



Advocacy News

February 2024

Updates about new Madison Landmark and the 400 block of State Street

By Advocacy Committee

Common Council designates the Kathryn Clarenbach Home at 2229 Eton Ridge as a Madison Landmark

For the first time in eleven years, the Madison Common Council has designated another Madison Landmark. By unanimous vote at its January 9, 2024, meeting, the Council identified the Kathryn Clarenbach Family Residence at 2229 Eton Ridge as Madison Landmark #183.

The Madison Trust retained former Trust president Gary Tipler to prepare the underlying nomination which obtained the unanimous support of the Landmarks

Commission when the Commission met on December 4.

Access to the extensive landmark nomination, including related images, is available [here](#).

While the Clarenbach home has not found its way onto the official site as yet, you can see the list of landmarks and access their nomination documents for the rest of Madison's local landmarks [here](#).



Kathryn Clarenbach home at 2229 Eton Ridge. Image by Gary Tipler

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Gary Tipler is also preparing a program about Kathryn Clarenbach to be offered by the Madison Trust in the near future. The Advocacy Committee appreciates Gary's strong commitment to preparing the nomination and the extensive research that he undertook.

“Déjà vu all over again.”

Revived effort to demolish three buildings in the 400 block of State Street

Three buildings in the pristine 400 block of State Street continue to be targeted by J.D. McCormick Properties for demolition and redevelopment. The ink had barely dried on a previous unsuccessful effort (begun in 2019 and ending with a Plan Commission vote in June of 2023) when the applicant filed a new “Notice of Demolition Application” for the buildings at 428-430, 432-436, and 440-444 State Street.



Three buildings on the 400 block of State Street, photo by Kurt Stege

The earlier demolition and redevelopment proposal was the subject of numerous articles in past issues of the Advocacy News.

Once a new demolition application was filed, the Landmarks Commission was required to again assess the relative “historic value” of each structure and make a recommendation to the Plan Commission which is considered the controlling entity for the new proposal. The Landmarks Commission reiterated its assessment of the 2019-2023 proposal, finding historic value for two of the buildings as contributing structures in a potential National Register Historic District (“red light” assessment) and historic value for the third building related to the vernacular context of Madison’s built environment and its intact condition (“yellow light” assessment).

The Madison Trust’s Advocacy Committee has not yet had an opportunity to review McCormick’s new redevelopment plan. It will need to be reviewed and accepted by

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the Urban Design Commission and should also be the subject of a “steering committee” comprised of neighborhood residents and other interested parties. Only then will the Plan Commission weigh in. The committee will be involved throughout that process.

Additional information regarding the author of the January issue of Advocacy News

The author of the article in last month’s Advocacy News, Charlie Horton, is a Madison native who holds a degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Vermont as well as an undergraduate degree from Amherst College. He recently returned from spending about two decades in Hungary where he was actively involved in pursuing World Heritage listing for sites representing the Roman legacy along the southern bank of the Danube.

After a brief stay in Madison, he has now left for a position in Missouri’s State Historic Preservation Office.

The Advocacy Committee appreciates Charlie’s learned perspective of World Heritage in Madison.