



for Historic Preservation

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Jason Tish Executive Director 1 March, 2012

Linda Horvath - Planning Division, DPCED 215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Rm. LL100 Madison, WI, 53703

Ms. Horvath-

I am writing in support of the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association's effort to develop a neighborhood plan as a supplement Madison's Master Plan, as well as their application for a neighborhood planning grant.

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation collaborated with the University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association in 2006 to coordinate a home tour to celebrate the neighborhood's 50th anniversary. We have also committed \$1000 toward the nomination of the area to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district – a step the association is planning to eventually take. The architecture and history survey currently being conducted on the west side of Madison, as you know, does not include the Hill Farms neighborhood, but will likely provide some context for interpretation of Hill Farms as a postwar suburban development.

Hill Farms is one of the most distinctive suburban neighborhoods in the city. It was planned to be a self-contained, walkable community with schools, churches, parks, and commercial and employment centers integrated into a residential matrix that includes a wide range of housing options. This neighborhood-as-community plan is largely intact, and today the neighborhood has a strong identity and sense of community. The neighborhood is also a unique example of postwar suburban planning, having been developed by the Regents of the University of Wisconsin, and used a teaching lab for students of real estate economics and urban planning.

Hill Farms is a stable neighborhood with an active association. They are taking positive steps to reinforce the good aspects of the neighborhood. Listing in the National Register will allow homeowners to access the historic preservation tax credit program offered by the state and federal governments. A neighborhood plan will help residents guide the inevitable evolution of the area.

Jason Tish

Executive Director

cc: Tom Favour - Architecture Review Committee, University Hill Farms Neighborhood Association