



Advocacy News

November 2021

Update on the future of the Old Heating Plant (1908) and the Service Building (1910)

As part of the Madison Trust's October 1 newsletter, the Advocacy News included an article about the plan announced by the University of Wisconsin-Madison to demolish two complementary buildings in the 1200 block of University Avenue. The proposal is to construct a 300,000-square-foot academic building to house the recently established School of Computer, Data, and Information Sciences (CDIS).



The red tile-roofed Service Building (left) and the Old Heating Plant described by the architect as “follow[ing] the outlines and mass of a Basilica” (right) on University Avenue now occupy the site of the proposed CDIS building.

Photo by Kurt Stege.

Madison Trust member Gary Brown, director of Campus Planning & Landscape Architecture, read the October Advocacy News article and provided an update as to the project's status. The University of Wisconsin has submitted a draft mitigation plan to the State Historic Preservation Office for their review, presumably due to the 2009 designation of the Old Heating Plant as eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

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Part of the mitigation plan is a 3D scan of the building's interior and exterior along with photo-documentation. The contracting process for that work is underway.

Gary also reported that the design team for CDIS is "fully engaged in reviewing both the Service Building and [Old Heating Plant] for salvaged items that can be used either inside the new CDIS building or outside on our site as we have elsewhere in other campus buildings." The architecture firm of Kahler Slater, which designed both the School of Nursing and the new Lakeshore Recreation and Wellness Center, is leading the project.