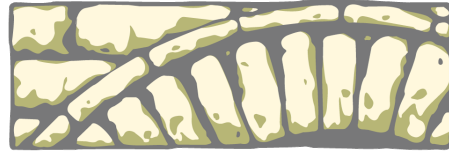


MADISON TRUST



for Historic Preservation

Advocacy News

December 2023

Kathryn Clarenbach Landmark Nomination

By Kurt Stege

Advocacy Committee¹ Co-chair



2229 Eton Ridge, image by Gary Tipler

The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation has nominated the Kathryn Clarenbach Family Residence at 2229 Eton Ridge for designation as a Madison Landmark as provided in [Sec. 41.07](#), Madison General Ordinances. The recently filed [nomination](#) is scheduled to be reviewed by the Landmarks Commission at its meeting on December 4, 2023. The Commission will convene a public hearing on that date and issue a report to the

Common Council recommending support or opposition to the nomination. At some point thereafter, the Council will either designate or decline to designate the property. If successful, the designation would be the first addition to the list of Madison Landmarks since 2013.

(Continued)

¹ The Charter for the Trust's Advocacy Committee includes the following statement of Purpose:

Formulate and assert positions that further the protection of Madison's historic resources. Engage in related activities that advance that protection. Monitor relevant City boards, commissions, and committees for significant preservation matters.

As summarized in the nomination itself, Kathryn Clarenbach was a key figure in the “second wave” of feminism, organizing the first and only National Women’s Conference which was attended by 20,000 in Houston, Texas, and serving as the first chairperson of the National Organization of Women (NOW). Clarenbach organized and, for 15 years, chaired the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women (Wisconsin) and led Wisconsin legislative efforts relating to sexual assault, divorce, and marital property.



Dr. Kathryn Clarenbach and Betty Friedan at the second annual meeting of the National Organization for Women (NOW). November 19, 1967. Photo by Marcia Cohen.

The Kathryn Clarenbach Family Residence is already a contributing building in the National Register West Lawn Heights Historic District. It was constructed in 1924 and the current nomination identifies a period of significance from 1960 to 1994. This structure figured prominently in Madison’s [“Underrepresented Communities Historic Resource Survey Report”](#) (2020)² and would appear to satisfy the landmark designation criteria set forth in Sec. 41.07(2)(a) and (b), Madison General Ordinances, because it is “associated with broad patterns of cultural, political, economic, or social history of the nation, state, or community” and is “associated with the lives of important persons, and/or with important events in national, state, or local history.”

Former Madison Trust president Gary Tipler was hired to prepare the nomination. He anticipates offering a program regarding the property at a future date.

The Advocacy Committee looks forward to the nomination following a successful course through both the Landmarks Commission and the Common Council.



In case you are not aware of it, the Advocacy Committee occasionally issues an “**Advocacy Alert**” to those subscribers who sign up for this service. The alerts are often sent just a few days before an important meeting of one of the Madison commissions noted above and they explain the different ways to participate at the meeting. If you wish to receive the alerts but are not already on our distribution list, [head over to our website](#) to sign up!

² The Kathryn Clarenbach Family Home at 2229 Eton Ridge was specifically identified in the Survey as “potentially eligible for designation as a City of Madison Landmark” and as “potentially eligible for individually listing in the State and National Registers of Historic Places.”