

AGENDA # 3

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRESENTED: 11/11/19

TITLE: Review of National Register Nomination
for 6115 N Highlands Ave

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: 11/15/19

ID NUMBER: 57665

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

SUMMARY:

Bailey said that the Landmarks Commission has an obligation as a Certified Local Government to provide comments on all National Register nominations that fall within their jurisdiction. She said that any comments will be forwarded to the State Historical Society for their consideration and to the National Park Service. She said that the building is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, and was designed by William Kaeser in the Modern Movement style, with a period of significance of 1940. Andrzejewski said that Kaeser was not Taliesin-trained, but returned to Madison after training and became captivated by Frank Lloyd Wright designs. She said that it is important they are paying attention to architects besides Wright; it is high time that the fans of Wright are given their due, and this is more evidence of that. Martin asked about the Modern architectural style, and Andrzejewski said that it is Wrightian, which is a regional variation on Modern. Kaliszewski pointed out the low-pitched roof and tucked-away main entrance, and Bailey mentioned the overhanging roofs and how the house is built into the landscape. Andrzejewski said that fans of Wright started designing this style of building in droves around this time, and it is distinct enough to separate itself from Modern. Martin said that makes this building even more special. Bailey said there are several Kaeser buildings around the city that are under threat, so it is encouraging that one intact example is moving forward for this honorary designation that comes with financial incentives to maintain the building. Kaliszewski said that the property owners seemed excited about the designation and it was heartening to see them trying to get the property listed as soon as they purchased it.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Martin, seconded by Kaliszewski, to support the nomination and authorize staff to write a letter of support. The motion passed by voice vote/other.