

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: February 10, 2025

To: City of Madison Landmarks Commission

PC: Tom Larson

From: Alex Saloutos

Re: **Legistar ID No. 86824, Amendments to the Report of the Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan Committee**

I am writing as a concerned citizen and resident of District 5 regarding the amendments to the Report of the Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan Committee proposed by Alder Bennett. For the reasons cited in the previously submitted public comments on this matter, I ask that the Landmarks Commission recommend to the Common Council that they reject the proposed changes to this report.

In addition, I respectfully ask that the Landmarks Commission consider the following when they deliberate on this historic preservation matter:

- The staff report fails to address compliance of the proposed changes with the city's Historic Preservation Plan, which was adopted by the Common Council on May 27, 2020.
- The staff report fails to analyze the impact of the proposed changes on preservation the Lamp House site. The staff report merely states, "These recommendations could present challenges for future redevelopment of adjacent parcels and providing some flexibility in these recommendations may support new construction while preserving the Lamp House site," which implies there are not any impacts on the site.

If, at their meeting today, the commission does not recommend to council that they reject Alder Bennett's proposed amendments, the commission should vote to:

1. Request that the staff report on this matter be amended to consider compliance of the proposed changes to the city's Historic Preservation Plan and with the Secretary of The Interior's guidelines relative to preservation of the site.
2. That this matter shall be referred to a future meeting of the Landmark Commission until such time that the staff report is amended.

Amending the staff report and referring deliberation on this matter to a future meeting of the Landmarks Commission will provide the public and the Landmarks Commission with critical information needed to make an informed decision on this proposal.

Finally, committees, commissions, consultants, and staff spend a significant amount of time and energy researching, soliciting public feedback on, and preparing reports like this. Approval of these changes sets a dangerous precedent on amending any other report previously accepted by the common council.

I appreciate your time in reviewing these suggestions. If you have any questions about these recommendations or would like to discuss them, please feel free to call me on my cell phone at (608) 345-9009 or email me at asaloutos@tds.net.



FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

February 10, 2025

City of Madison, Landmarks Commission
landmarkscommission@cityofmadison.com

Subject: February 10, 2025, Meeting Agenda Item regarding Amending the Report of the Lamp House Block Ad Hoc Plan Committee

Dear Members of the Landmarks Commission:

We recognize that in 2021 the Common Council decided not to approve the proposed amendment to the Downtown Height Map in the Zoning Code, which was recommended in the 2014 Lamp House Block report. However, securing the future of the Lamp House and ensuring its preservation and public visibility is an important responsibility for the City of Madison, as recognized in the report, which we feel remains an important guide for this block.

Lake Monona and Lake Mendota are among Madison's key assets and reasons for existence. The Lamp House was situated at the high point in the middle of this block to provide views of the lakes. As the city makes zoning and design decisions that compromise the unique design elements of this house, such as now eliminating its historic views of the lakes, we ask for serious consideration of redevelopment schemes on the block to make the future of the Lamp House more viable. It sits landlocked in a well of taller buildings, and allowing more density and insensitive development to continue to overwhelm the house would substantially diminish the significance and visibility of this historic landmark.

To that end, we urge the Urban Design Commission and the City of Madison to:

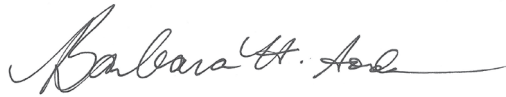
- Insist on designs for the block that allow light and air to reach the Lamp House and preserve its outdoor room, which is an important element of its original design.
- Preserve street views of the house on Butler and Mifflin as a public benefit of experiencing this house.
- Consider a larger, sustainable vision for the future of this important house that provides a holistic development scheme for all of the parcels in play and considers sensitive and appropriate development on the block that balances the preservation and economic viability of the Lamp House and surrounding properties with desired development objectives for the area.

Frank Lloyd Wright was recognized on the World Heritage list in 2019 with the inscription of a series of eight buildings making up *The 20th-Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*. Two of these eight sites

are not far from the Lamp House – Jacobs 1 in Madison and Taliesin in Spring Green. The State of Wisconsin has celebrated this native son architect with the marketing of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail. Wright enthusiasts from around the globe make pilgrimages to see the Lamp House.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is the only organization dedicated to facilitating the preservation and stewardship of the remaining built works of Frank Lloyd Wright worldwide. We write in support of the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and historical assets of Madison and its downtown area and urge you to take action to safeguard this important work by America's most prominent architect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barbara H. Gordon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Gordon
Executive Director