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February 19, 2014

To: Amy Scanlon, AScanlon@cityofmadison.com

Landmarks Commission, Plan Commission and Common Council
From: Gary Tipler

The purpose of these histories of 123 and 127 West Gilman is to support their status as buildings that have previously been determined to be "Contributing Buildings" in the Mansion Hill Historic District.

In addition, I believe that there is enough evidence to support a Landmark designation for 123 West Gilman for its association with significant historic events and persons and their work in civil rights locally, as well as, statewide and nationally.

The research and writing was done as a civic contribution to the preservation and betterment of the community.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gary Tipler



Wisconsin Historical Society AHI 37064, 1991.

127 West Gilman History - The Edgerton - Smith House

Prepared by Gary Tipler 2/17/2014, Footnoted 2/19/14

Henry Kirk Edgerton and Anna Loomis Edgerton - Lived at 127 W. Gilman, 1853-1859.

Henry K. Edgerton built 127 W. Gilman in 1853 on lot 5, block 62, which he had bought from his friend George Delaplaine of Delaplaine & Burdick. He also bought lots 4 and 6-9, the latter of which he sold within 3 years.¹ The setting of one third of the block for his house was comparable to the Van Slyke and Levi Vilas holdings across Gilman Street. Thus, the wood frame house is among the oldest wood frame houses in Madison.

Henry K. Edgerton came to Madison from Milwaukee where he had been in Leonard Farwell's hardware business, to serve as confidential clerk to Leonard Farwell when he was elected governor (1852-1854).² Edgerton was a real estate, insurance and loan agent, and in 1858 was the Madison Assessor.³

Henry's oldest brother Benjamin Hyde Edgerton, who had served as a Territorial legislator and the Milwaukee city engineer, also came to Madison in 1853, as chief engineer for development of the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad. He owned a house nearby on Langdon near Henry Street on a lot that ran to the lakeshore.⁴

In the winter of 1835-36, Henry and his brother Elisha Wellington Edgerton had journeyed from New York state to Juneautown, the settlement in the Michigan Territory that became downtown Milwaukee, stayed in the home of Solomon Juneau, a principal founder of city.⁵ There they told their story to other guests including Talbot Dousman, George P. Delaplaine, and Augustus A. Bird of having seen Blackhawk exhibited in chains.⁶

¹ Dane County Tax Rolls.

² Henry K. Edgerton obituary, The Waukesha Freeman. Waukesha. October 8, 1908. Page 6.

³ Madison city directory.

⁴ Benjamin Hyde Edgerton, bio. The Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. IV. Milo M. Quaife, ed.; 1921; pp. 354-357

⁵ Walworth, Reuben H.; Hyde Genealogy; J. Munsell, Albany, New York, 1864. Page 700. The sons of Elisha Edgerton.

⁶ Buck, James S., Milwaukee Under the Charter, From 1847 To 1853, Inclusive, Vol. III. Page 476.

Johnson, Jean Lindsay. Illustrious Oconomowoc. Oconomowoc: Leitzke Printing, Ltd., 1977. Page 4.

In September, 1859, Henry Edgerton returned to Oconomowoc and opened a private bank.⁷

Archibald D. Tredway - Lived at 127 W. Gilman, 1860-1873.

Since 1852, Archibald Tredway had been a partner in Donaldson & Tredway, one of the largest purveyors of dry goods in Madison, located in the Fox Block near the Park Hotel.⁸ Through Tredway's tenure the house remained on the setting of two full lots.⁹

Jabez Burrirt Smith and Marcia Alice Bradford Smith - Lived at 127 W. Gilman, 1894-1907.

Jabez and Marcia Smith bought the house in 1894. They were actively engaged in Prohibition causes.

The Smiths bought the house under contract with lumberman William T. Fish, who had planned the removal of the one-story side wing on the west side of the house, built a rear addition and made alterations to the façade surface materials.¹⁰ Fish had subdivided the lot so the house fit a narrower lot, and kept the new lot to the west of the house. In spite of the alterations, the fenestration and door openings of the original 1853 façade were maintained, reflecting a more classical arrangement and proportions.

