

AGENDA # 5

City of Madison, Wisconsin

REPORT OF: LANDMARKS COMMISSION

PRESENTED: 1/10/22

TITLE: Buildings Proposed for Demolition - 2022

REFERRED:

REREFERRED:

REPORTED BACK:

AUTHOR: Heather Bailey, Preservation Planner

ADOPTED:

POF:

DATED: 1/11/22

ID NUMBER: 68860

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

SUMMARY:

Bailey said that the building at 3005 University Avenue was originally Justo's Bronx Club Tavern, owned by Mrs. Jennie Justo Bramhall and is currently Smoky's Club. She said that the City does not have a preservation file on the property, which was constructed in 1938. Kaliszewski said that she was sad to see the building be demolished, and its significance fit under demolition criterion b. Taylor agreed and pointed out that this is the second supper club they have seen proposed for demolition in a couple of months, the first being the Avenue Bar, and he wondered why the City didn't have preservation files on these properties. Bailey agreed that it would be nice to have a thematic survey related to bars and supper clubs, which are important to Wisconsin's history and architecture. Andrzejewski said that she regrets the loss of commercial resources, specifically taverns and supper clubs, which are an important part of Madison's history that we don't have research on. She pointed out that what we have left are the buildings, and now we are losing those. Kaliszewski said that supper clubs are a distinct and important part of Wisconsin's culture, and there is a loss of that social and cultural tradition for what is ultimately going to be a mixed-use building. McLean agreed and added that the biggest impact is the social and cultural aspect that gets lost when these places that were once gathering places for the community and neighbors are demolished.

Bailey said that staff recommends a finding of no known historic value for the buildings at 2902 Dryden Drive and 734 E Washington Avenue, as there are no preservation files or Wisconsin Historical Society site files for the properties.

Bailey said the 1968 building at 2165 Linden Avenue is a great Midcentury church, but she was unaware of its historical significance due to a lack of information. Andrzejewski and Kaliszewski agreed it was a great building, but they didn't have enough information to make a finding of any historic value.

ACTION:

A motion was made by Kaliszewski, seconded by Taylor, to recommend to the Plan Commission that the building at 3005 University Avenue has historic value based on its cultural significance as a supper club, an important part of social and cultural traditions in Wisconsin's history. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Kaliszewski, seconded by McLean, to recommend to the Plan Commission that the building at 2902 Dryden Drive has no known historic value. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by Kaliszewski, seconded by McLean, to recommend to the Plan Commission that the building at 2165 Linden Avenue has no known historic value due to a lack of information, but it is an unfortunate loss of Midcentury architecture. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

A motion was made by McLean, seconded by Kaliszewski, to recommend to the Plan Commission that the building at 734 E Washington Avenue has no known historic value. The motion passed by voice vote/other.