

**From:** [Barry Gore](#)  
**To:** [Bailey, Heather](#); [PLLCApplications](#); [Isthmus Davidoff](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: 500 Block of West Mifflin: proposed demo of laundry at 555  
**Date:** Saturday, June 26, 2021 2:06:08 PM

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Ms. Bailey.

Apparently, **the demolition of the historic 500 block of West Mifflin Street is to begin.**

As outlined in the proposal I wrote more than 25 years ago, I believe the 500 block meets the City of Madison criteria for historic preservation under three of the four criteria in the City ordinance. From my proposal which is available for download at the link below:

One place that seems to meet criteria “a,” “b,” and “c” of the City ordinance, Sec. 33.01(6)(d)1, as well as the “historic event” and “distinctive design” criteria of the National Register, is the 500 block of West Mifflin Street. The important event will be obvious to anyone who knows even a small part of the history of the anti-war and counter-culture movements during the late 1960s and early 1970s -- the three-day riot that started during the first Mifflin Street Block Party on May 3, 1969. This proposal will argue that this event alone qualifies the 500 block of West Mifflin Street, Madison, Wisconsin, for preservation as the site of a significant event in the history of the nation.

I realize that this proposal has no support from the alder. And perhaps the Commission is not interested either. The city is now trying to move past more recent riots.

And yet, if the Landmarks Commission is interested in the relationship of historic events in Madison to the built environment of the city, then I hope the Commission will at least spend a few minutes to consider the issue.

555 West Mifflin has always been an outlier in terms of its use and design compared to the rest of the block. And it is understandable that the owner seeks to increase profits by changing the use to residential. But what about the rest of the block? The City plan is to redevelop and call it 'Miffland,' which is also understandable, but unfortunate.

It would be interesting if something of the existing and original character of the street is continued, if not preserved; a preservation lite approach. (When is the last time the Commission created an historic district?)

For example, new structures could keep the rhythm of repeated gables, bay windows, high stoops and porches that are the key features that make the 500 block different and amenable to a lively street life. Newer apartments could be constructed behind the existing Greek Revival forms. An alley should have been added many decades ago to avoid the driveway and below grade parking site plan that breaks the street wall and is so common in new projects in the area.

A unique place, with strong associations to the culture of the city will be lost, and replaced by rather ordinary structures.

The Co-op Building should be designated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barry Gore, AICP

[A Miffln Street Historic District](#)

A Miffln Street Historic District

<https://isthmus.com/opinion/opinion/make-mifflin-a-historic-district/>

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** 500 Block of West Mifflin: proposed demo of laundry at 555

This is on the Landmarks agenda for Monday, June 28 at 5:00.

Here is a link to the meeting agenda which includes a link to the demolition file (which includes staff comment on this structure.) <https://madison.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=812028&GUID=22062990-FCF6-4C5E-B302-C2720CBA194D>

My guess is that the proposed design will not relate at all to the nearby flats.