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Amy Scanlon  
City of Madison Preservation Planner  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
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Dear Ms. Scanlon;

This letter of intent accompanies an application for Landmarks Commission approval of restoration projects at the Smith-Ogg House, located at 1711 Kendall Ave., in both the local and national University Heights historic districts. This 1896 Queen Anne/Georgian Revival house is also individually listed as a Madison landmark, and according to that nomination, "is one of the original six houses built in University Heights built before 1898, whose design and University associations legitimized the fledgling development."<sup>1</sup>

The Smith-Ogg house was spectacularly restored and maintained by the previous owners. The new owners, Margaret Schwarze and Joshua Mezrich, would like to continue their stewardship by restoring and repairing elements in a manner advised by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and the Madison Landmarks Ordinance. The projects have already been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office for State Historic Tax credits, and are described below. David Herkert, of Nimbus Construction, is the project manager.

First, safety issues. The proposed projects include several safety issues such as repairing or replacing the failing masonry on the three chimneys, and adding an inconspicuous metal railing to the steep front porch stairs - neighborhood research and direction from Jen Davel at the State Historic Preservation Office informed the attached proposed design. Much of the front porch is a faithful reproduction undertaken by the previous owners, but repairs to the wood floor and balusters are now necessary, and will be sensitively made.

Second, windows. The owners are very interested in maintaining the historic character of the house and will restore the existing wood windows, though they will replace the non-original (and failing) storm/screens. A manufacturer's illustration of the proposed replacements is attached, and the contractor went to great lengths to find them in a color to match the existing paint scheme. Care will be

taken with the decorative window surrounds, when the storm/screens are replaced. Four windows on the basement level of the west façade have long been covered with plywood, and the owners wish to fill them with a brick to match the foundation, with a 2-inch reveal. The basement half-windows are not used for natural light or egress, and the current treatment has allowed water infiltration and damage to both the exterior foundation and the interior basement walls and floor – which will be also be addressed.

Finally, to alleviate potential ice dams in future harsh winters, the installation of heated gutter guards have been recommended and approved.

We look forward to discussing the projects with you and the Landmarks Commission, and to attending to the needs of this historic house with its new family.

Sincerely,

Erica Fox Gehrig  
efgpreservation

<sup>1</sup> Madison Landmark nomination written in 1994 by then owner Dianne Christianson, with much of the same information from the University Heights National Register nomination that was approved in 1982.

**The Smith-Ogg house  
1711 Kendall Ave.**

From the City of Madison Landmarks plaque in front of the house:

One of the first houses in University Heights, this imposing house was built for Charles Forster Smith, a professor of Greek and Classical Philology. In 1917 Smith sold the house to Emma and Frederick Ogg, a professor who is generally considered to be one of the founders of political science. The house is an excellent example of the transition from exuberant Victorian style to the classical Georgian Revival.

Designated May 6, 1996



The proposed minimally-designed metal railing will be placed in the center of the porch stairs per code requirements. The design is shown in the architect's rendering that follows.



The three chimneys to be repaired (ideally) or reconstructed by Fass Masonry are visible on the west and south facades (back of the house), and the east façade (facing the driveway):



east façade:



Windows: north façade showing locations of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor storm windows to be replaced with combination anodized aluminum storm windows (with screens)



West façade: showing the first and second floor storms/screens to be replaced , and four basement windows to be filled-in with brick to match, with a 2-inch reveal.



the south façade:



the east façade (note: enclosed porch windows will remain)



A manufacturer's drawing follows. The company that carries a cranberry-colored, anodized aluminum combination storm window is Styleline, located in Monroe, Wisconsin.