



May 1, 2023

Dear Distinguished Members of the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission:

I'm writing today in support of the Pabst Mansion's application for a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Commission to deconstruct and preserve the ancillary pavilion structure adjacent to the historic Pabst Mansion.

The mission at the Pabst Mansion is to celebrate the legacy of the Pabst family and its impact on Milwaukee – and it has been doing just that for visitors and locals alike since 1978. I know that the Mansion's priority is the integrity and preservation of the Pabst family home and its return to its 1892 glory. But preserving the legacy of the historic Pabst Mansion is no small task and requires diligent planning and careful execution, and I know their decision to deconstruct and preserve the ancillary pavilion was not made lightly.

The pavilion, which once housed the mansion's gift shop, has been closed to the public since the summer of 2022 due to safety concerns. It was originally built as a temporary interior structure for the World Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago and was added to the Pabst Mansion as an auxiliary structure in 1895. For over a century, the pavilion's deteriorating status has been well documented. Despite numerous preservation studies and fundraising attempts, the pavilion has gradually fallen into disrepair – as it was not originally designed as an outdoor structure – and must now be carefully deconstructed to preserve the roughly 25 percent of the original structure that remains viable.

Reconstruction will allow for the structure to be built to withstand outdoor conditions such as an appropriate back-up structure, movement joints, weather proofing and insulation ensuring its integrity for decades to come.

The Certificate of Appropriateness allows the Mansion team to move forward in a way that best preserves the family's legacy and maintains one of our most beloved attractions. I hope you will consider this perspective as you deliberate and, as ever, I appreciate your time.

Genuinely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Williams-Smith".

Peggy Williams-Smith
President & CEO

