



Agenda Item #:	7
Project Title:	411 W Gilman Street - Consideration of a demolition permit to demolish a commercial building (District 2)
Legistar File ID #:	91233
Prepared By:	Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner
Members:	Present: Richard Arnesen, Ald. John Duncan, Edna Ely-Ledesma, Molly Harris, Katie Kaliszewski, Jacob Morrison, and Maurice Taylor Excused: None

Summary

John Myefski, registering in support and wishing to speak

Josh Dawson, registering in support and wishing to speak

James Buchanan, registering in support and available to answer questions

Kyle Jones, registering in support and available to answer questions

Angela Black, registering in support and available to answer questions

Bailey said that staff recommended a finding of (b) for historic value related to being the first location for the Rocky Rococo pizza company, but that the building is not itself architecturally or historically significant. She pointed out that there are many other Rocky Rococo locations where that history could be told.

Morrison said that he didn't know if the original home of Rocky Rococo's was enough to make this a (b) finding. He valued the history, but he didn't think that it would rise to that level on its own, pointing out that they didn't call out other local restaurants like Portabella. He suggested a (c) finding.

Kaliszewski said she understood the arguments for (b) or (c) findings and thought it was important to mention that it was the first home of Rocky Rococo's, which is a Madison institution.

Duncan agreed with Morrison. He understood it was the location of a historic franchise in the Madison area, but he didn't think the Plan Commission needed to review whether it is historic, and a finding of (c) would be best.

Arnesen argued that Rocky's and its association with State Street and UW-Madison had a stronger feel than the impact of other local restaurants like Milio's or Portabella; Rocky's was synonymous with UW-Madison and that area in the 1970s and 80s. He said that he was fine with a finding of (b) or (c).

Harris said she agreed with Arnesen about the significance of Rocky's versus other local restaurants mentioned. She added that there is going to be some subjectivity in determining which historic value criterion a building falls under. Arnesen said he would place it under "cultural practices" in criterion (b). Harris said that with that argument, a finding of (b) is reasonable.

Action

A motion was made by Arnesen, seconded by Morrison, to recommend a finding of (b) for historic value related to being the first location for the Rocky Rococo pizza company, but the building itself is not architecturally or historically significant. The motion passed by voice vote/other, with Duncan voting in opposition.