

**From:** [Carolyn Freiwald](#)  
**To:** [Scanlon, Amy](#)  
**Subject:** 100 Block State Street/Monday meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, January 29, 2012 6:50:15 PM

---

Dear members of the Landmarks Commission,

I am unable to attend the meeting as I will be in Guatemala, but wanted to express my support for denying demolition approval for any city landmarks or buildings that contribute to State Street Historic District eligibility. I support rehabilitation of the buildings on the 100 block of State and Mifflin Streets. The majority of Madison taxpayers do not support razing nearly an entire block of State Street because 1) this plan reduces density, 2) historic and landmark buildings would be razed for vacant, private space, 3) the buildings have been purposefully vacated and neglected by the current owners, 4) small, local businesses are being evicted with no assistance, and most important, 5) culture is not just a Lion King musical: architecture and history are important to Madison. The city needs to protect our cultural resources rather than allowing them to be demolished for someone's idea of a better view.

The buildings tell the story of Madison. This block was home to cigar and dress makers, barbers, saloons, and many familiar names: Leath Furniture, Stark Realty Co., the Silver Dollar Saloon and Restaurant - even Mayor Soglin's early campaign office. These buildings were hand built. They are unique, in nearly every local architectural style imagined by the best of our architects. They survived prohibition, the Great Depression, two world wars, suburbanization, student protests, and Halloween fests, and should certainly survive this.

Unfortunately the city lacks the resources to document the history and architectural importance of its resources: we are just now learning more about the buildings, from a possible video of Mr. Stark entering the Stark-French building to Frank Lloyd Wright visiting the barber shop in the Vallender building. I just received an email from one descendant who hopes for a piece of the building if it's demolished to keep her family's memories alive. I certainly hope we can do better than that. We must save the actual building, instead of losing it to someone's whim.

Thank you for your time,  
Carolyn

Carolyn Freiwald  
archaeologist/Madison volunteer historian