

LANDMARKS COMMISSION 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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Landmarks Commission Administration

Membership:

There were no changes in membership in 2020.

Meetings:

The Landmarks Commission met 12 times in 2020, including a special meeting to review the Historic Preservation Plan on January 27, 2020. 20 regular meetings were scheduled and nine meetings were cancelled as part of a transition to virtual meetings due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The commission began meeting virtually on May 4, 2020.

Policy Document:

The commission reviewed and suggested minor revisions to the policy document on September 14, 2020 but referred the final adoption of the revised document to a future meeting.

Data:

City of Madison Parcels = 80,351

historic parcels (properties in historic districts and landmarks outside of districts) = 2,024

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

5 local historic districts = 1,895 parcels in local historic districts

Landmarks Commission Activity

Certificates of Appropriateness: 40

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 41 projects (alterations, new construction, land combinations/divisions, and demolition) for Certificates of Appropriateness and approved 40 of those projects, with an approval rate of 97.5%. The Landmarks Commission denied one request for the replacement of a porch railing in the Third Lake Ridge historic district. The porch railing had been constructed differently than the approved plans, so the commission denied the request and enforced the 2019 Certificate of Appropriateness for the balcony railing.

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 112 Certificates of Appropriateness in 2020.

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.

Certificates of Appropriateness				
	Historic District/ Landmark	Landmarks Commission		Staff
		# Requests	# Requests Approved	# Requests Approved
New Construction	MH	0	0	
	TLR	3 accessory + 1 principal	4	
	UH	4 accessory	4	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1 accessory	1	
Alteration	MH	1	1	17 (15 + 2 LM)
	TLR	12	11	37
	UH	6	6	29 (27 + 2 LM)
	MB	1	1	3
	FS	0	0	5
	Landmark	3 (2 + 1 in HD)	3 (2 + 1 in HD)	24 (20 + 4 in HDs)
Demolition	MH	0	0	0
	TLR	1 accessory + 1 principal	2	0
	UH	3 accessory	3	1 accessory
	MB	0	0	0
	FS	0	0	0
	Landmark	1 accessory + 1 principal	2	0
Land Division/ Combination	MH	0	0	
	TLR	2	2	
	UH	0	0	
	MB	0	0	
	FS	0	0	
	Landmark	1	1	
Total		41	40	112
Approval Rate			97.5%	100%

Historic Districts:

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

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

Historic Value Reviews: 91

The Landmarks Commission reviewed 91 building demolition requests for historic value (MGO 28.185(7)4.) and provided the findings and recommendations to the Plan Commission.

Adjacent to Landmarks: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the alterations/development to one building that was adjacent to three 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 construction of a mixed-use commercial building at 1 N Pinckney Street and the demolition of the building at 935 W Johnson Street.

Advisory Recommendations to UDC: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided recommendations to the Urban Design Commission on the construction of a mixed-use commercial building at 1 N Pinckney Street.

Other reviews/recommendations: 2

The Landmarks Commission reviewed the Historic Preservation Plan and a request for a variance from the Historic Preservation Ordinance to allow the demolition of a landmark.

Designations/Rescissions: 0

The Landmarks Commission did not receive any new landmark nominations.

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 2020, the Commission did not receive any new nominations to review.

National Historic Landmark Reviews: 1

The Landmarks Commission reviewed and provided comments on National Historic Landmark nominations for properties being listed as National Historic Landmarks as part of Certified Local Government responsibilities. Staff prepared a letter to the National Park Service summarizing the commission's comments related to the review. In 2020, the Commission reviewed a nomination for the University of Wisconsin Arboretum.

Landmarks Commission Initiatives

Historic Preservation Plan:

The Common Council adopted the Historic Preservation Plan and accepted the Underrepresented Communities Historic Resources Survey as a living document at its May 19, 2020 meeting. Staff is beginning the process of implementing the strategies recommended in the plan to help diversify and thereby strengthen the preservation program. With more than 60 recommended strategies, there are a number of opportunities for evolving our preservation program to help tell Madison's full story and provide support for our diverse heritage. The preservation plan received a Planning Excellence Award from the American Planning Association Wisconsin Chapter on October 15, 2020.

Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee:

The Ad Hoc Landmarks Ordinance Review Committee (LORC) met eight times in 2020. The work will continue into the next year, with anticipated adoption of the updated ordinance by the middle of 2021.

Historic Preservation Program

CLG Subgrants:

Formal applications were not submitted in 2020.

Annual Letters:

Staff typically mails an annual letter (formerly called the “Spring Letter”) to historic district property owners and to owners of landmark properties. The letters describe the responsibilities of the property owner and the historic tax credit program where applicable. This year we also included information on the adoption of the preservation plan and the status of the process to update the historic district ordinances. Approximately 1,775 letters were mailed in September 2020. In the future, we plan to do the annual mailing as a postcard.

Work of the Preservation Planner:

- Participated in the construction review of city-owned landmark and historic buildings
- Assisted city agencies with compliance review applications (10 reviews, one of which included tribal consultation)
- 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, National Alliance of Preservation Commission’s annual FORUM conference, WHS historic storefronts training, Dismantle Preservation conference, Annie Stewart Fountain public meeting, and the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation’s webinar on First Nation’s history in Madison
- Presented virtually at the Wisconsin Local History Conference, Upper Midwest Planning Conference, Wisconsin Historical Society’s preservation consultant training, and gave two virtual presentations to the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation
- Presented virtually with Alder Arvina Martin at the Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Repatriation Committee on initial discussions for improving our process for better inclusion of tribal voices in undertakings that impact tribal cultural resources within the city