

From: [Joe Lusson](#)
To: [Scanlon, Amy](#)
Cc: [Zellers, Ledell](#)
Subject: W. Gilman proposal
Date: Saturday, January 04, 2014 9:14:06 AM

Amy,
Please share with the Landmarks Commissioners:

Re: Please oppose W. Gilman street plan

As I hope was clear from my previous testimony, I strongly oppose the Steve Brown plan to tear down a contributing home in the Mansion Hill local and national historic districts. Both the history and scale of the two older homes in question are critical to the integrity of the districts.

Perhaps most importantly, allowing a property owner to collect contiguous properties and then letting one deteriorate and use that as justification for a tear down sets a terrible precedent. Local historic districts in particular must be protected if Madison is to retain any unique and historic character.

I believe the purported damage to the home from previous fires is being exaggerated. It is not unusual for a home of that vintage to have had a minor fire over the years, with no lasting effect on structural integrity. That is the case with my own landmarked home.

I believe it is important for the Landmarks Commission to encourage property owners to do the right thing. A historic district is a citywide resource. Let's please not forget the substantial benefits -- both cultural and economic -- that a well maintained and vibrant historic district can provide.

Sincerely,

Joe Lusson
640 E. Gorham St
Madison WI 53703

