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**Subject:** 1112 Spaight St Demolition Request  
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Hi Amy,

I cannot be present this evening for the Landmarks Commission discussion of the request to demolish the house at 1112 Spaight St. but having lived in the neighborhood since 1969, I feel it is important that I offer some thoughts. Please share them with the commission members. I feel that demolishing the house at 1112 Spaight St would set a dangerous precedent. I recently spent time in the neighborhood in Arlington Heights Illinois where I grew up. After being at the hospital with our dad during the days, my brother and I would walk the old neighborhood in the evenings. The vast majority of homes had been torn down for larger ones to take their place. At a time when a sense of place might have helped, there was none. I worry that the same fate will befall Orton Park should a demo permit be granted. We all know that this is the most humble home on the block – but once a demo permit is granted, shouldn't the second most humble home be granted the same? And then the third? Where exactly would we draw a line? When would we stop?

And what would we replace these authentic homes with? Fake architecture designed by the master of the "Vinyl Victorian" built on my block (1000 Williamson) that has been described as a Dr. Seuss monstrosity – the nose of a Victorian with the ears of a Georgian attached to the body of a Craftsman? An awareness is growing in the preservation community that architecture should represent the times in which it is created. If we choose to not preserve what is authentic, I much prefer new construction that reflects our era – even in a historic district. That I why I supported Lindsay Lee's modernist house down the street from me. But would that be appropriate on Orton Park, the oldest park in Madison?

And finally, neighbors are supporting this demolition because the couple requesting it are a "nice couple." That is the most dangerous basis of all on which to base decision such as this. I have not met the couple – I am sure they are "nice." But what if they weren't? Would we run them out of our neighborhood? As a community we have developed standards and I applaud the thoughtful way in which I have witnessed the Landmarks Commission apply them. Your job isn't easy, but I feel that in this situation the standards are clear and that a demo permit should be denied. Thank you for your hard work.

Sharon Kilfoy

P.S. Perhaps the Marquette Neighborhood Association or the Friends of Historic Third Lake Ridge can arrange a workshop / lecture on what it means to be a historic district, how the Landmarks Commission works, and why preservation matters.