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**From:** Scanlon, Amy  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2014 12:26 PM  
**To:** Scanlon, Amy  
**Subject:** FW: The Historical Significance of 123 West Gilman, The Yeadon-Clarenbach House

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**From:** Gary Tipler  
**Sent:** Monday, February 03, 2014 2:07 PM  
**To:** Rummel, Marsha; Scanlon, Amy; David McLean; Stu Levitan; Jason Fowler; Michael Rosenblum; Christina Slattery; Erica Gehrig; Zellers, Ledell  
**Subject:** The Historical Significance of 123 West Gilman, The Yeadon-Clarenbach House

Dear Landmarks Commissioners,

Below is a simple historical statement based on several sources, including recent email exchanges with Jim Yeadon, David Clarenbach, Ross Wuennenberg, Earl Bricker and Lynn Haanen regarding the history and their recollections of the house at 123 West Gilman. They've all received copies similar to this, written a week ago, and have responded with suggestions for additional points of information and dates. It also suggested participation in making a public statement about the topic and the meeting today.

The historical significance in gay rights in Madison, Wisconsin and the United States is indisputable. The building deserves protection in place by the means already afforded it by the Mansion Hill Historic District. Were it to be put forth as an inquiry for a Determination of Eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places I believe that it would receive a strong consideration. I am certain that it meets the criteria of significance. It is the date range that place it apart from standard reviews.

Thank you for your discussions and actions to preserve this

legacy in Madison. It is essential, since so many landmarks

representing aspects of the gay history of Madison have been

destroyed. Gary Tipler

### **Madison's Gay History in Peril: 123 West Gilman, The Yeadon-Clarenbach House**

The house at 123 West Gilman Street in Madison is significant in Madison, in Wisconsin, and in the nation for the advancement of the Gay rights. It is also a "contributing building" to the Mansion Hill Historic District. Unfortunately, the civil rights history associated with the house may not receive adequate recognition and protection that it deserves.

In about 1970, Carol and Rudi Wuennenberg who lived at 504 Wisconsin Avenue, bought the house for their growing kids and their friends. During the 1970s, Carol was the Alder of the Fourth District at the time of active discussions about historic preservation in the district. The Wuennenberg house on West Gilman was a scene of political activism for progressive, Gay and politically-active youth. Ross and Lisa Wuennenberg lived in the house, along with Martha and Beth Crawford and several other friends including Jim Yeadon. Wuennenberg's sold the house to David Clarenbach in September, 1977.

The house was home to Jim Yeadon in 1976. Prior to that, Jim had been at the forefront of Gay political action in November, 1969 when he went to the organizational meeting at the St. Francis House of the Madison Alliance for Homosexual Equality (MAHE), one of the first Gay organizations in the United States. He also helped to form the Gay Law Students Association (GLSA). GLSA prepared the groundwork to help create the Madison City Gay Rights Ordinance,

which passed in 1975, though it faced significant opposition. Following its passage of the new City ordinance, the city's Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) wanted a gay person on the commission. When Yeadon applied for the 8th District seat in October 1976, he was appointed to it.

When the 8th District seat had become vacant in October 1976, Yeadon's friend Carol Wuennenberg suggested that he run for the seat to fill out the balance remaining in the term. Thirteen candidates filed to apply for the term, so it was a lengthy process, decided with an election by the Common Council. When he won that election, he became the first openly gay person elected in Wisconsin and one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States (perhaps third or fourth). He easily won re-election in April, 1977. He made opening remarks at the City Council meeting following the assassination of San Francisco Mayor Harvey Milk, and later fought a repeal of the Madison Gay Rights Ordinance.

In late September, 1977 David Clarenbach bought the house from the Wuennenbergs, and Jim Yeadon moved to a State Street apartment.

David Clarenbach lived at 123 W Gilman Street from the fall of 1977 when he bought the house from the Wuennenbergs and lived there until Spring, 1982. Following his tenure friends lived there including Earl Bricker and County Representative Lynn Haanen until he sold it in 1987. At age 18, David had first been elected to the County Board of Supervisors in 1972. In 1974 he became a Madison alder at age 21 and served as a Wisconsin State Representative from 1975-1983.

Clarenbach was key to the passage of the first law in the country, which prohibited discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. "In 1981, David worked with Leon Rouse and others to have Wisconsin's Gay Rights bill, known as AB70 (Assembly Bill 70), passed by first the State Assembly, and then the State Senate. Despite a last ditch effort to have the bill vetoed, it was signed into law by Governor Lee Dreyfus on February 25, 1982. ([http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/people/clarenbach\\_david.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/people/clarenbach_david.htm) . and "AB70 A Look Behind the Scene", Wisconsin's Escape. Milw: pp 20-24, March 1982. [http://www.mkelgbthist.org/media/print/escape/issues-v01-05/escape\\_v05-06.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/media/print/escape/issues-v01-05/escape_v05-06.htm))

### **Current Status of Review for 123 West Gilman**

Presently, the house is endangered by a proposal for it to be moved from its West Gilman Street location to a nearby site on Gorham Street. Relocating from its historic location would significantly lessen its connection to the place of significant events.

