

AGENDA # 9

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRESENTED: 5/4/20

TITLE: 935 W Johnson Street, 8th Ald. Dist.:
Consideration of a demolition
permit to demolish a single-family
residence to accommodate a future
University of Wisconsin-Madison
academic building.

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: 5/5/20

ID NUMBER: 59810

Members present were: Anna Andrzejewski, Katie Kaliszewski, Arvina Martin, David McLean, and Maurice Taylor. Excused were: Richard Arnesen and Betty Banks.

SUMMARY:

Gary Brown, registering in support and wishing to speak
Brent Lloyd, registering in support and available to answer questions

Bailey explained that the Landmarks Commission had previously reviewed the proposed demolition of 935 W Johnson Street during their regular demolition review on February 17 and provided the Plan Commission with the finding of demolition criterion "B." On March 9, the Plan Commission requested a more detailed report on the property from the preservation planner, and at their April 13 meeting referred the item to the Landmarks Commission so they also had the opportunity to review that report and assess whether their recommendation of criterion "B" remained.

Bailey summarized her report on the history of the property, which found that it was a residence for 19th century working class families, likely housed two Civil War veterans, and in the early 20th century had waves of rental housing. She said that it was also the residence of various female professionals over time. She said that in looking at the potential of the property being a local Madison landmark, it is "associated with broad patterns of cultural, political, economic or social history..." but one would also need to consider the condition of the building. She pointed out that UW-Madison recently acquired the property, and the previous owner didn't necessarily maintain the property, so it is in rough condition.

Brown, Director of Campus Planning for UW-Madison, thanked Bailey for her research and confirmed that the university purchased the property last fall. He explained that the university owns all of the property to the east of the site in question and plans to develop it starting in 2021. He said that he received confirmation from the State Historic Preservation Office that the property at 935 W Johnson Street was not eligible for listing on the State or National Registers of Historic Places and that they support removal of the building. He mentioned that he had previously submitted a series of interior and exterior photos of the property to show its current condition. He said that he supports the Landmarks Commission confirming their previous finding on the property.

Kaliszewski said that she believed the property still fit demolition criterion "B." She said that it is a nice vernacular building, although in poor condition, with a long history. She said that it is sad to lose vernacular

architecture in Madison, particularly in this area as the university continues to grow; however, she didn't think the loss of this building was particularly significant.

McLean agreed with Kaliszewski's assessment, and said that he does not oppose the demolition. Kaliszewski noted that the State Historic Preservation Office has requested that photos be taken of the building before it is demolished.

Andrzejewski said that while this property adds to the vernacular context, nothing in particular about the building itself, given its condition and features, would merit it earning preservation in its own right.

ACTION:

A motion was made by McLean, seconded by Kaliszewski, to recommend to the Plan Commission that the building at 935 W Johnson Street has historic value related to the vernacular context of Madison's built environment, but the building itself is not historically, architecturally, or culturally significant. The motion passed by voice vote/other.