

# LANDMARKS COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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## Landmarks Commission Administration

### Membership:

The historian seat was vacant in 2021.

### Meetings:

The Landmarks Commission met 19 times in 2021, including a joint meeting with the Ad Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee to review the draft historic preservation ordinance on March 9, 2021. Twenty regular meetings were scheduled and two meetings were cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. The commission continued meeting virtually in 2021 due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

### Policy Manual:

The commission reviewed and suggested revisions to the policy document on October 18 and November 1, 2021 and adopted the revised document on November 1, 2021.

### Data:

# City of Madison Parcels = 80,479

# historic parcels (properties in historic districts and landmarks outside of districts) = 2,016

182 designated landmarks (53 are located in historic districts and 129 are located outside)

5 local historic districts = 1,887 parcels in local historic districts

## Landmarks Commission Activity

### Certificates of Appropriateness: 50

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 51 projects (alterations, new construction, land combinations/divisions, and demolition) for Certificates of Appropriateness and approved 50 of those projects, with an approval rate of 98%. The Landmarks Commission denied one request for the replacement of an original window in the University Heights historic district. The commission reviewed one additional exterior alteration in Third Lake Ridge, but the item was referred to 2022 to allow the applicant time to revise the proposal; this is not included in the project total.

Through the policy document, the Landmarks Commission has provided the Preservation Planner with the ability to provide administrative approvals for certain types of work. The Preservation Planner administratively approved 180 Certificates of Appropriateness in 2021.

Approvals were often modified from the original submittal based on recommendations from the Preservation Planner and/or the Landmarks Commission.

The chart below shows the specific break down.

<b>Certificates of Appropriateness</b>				
	Historic District/ Landmark	Landmarks Commission		Staff
		# Requests	# Requests Approved	# Requests Approved
New Construction	MH	0	0	
	TLR	4 accessory + 1 principal	5	
	UH	2 accessory	2	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1 park shelter	1	
Alteration	MH	0	0	23 (15 + 8 LM)
	TLR	12	12	68 (66 + 2 LM)
	UH	13	12	55 (53 + 2 LM)
	MB	0	0	4
	FS	0	0	9 (8 + 1 LM)
	Landmark	10	10	34 (21 + 13 in HDs)
Demolition	MH	0	0	
	TLR	2 accessory	2	
	UH	2 accessory	2	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1 park shelter	1	
Land Division/ Combination	MH	0	0	
	TLR	2	2	
	UH	0	0	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1	1	
<b>Total</b>		51	50	180
<b>Approval Rate</b>			98%	100%

Historic Districts:

MH=Mansion Hill  
 TLR=Third Lake Ridge  
 UH=University Heights

MB=Marquette Bungalows  
 FS=First Settlement  
 Landmark or LM=Designated Madison Landmark

Historic Value Reviews: 79

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 79 building demolition requests for historic value (MGO 28.185(7)4.) and provided the findings and recommendations to the Plan Commission.

Adjacent to Landmarks: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the alterations/development to two buildings that were adjacent to landmarks where Plan Commission and Urban Design Commission review were needed (MGO 28.144).

Advisory Recommendations to PC: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Plan Commission on the additions to La Follette High School and the addition and alterations to Capital High School (Hoyt School).

Advisory Recommendations to UDC: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Urban Design Commission on the additions to La Follette High School and the addition and alterations to Capital High School (Hoyt School).

Other reviews/recommendations: 5

The Landmarks Commission reviewed a case of demolition by neglect at 719 Jenifer Street, the draft historic preservation ordinance, the proposed bus rapid transit project as a consulting party under Section 106, and two ordinance text amendments.

Designations/Rescissions: 1

The Landmarks Commission received a new landmark nomination for the Wonder Bar located at 222 E Olin Avenue; however, the applicant requested referral of the nomination.

National Register Nomination Reviews: 0

The Landmarks Commission reviews and provides comments on National Register nominations for properties and historic districts being listed on the National Register as part of Certified Local Government responsibilities. In 2021, the Commission did not receive any new nominations to review.

## Landmarks Commission Initiatives

Historic Preservation Plan:

Staff continues to work on implementing the priority strategies from the preservation plan. Staff has submitted a CLG grant application for a survey of archaeological resources in order to begin the process for the City being better stewards of our cultural resources and build a stronger partnership with our tribal partners. Additionally, staff has been working on an update to the National Register district portion of our website that will make it easier for property owners to find out if they are eligible for preservation tax credits.

Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee:

The Ad Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) met eight times in 2021, including a joint meeting with the Landmarks Commission on March 9, 2021. The work will continue into the next year, with anticipated adoption of the updated ordinance in 2022.

## Historic Preservation Program

### CLG Subgrants:

One application was submitted in 2021 for the archaeological reconnaissance survey. Awards will be announced in 2022.

### Annual Letters:

Staff typically mails an annual letter to historic district property owners and to owners of landmark properties every other year. The letters describe the responsibilities of the property owner and the historic tax credit program where applicable. Letters were not mailed in 2021.

### Work of the Preservation Planner:

- Participated in the construction review of city-owned landmark and historic buildings
- Assisted city agencies with compliance review applications
- Completed Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act, compliance review comments
- Participated in the Façade Improvement Grant Program staff team
- General management of historic preservation program
- Served as a judge for both the local and state level National History Day competitions
- Virtually attended the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions annual meeting, where the Madison Landmarks Commission received an award for Excellence in the Identification and Designation category for our Underrepresented Communities Historic Resources Survey.
- Served as the city's liaison for the Wisconsin Historical Society's recovery of a 1,200 year old dugout canoe from the bottom of Lake Mendota. Coordinated city agencies to assist with the recovery and relocation for conservation. The canoe is the oldest intact watercraft recovered in the state.