

The first three photos are meant to demonstrate why we need the amount of additional space in our living room we are requesting. When I bought this house it was just myself and my 2 year old daughter living here. Soon after it became also my husband, Jim, and his two kids. And now our family includes our three grand kids, pictured with the mother of two of them, all living in Madison. Hence we need to add seating of at least a full sized couch which is 7 feet normally. The nine feet additional space is needed to allow us to do this.

We are the elders now and attempt to host family gatherings in this tiny living room. We very much want to age in place, but it has become harder. Moving is not really an option because of cost. We have retired our mortgage and don't want to start over with debt, not to mention our love of our neighborhood after 34 years here.

Another issue is this. Being self employed, both of us, we have had to convert two bedrooms into offices so we have no guest room for overnights with the grand children unless we have a big enough living room for a full sized couch with pull out bed. Not ideal, but would at least make it an option. They are getting too big to sleep on the floor in our bedroom!

The final photo demonstrates that we did look into expansion of the house into the side yard that currently houses our front door. You can see from the drawing that we would need to take out both walls facing Cross and Western and expand both directions to preserve any front entry with space for coats and boots. Otherwise we would only be walking straight into the living room from the front door. This is not a realistic option in a Wisconsin climate and in a family where shoes are not worn indoors.

What makes this double expansion prohibitive is the cost. At a minimum it would add another 2/3 of the cost of the front yard expansion to the bill.