Jabez Smith, an attorney with Richmond & Smith, was a leader in the Wisconsin Prohibition Party. At the time he left the firm in 1900, he was nominated by the Prohibitionists for governor of Wisconsin and made a strong campaign, losing to Robert M. LaFollette. He served for over five years as the state chairman of the party and wrote on the topic for *The National Prohibitionist* and *The Vindicator*.¹¹

Marcia Alice Bradford Smith, a descendant of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony, was "An ardent worker for the prohibition cause." She served on the board of directors of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Wisconsin, from 1880 to her death in 1925, and served as president of the Dane County District from 1899 to 1908. From 1900 to 1918 she was in charge of the Prohibition campaign carried on in the State Legislature.¹²

Phi Sigma Delta, 1922-1928

In 1922, a Jewish men's fraternity, Phi Sigma Delta bought the house and remained there into 1928.¹³

⁷ Edgerton obituary. *The Waukesha Freeman*. Waukesha. October 8, 1908. Page 6.

⁸ Donaldson & Tredway display ads. *Wisconsin State Journal*. 1852, 1853, 1854.

⁹ Sanborn maps and Dane County Tax Rolls.

¹⁰ Contract Agreement of Property Sale, June 1, 1894 between Willm T. Fish and wife Harriet I. Fish, sellers, and Jabez B. Smith and Marcia A. B. Smith, buyers. Registrar of Deeds.

¹¹ Jabez Burrirt Smith Obituary. "J. Burrirt Smith sails on." *The Vindicator*. January 8, 1915.

¹² Hodge, Mrs. L.A., State Superintendent of Evangelistic Work. "Mrs. M.A.B. Smith." Wisconsin WCTU clipping in collection of John B. Snell, Smiths' great-grandson. http://www.prohibitionists.org/history/Burrirt_Smith_bio.htm accessed February, 2014.

Marcia A. B. Smith obituary. *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 5, 1925.

¹³ Dane County Tax Rolls. University of Wisconsin Badger yearbooks, 1923 and 1928. Madison city directories. *Wisconsin State Journal*, January 29, 1922.



Photo: Ed Kuharski, 2012.

123 West Gilman History, The Yeadon – Clarenbach House

Prepared by Gary Tipler 2/17/2014. Footnoted 2/19/2014.

Benajah Warnes, a carpentry contractor built the house in 1886 at a cost of \$2000 as a rental house.¹ He was associated with building Turner Hall, the Gates of Heaven Synagogue, Unitarian Church, the Judge Bunn residence on Langdon and many others.² Warnes was a consultant in the collapse of the south wing of the State Capitol building in 1883.

Other residents over the years included Assistant Secretary of State Mortimer T. Park, Assistant U.S. Attorney Henry T. Sheldon, University of Wisconsin Engineering Professor John Mack, and Anna Burr Moseley a Latin instructor.

A Landmark in Gay and Civil Rights History

The house at 123 West Gilman Street in Madison is significant in Madison, in Wisconsin, and in the nation for the advancement of civil liberties, particularly Gay rights.

In 1976-77 it was the home to the first openly Gay elected official in Wisconsin, Jim Yeadon during his campaign for alder in early 1977.³

After Yeadon left the house, it became the home (1977-1982) of State Representative David Clarenbach. He was key to the passage of the first law in the country prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Clarenbach lived in the house from the time that he worked on the legislation and community work related to it and until after it was signed into law in February, 1982.⁴

Following Clarenbach's tenure, 123 West Gilman was home to Dane County Supervisor Lynn Haanen and was the location of Tammy Baldwin's first campaign event when she ran for Lynn's seat on the County Board in 1986.⁵ It was also the home of Earl Bricker who staffed Gov. Tony Earl's (1983-1987) Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues, chaired by Dick Wagner and Kathleen Nichols.

¹ Dane County Tax Rolls.

² Benaja Warnes obituary. Madison Democrat. April 3, 1920.

³ Jim Yeadon. History of Gay and Lesbian Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-yeadon_jim.htm

⁴ David Clarenbach. History of Gay and Lesbian Life in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. http://www.mkelgbthist.org/people/peo-clarenbach_david.htm

⁵ Correspondences with Jim Yeadon, David Clarenbach, Lynn Haanen, Tammy Baldwin, and Earl Bricker, and an interview with R. Richard Wagner. February, 2014.