

**From:** [Scanlon, Amy](#)  
**To:** [Scanlon, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Table Items 3 and 4 on tonight's agenda pending more info about historical significance  
**Date:** Monday, February 17, 2014 2:39:04 PM

---

---

**From:** Susan Pastor  
**Sent:** Monday, February 17, 2014 2:26 PM  
**To:** Rummel, Marsha; Scanlon, Amy; David McLean; Stuart Levitan; Jason Fowler; Michael Rosenblum; Christina Slattery; Erica Fox Gehrig  
**Subject:** Table Items 3 and 4 on tonight's agenda pending more info about historical significance

Dear Landmarks Commission Members,

I write to you today as a long-time Madison resident and also as a former co-president of AFT Local 3220, the Teaching Assistants Association at UW-Madison, the oldest TA Union in the United States. And I write to ask you to table the proposal to move the house at 123 W. Gilman and demolish the house at 127, because of its significance to TAA history, civil rights history and the history of other organizations that contributed to the vibrant social change ethos of the city in the late 20th Century.

A few weeks ago when I learned about the decision before you regarding 123 W. Gilman, the Yeadon-Clarenbach house, I knew immediately that the historical significance of this site was both broad and deep, cutting across the rich contributions made by individuals and organizations to the social justice-based movements of the late 20th Century. Before a decision is made about this property, its importance to the collectivity that is our community must be fully excavated and evaluated. The contribution of the house to the surrounding Mansion Hill historic district must also be evaluated, and both reported on in a way fully accountable to the public, so that the public can weigh in.

I am sure you are aware of the local, state and national significance of the house to the struggle for gay rights: Jim Yeadon's residency there when he became the first openly gay elected official in the state, and among the first in the nation; ownership of the house by former State Representative David Clarenbach during the years he was working on and passed the first broad anti-discrimination law addressed sexual orientation in the United States.

Additionally, I wonder how many people realize that David Clarenbach is also responsible for the legislation repealing the prohibition on collective bargaining by teaching assistants. When the university stopped voluntary recognition of the TAA, leading to the 1980 strike, it is no stretch of the imagination to say that the union would not have survived without this work. When I was first a steward in Sociology in 1988, this was very recent history and our debt well-known. And today, who can imagine the Wisconsin Uprising without the leadership and vibrant presence of the TAA?

Since this issue was first taken up by the Commission, it has also come to light that residents of the house at 123 W. Gilman contributed to a range of other social change and social justice-related issues at the time. A landmark of significance beyond even what is currently known deserves broad public consideration. We are setting precedent for how the landmarks of this period will be treated -

recognized (or not), protected (or not). I think the interest of the city in this site and potentially others (consider the Mifflin Co-op mural) as a tourist destination must also be taken into account.

Please table this proposal. Let the evidence be gathered. Let the public examine it and deliberate. Let historians of the period be consulted. (And at the same time, please do not reward demolition by neglect.)

With appreciation for your consideration,  
Sue Pastor  
2502 Green Ridge Drive