



Steven Ewing & Co.

Sept 11th 2023

The Milwaukee Preservation Commission
City Hall Milwaukee
53201

Dear Commission:

My name is Steven Ewing I live at 3119 W. Wells St. in the Abraham Espenshade mansion My Home has been on the national historic registry since 1987. I have a great respect for historic structures in the importance of holding on to significant properties... As a youngster, one of my earliest, and happiest memories was of beautiful red brick train station located at the foot of Wisconsin Avenue... I remember sliding down the banister of that train station, feeling the majesty of that building. It was 1968 when the wrecking ball came down on the Chicago and Northwestern Road depot to clear the way for a freeway that was never built . At the time I was away in college, and I was too young and too stupid to say anything about that travesty. Today I'm not too young and I'm certainly not too stupid to make my voice heard. I only wish I knew then what I know now. What does the building a226 E. Erie St. and the Northwestern Road Depot have in common? Plenty! The former Wreck Room saloon saloon is definitely one of the most unique and most storied properties in the historic third ward. As an old Miller tied house it is significant. It is one of the few original structures that survived the devastating fire that occurred in the third ward back in 1892. The blaze wiped out 16 square blocks, burned 410 buildings took 5 lives and the property loss was estimated at over 84 million dollars. The bar was one of only a handful of buildings that made it. When Katherine Foley built the place back in 1884 she was probably the first single woman to own and operate a tavern in that ward. Today I love to travel the third ward and to drive by and see that old building almost every day. I lived my entire life in the city of Milwaukee. It's my home. We do not need another office building or luxury condo in the historic third ward, but what we do need to reclaim, cherish protect an honor our past... truth be told it's all about the money... I do not have a proverbial dog in this fight, but the bottom line is the owners of the property can make a lot more money, tearing it down, then by fixing it up and buy so doing destroy one of the last bastion's of this glorious wards history. I urge you and to reject this demolition request! This building is brought back to life could be a sight to behold in the heart of the third ward. This 140 year old structure needs to become something we can all be proud of not the next victim of the wrecking ball.. It is a significant structure, and it deserves to live.

Respectfully,



Steven Ewing.

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