

Feb. 20, 2025

Re: Mr. Alonzo Robinson Jr. – First Black registered Architect in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Milwaukee, Historic Preservation Commission

I am Randy Crump, a native Milwaukeean, proud graduate of Bradley Tech High School, FKA Boy's Technical and Trade High School, and the Milwaukee School of Engineering. I am writing in support of recognizing the historical significance of Mr. Alonzo Robinson Jr. -first Black registered Architect in the city of Milwaukee, state of Wisconsin.

As the first college graduate in my family and as an African American entrepreneur operating in my hometown for 41 years, I find it disheartening to see little local recognition in this city for individuals of color performing at a high level, outside of politics.

It is noteworthy that Mr. Robinson's work is still standing and is part of the Historical landscape of Milwaukee. On November 21, 2021, the Milwaukee Fire Department Headquarters designed by Alonzo Robinson Jr. in 1960 was renamed the Alonzo Robinson Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building.

As stated by Mr. Kim Robinson, son of Alonzo Robinson – “the Inner-city of Milwaukee landscape is changing with the times with road work such as bike lanes, speed bumps, the new museum going up on 6 street, etc. This is just a small example of why we should consider preserving the Architectural work of Alonzo Robinson Jr. The Central City Plaza, which is located at 600 W. Walnut Street, is one of my father's Architectural projects that expressed his love for Architecture. The one-story building located at 1747 N. Sixth Street could be saved and used by an Architectural organization in conjunction with the new museum going up down the street or re-purpose by the Salvation Army by restoring and building around the existing buildings.”

I urge the Historic Preservation Commission to take a proactive role in recognizing and preserving Alonzo Robinson's work by:

1. Officially documenting his architectural contributions and integrating them into educational and public history initiatives.
2. Supporting the designation of his buildings as historic landmarks to ensure their protection.
3. Collaborating with local organizations, property owners, and preservation groups to maintain and restore the structures he designed.
4. Encouraging ongoing community engagement and awareness regarding his influence on Milwaukee's architectural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

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