



April 9, 2026

To: City of Madison Plan Commission

Re: April 13, 2026, Plan Commission Meeting Agenda Item 7 (415 W. Gilman St.,
Consideration of Demolition Permit)

Dear Plan Commissioners:

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation reaffirms its position in opposition to the demolition of Master Hall. We look forward to presenting speakers setting forth key factors behind our effort to protect Master Hall from demolition.

This letter was written before we had access to the condition reports referenced in the motion passed at your meeting on March 16. Because Master Hall is currently fully occupied and provides 110 affordable housing units, we have every reason to believe that it can continue to safely do so without endangering its residents or the general public. In addition, Master Hall is spectacular architecture as reflected in our ongoing effort to have it identified as a local Madison landmark.

The substantive focus of the Madison Trust's arguments will continue to relate to the Standards of Approval that apply to a demolition request as found in Sec. 28.185(6)(c)1. and 2., MGO. As reflected in that ordinance, the City of Madison recognizes that historic resources are cultural and economic assets that tell the story of Madison, reflect diverse cultures and histories, attract residents and visitors, create jobs, and stabilize and improve property values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Stege".

Kurt Stege
Co-chair of the Advocacy Committee
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation