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Regarding: **315 North Carroll Street – Bethel Lutheran Church Expansion involving a designated landmark (Steensland House) and in the Mansion Hill Historic District**  
**INFORMATIONAL REVIEW**  
**(Legistar #20929)**

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Date: January 10, 2011  
Prepared By: Amy Scanlon

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General Information:

The Applicant requested an informational appearance before the Landmarks Commission to discuss the proposal to construct an expansion to the Bethel Lutheran Church which would include the site of the Steensland House. The Steensland House is a designated City of Madison Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The submission materials mention the relocation of the Steensland House; however, no specific relocation details are provided.

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Applicable Landmarks Ordinance sections:

33.19(10)(e) Guideline Criteria for new Development in the Mansion Hill Historic District.

1. The gross volume of any new structure shall be visually compatible with the buildings and environment with which it is visually related (visually related area).
2. In the street elevation(s) of a new building, the proportion between the width and the height in the facade(s) shall be visually compatible with the buildings and the environment with which it is visually related (visually related area).
3. The proportions and relationships between width and height of the doors and windows in new street facade(s) shall be visually compatible with the buildings and environment with which it is visually related (visually related area).
4. The rhythm of solids to voids created by openings in the facade of the new structure should be visually compatible with the buildings and environment with which it is visually related (visually related area).
5. All new street facades should blend with other buildings via directional expression. When adjacent buildings have a dominant vertical or horizontal expression, this expression should be carried over and reflected.

33.19(5)(b) Regulation of Construction, Reconstruction and Exterior Alteration.

4. Upon filing of any application with the Landmarks Commission, the Landmarks Commission shall determine:

- a. Whether, in the case of a designated landmark or landmark site, the proposed work would detrimentally change, destroy or adversely affect any exterior architectural feature of the improvement upon which said work is to be done; and
- b. Whether, in the case of the construction of a new improvement upon a landmark site, the exterior of such improvement would adversely affect or not harmonize with the external appearance of other neighboring improvements on such site; and
- c. Whether, in the case of any property located in an Historic District designated pursuant to the terms of Subsection (6)(d) hereunder, the proposed construction, reconstruction or exterior alteration does not conform to the objectives and design criteria of the historic preservation plan for said district as duly adopted by the Common Council.

33.19(5)(c) Regulation of Demolition. No permit to demolish all or part of a landmark, or improvement in an Historic District, shall be granted by the Director of the Building Inspection Division except as follows: (Am. by Ord. 8081, 7-29-83; ORD-08-00109, 10-7-08)

1. Scope.

Any application for a permit to demolish or remove all or part of a landmark or improvement in an Historic District shall be filed with the Landmarks Commission. Such application shall be made in all cases, both when demolition or removal is planned as an isolated event and when said demolition or removal is considered in conjunction with a special development plan, a rezoning plan or a conditional use plan. No owner or operator of a landmark, or improvement in an Historic district, shall be granted a permit to demolish or remove such property unless a Certificate of Appropriateness therefor has been granted by the Landmarks Commission. (Am. by Ord. 8117, 10-3-83)

2. Procedure. *(Not included)*

3. Standards.

In determining whether to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for any demolition, the Landmarks Commission shall consider and may give decisive weight to any or all of the following:

- a. Whether the building or structure is of such architectural or historic significance that its demolition would be detrimental to the public interest and contrary to the general welfare of the people of the City and the State;
- b. Whether the building or structure, although not itself a landmark building, contributes to the distinctive architectural or historic character of the District as a whole and therefore should be preserved for the benefit of the people of the City and the State;
- c. Whether demolition of the subject property would be contrary to the purpose and intent of this chapter as set forth in Sec. 33.19 and to the objectives of the historic preservation plan for the applicable district as duly adopted by the Common Council;

- d. Whether the building or structure is of such old and unusual or uncommon design, texture and/or material that it could not be reproduced or be reproduced only with great difficulty and/or expense;
  - e. Whether retention of the building or structure would promote the general welfare of the people of the City and the State by encouraging study of American history, architecture and design or by developing an understanding of American culture and heritage;
  - f. Whether the building or structure is in such a deteriorated condition that it is not structurally or economically feasible to preserve or restore it, provided that any hardship or difficulty claimed by the owner which is self-created or which is the result of any failure to maintain the property in good repair cannot qualify as a basis for the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness;
  - g. Whether any new structure proposed to be constructed or change in use proposed to be made is compatible with the buildings and environment of the district in which the subject property is located.
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Staff Comments:

Since this is an informational presentation, a staff recommendation is not provided at this time.

The submission materials (which consist primarily of the Planned Unit Development – General Development Plan submittal) mention the relocation of the Steensland House; however, no specific relocation details are provided. The relocation of the Steensland House will require a Certificate of Appropriateness for the removal and a Certificate of Appropriateness for the new location. The proposed expansion project will require a Certificate of Appropriateness for the new construction in the Mansion Hill Historic District.