

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, Inc.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ann Pieper Eisenbrown, Chair  
Historic Preservation Commission  
City Hall, City of Milwaukee  
200 E. Wells, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

April 11, 2010

Re: Resolution #091618 relating to the interim historic designation of the house at 4330 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St., in the 1st Aldermanic District

Dear Honorable members of the Historic Preservation Commission,

We are writing to express our support of interim historic designation of the house at 4330 N. 25<sup>th</sup> St. This site is a key component of the Garden Homes National Register Historic District.

Our reasons for supporting the interim historic designation are many but can be summed up in this excerpt from the study report, our emphasis added:

Garden Homes was designed as a set piece, with the roadways, houses and park all laid out at one time, by one architect and to fulfill an ambitious social goal of having decent affordable housing for the working class residents of Milwaukee. It was also the only development that was municipally sponsored and set up as a cooperative. *The loss of any of the houses impacts the integrity of the district as a whole. Loss of this house could impact National Register status and may jeopardize consideration for National Historic Landmark status which is being explored at the present time.*

In 1996 the State of Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau published an informational bulletin (#96-2) on Historic Preservation Legislation in Wisconsin. The rationale in the discussion of historic preservation legislation similarly contributes to our support of interim historic designation.

From the introduction, our emphasis added:

Historic preservation conserves old buildings and helps people to understand their past, but it also promotes today's quality of life through aesthetic, cultural, educational, and economic benefits to the community. *Conservation of existing buildings and neighborhoods may help counter the disinvestment, decline, and socioeconomic problems of older urban and rural communities.*

LRB bulletin uses Milwaukee's Brewer's Hill and King Drive neighborhoods as an example of the positive effect that historic preservation can have on a community:

Milwaukee's Brewers Hill and King Drive together form a 24-square-block district of commercial and residential properties, located near downtown Milwaukee north of the former Schlitz brewery. This area was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and was designated a city landmark in 1985. ... The emphasis on the historic character of the district and controlling its appearance has made it an attractive area in which even unrestored houses are in high demand ...

We believe that The Garden Homes Historic District and neighborhood will similarly benefit from local historic designation protection.

MPA supports that 4330 N. 25<sup>th</sup> Street fulfills criteria e-1, e-3, e-4, e-6, e-7, and e-9 of the Historic Preservation Ordinance, Section 320-21 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.

The MPA Board respectfully requests that the Historic Preservation Commission vote to approve the Interim Historic Designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dawn McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dawn McCarthy

President

Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, Inc.

c/o 2589 N. Lake Drive

Milwaukee, WI 53211