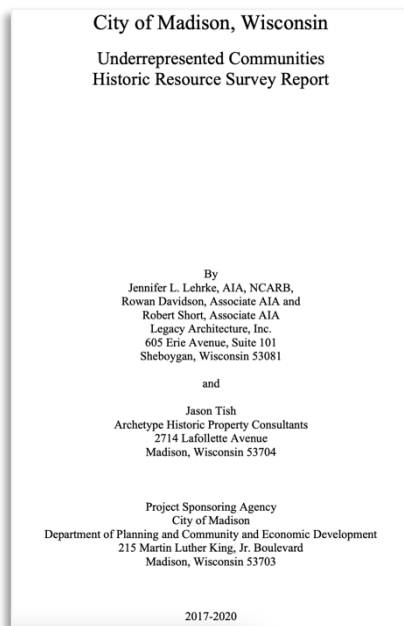


Advocacy News

January 2022

In mid-2020, the Madison Trust offered a series of three virtual programs that had the common reference point of Madison's [Underrepresented Communities Historic Resource Survey Report](#) that had just been completed.¹ The lengthy and thorough report is only available in an electronic format and is maintained in a fairly low-visibility location on the City's website.



The Trust's three programs about the report were recorded and can still be easily accessed via YouTube.²

The report provides information that could expand the city's collection of landmarked structures to reflect a much fuller range of the city's history, rather than just part of that history. A key premise is that the 2020 report will be treated as a "living" document and will be revised/updated as additional information comes to light. The authors had to mine information from oral histories, recently released books, and interviews of members of each underrepresented community. This tended to move the focus to a more recent social history. The report supplies a context for evaluating historic resources associated with six groups that are currently underrepresented by

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¹ For those want to take a look at the report and whose knowledge of how to work with on-line documents is modest like mine, here are a couple of suggestions for making the 245-page document easier to access:

1. Make a hard copy of the [Table of Contents](#) (all of which is contained on page 3) and keep that page available while you are perusing the rest of the lengthy document.
2. a) Download the report; b) open the downloaded document; c) use Control+F (for Windows) or Command+F (for Mac) to open the "Find" text box; and d) [search the downloaded document](#) by name, word(s) or address in the text box.

² [Part I](#) of the three recordings provides an overview of the report and then focuses on the African American, Hmong, and Latino/a communities.

[Part II](#) highlights LGBT and Women's social history and historic resources.

[Part III](#) presents a broad perspective on First Nations history and how it has very gradually been recognized by more recently arriving settlers.

Madison’s local landmarks and identifies properties eligible for landmark designation.

It offers a concise six-page overview of Madison’s history before delving into the history of each of six groups identified as “under-represented”: African American, First Nations, Hmong, Latino/a, LGBTQ, and Women. Each segment is followed by a map of Madison showing the distribution of those historic resources associated with that group. The report then offers ten subject matter chapters ranging from Architecture to Recreation and Entertainment, all of which include multiple paragraphs to describe each resource/building associated with organizations or individuals. The range of information is extraordinary.

Findings:

The survey identified 117 different resources of historical interest within the city limits. Nineteen of them are too recent to be eligible for local designation.

Of the remaining 98, 39 are already identified pursuant to Madison’s Landmark Ordinance, either as individual listings or as contributing structures in a local historic district.¹

Finally, nine resources were identified as eligible for addition to the State and National Registers.

The Advocacy Committee has already been guided by the survey document for purposes of our landmark nomination activities and we expect that guidance to continue as we work to have some of the historic resources identified in the survey more formally recognized within the context of both the local landmarking process as well as by the State and National Registers of Historic Places.³

I’ve referred to the written survey on numerous occasions since it was made available to the public, but it wasn’t until preparing for this article that I spent time to really explore its offerings. I encourage you to take a look.

Two properties that I found particularly interesting are Prince Hall and WORT-FM.

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Prince Hall by Kurt Stege

³ Both the current standards for local landmark designations and for State and National Register listings are set forth in the [Underrepresented Communities Report](#) at pages 9 and 10.

Prince Hall: 100 N. Blair St.

The Capital City Masonic Lodge #2 of the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons is an exclusively African-American Masonic lodge. The organization has existed since 1906 and its members have met in the building at 100 N. Blair St. for about 60 years. Last summer's Old Market Place walking tour began on the steps of the building. Inclusion of the lodge in the report prompted me to look further into the topic of Freemasonry and how it intersected with race relations in North America since before the Revolutionary War.

WORT-FM: 118 S. Bedford St.



WORT-FM by Kurt Stege

This listener-supported community radio station has been an important means of expression for many of the important social movements that have motivated Madison's citizens in the past listener since its first years of operation in the 1970s.

It is mentioned in the survey in the context of the LGBTQ community, but its music, news and commentary have covered aspects of probably all of the communities covered by the survey.

* * *

On a more somber note, I drove through the intersection of West Wilson, South Hamilton and West Fairchild on December 21 and was confronted by the remains of a demolished "triple-decker" that stood at that corner for 110 years. The building was the subject of our new Advocacy News for September 2021, which focused on the cautiously hopeful prospects for moving the building to a new site. Envision a late Queen Anne design with round-topped dormers and leaded glass transoms. It was described by Madison's Preservation Planner in 2008 as "quite probably the finest remaining example of a standard early 20th century three-flat, a building type that was used often in Madison during one of Madison's greatest boom periods.



Remnants of 151 W. Wilson St. by Kurt Stege