The house 'contributes' to the Mansion Hill Historic District due to its cultural, political, or social history, though in a way not previously recognized, nor in the same time range as the district itself. The social movements of the late 20th Century are just now being recognized for their importance and this may be a ground-breaking recognition.

The house is located in the Mansion Hill Historic District, so the proposal to move it and build three large apartment buildings on the Gilman Street block is receiving a review by the Madison Landmarks Commission.

At an upcoming meeting of the Madison Landmarks Commission meeting, it is likely that the fate of this house will be determined. People are welcome to come and testify. The meeting is scheduled for February 3 at 4:45 in room LL-110 of the Madison Municipal Building (215 MLK Jr. Blvd).

More information:

**James Yeadon**

[http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/people/yeadon\\_jim.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/people/yeadon_jim.htm)

UW Archives oral history

project tapes:

<http://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/56856>

<https://sites.google.com/site/pflagmanitowocwi/yes-manitowoc>

Madison LGBT Oral Histories project. Transcript of interview April 5, 2009, with Jim Yeadon.

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&ved=0CEoQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fminds.wisconsin.edu%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F1793%2F56856%2FYeadon\\_945\\_index.rtf%3Fsequence%3D2&ei=KvjnUtv6Oem0yAHMiIH4Ag&usq=AFQjCNEXen16wxW9w15HfaOBA0C9p-7P7w&sig2=BdjQpbxyNs1CIGTGi5Jw4g&bvm=bv.60157871,d.aWc](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&ved=0CEoQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fminds.wisconsin.edu%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F1793%2F56856%2FYeadon_945_index.rtf%3Fsequence%3D2&ei=KvjnUtv6Oem0yAHMiIH4Ag&usq=AFQjCNEXen16wxW9w15HfaOBA0C9p-7P7w&sig2=BdjQpbxyNs1CIGTGi5Jw4g&bvm=bv.60157871,d.aWc)

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&ved=0CEoQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fminds.wisconsin.edu%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F1793%2F56856%2FYeadon\\_945\\_index.rtf%3Fsequence%3D2&ei=KvjnUtv6Oem0yAHMiIH4Ag&usq=AFQjCNEXen16wxW9w15HfaOBA0C9p-7P7w&sig2=BdjQpbxyNs1CIGTGi5Jw4g&bvm=bv.60157871,d.aWc](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&cad=rja&ved=0CEoQFjAE&url=http%3A%2F%2Fminds.wisconsin.edu%2Fbitstream%2Fhandle%2F1793%2F56856%2FYeadon_945_index.rtf%3Fsequence%3D2&ei=KvjnUtv6Oem0yAHMiIH4Ag&usq=AFQjCNEXen16wxW9w15HfaOBA0C9p-7P7w&sig2=BdjQpbxyNs1CIGTGi5Jw4g&bvm=bv.60157871,d.aWc)

### **David Clarenbach**

Clarenbach lived at 123 W Gilman Street from early 1978 and until spring, 1982. Email note from David Clarenbach, Jan 30, 2014)

David E. Clarenbach.

History of Gay and Lesbian

Life in Milwaukee,

Wisconsin

<http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo->

[c/clarenbach\\_david.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-)

[c/clarenbach\\_david.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-)

“By late 1981 and early 1982, Leon [Rouse] along with [then] Wisconsin State Rep. David Clarenbach and others were widely credited with helping push through the first law in the country which prohibited discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Wisconsin's Gay Rights bill, known as AB70 (Assembly Bill 70), was a landmark achievement for Wisconsin and the nation. Rouse and Clarenbach were regarded as the two most important figures in that historic drive for equal rights in Wisconsin. (In addition to the above link, the history of Leon's role in that effort is also nicely summarized in a March 1982 article "AB70 A Look Behind the Scene", published in "Wisconsin's Escape" magazine (see pages 20-24).”

[http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-r/rouse\\_leon.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-r/rouse_leon.htm)

Credits: to William Attewell of In Step Magazine, and other articles and references, with website concept, design and format by Don Schwamb. Last updated:

April-2012. "AB70 A Look Behind the Scene",

Wisconsin's Escape. Milw: pp 20-24, March 1982.

[http://www.mkelgbthist.org/media/print/escape/issue\\_s-v01-05/escape\\_v05-06.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/media/print/escape/issue_s-v01-05/escape_v05-06.htm)