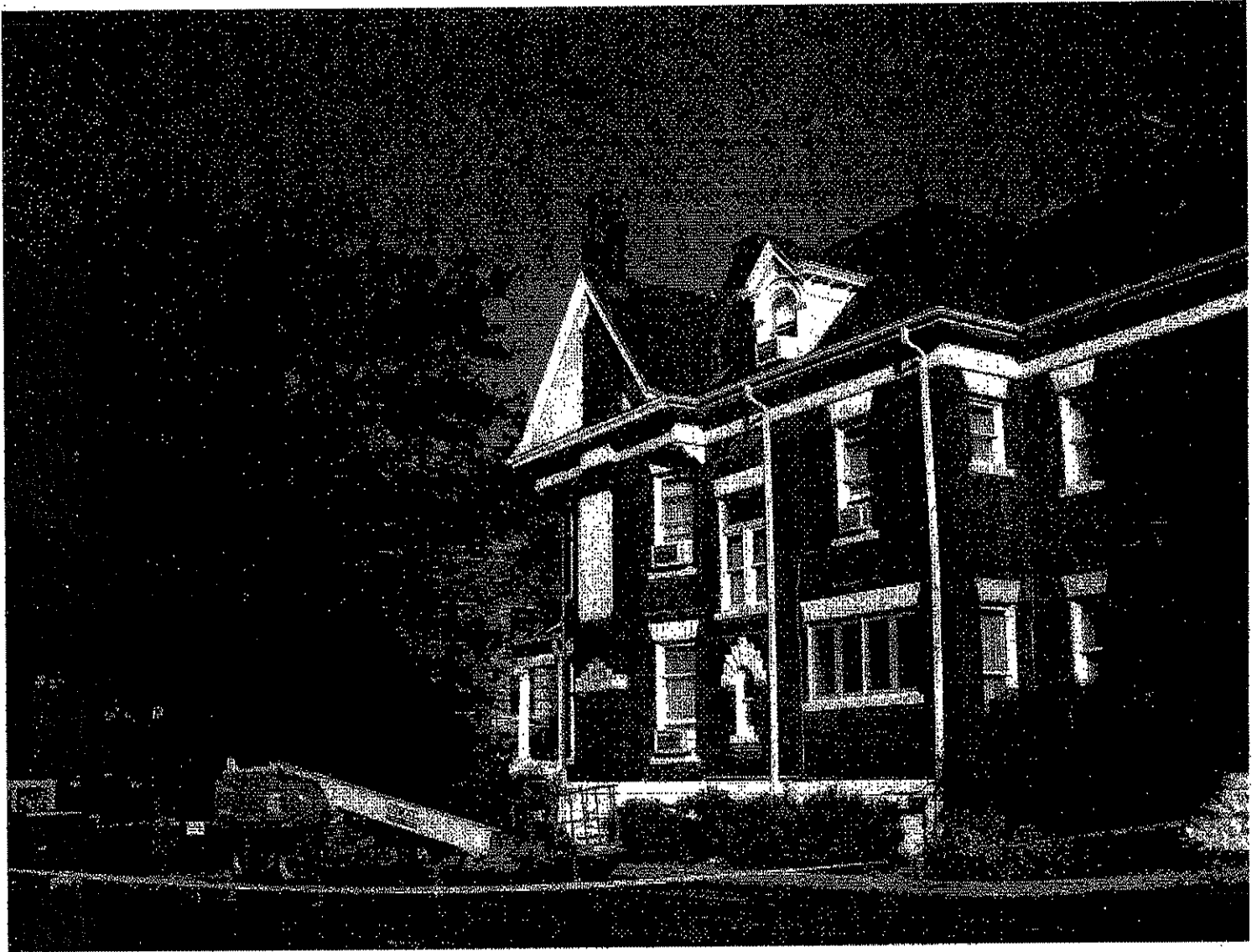
The church and its contractor did this without receiving a building permit. If they had applied for the permit, they would have been referred by the Building Inspection Counter personnel to the Landmarks Commission staff, who would have informed them that the chimney should be rebuilt rather than removed. The owners were fully aware of the Landmark status of the building.

The chimney was a decorative element of the building that should have been retained. In this case, its retention is all the more important because the lower two floors of the applied chimney are exposed as a decorative element on the building and the lower levels of the chimney now look out-of-place without the chimney rising above.

For the sections of the Madison General Ordinances that pertain to this issue, see the Note to Commission for 315 N. Pinckney Street.

I recommend requiring that the owners rebuild the chimney to match its original appearance.

Sept. 5, 2008 



Kitty 267-8739

