

Proposed Puddlers' Cottages Local Historic District

By Ron Winkler

Landmarks Chair for the Bay View Historical Society

I am in favor of the proposed Puddlers' Cottages Local Historic District and would like my testimony to be either read at the Tuesday, June 29th meeting or entered into the record in favor of the proposal. My bio is at the end of this document. Thanks for your consideration.

Puddlers' cottages

Puddlers' cottages are an important aspect of Bay View's history and designation of this area as a local historic district would emphasize their status in Bay View's history. Alteration of the cottages does not diminish their historical significance because the proposed district still shows their spatial relationship.

Unfortunately, the rows and rows of puddlers' cottages throughout Bay View have disappeared. We lost the best example of an unaltered group of puddlers' cottages in 1973 when four cottages in the 1000 block of East Russell Avenue were demolished to build Michelle Manor, a senior living complex.



Four Puddlers' Cottages in a row, 1000 block of East Russell Avenue, razed 1973.

Less than a block away from the proposed district is the George Edmunds House at 2550 S. Shore Dr. It is a well-preserved puddlers' cottage which was awarded landmark status by the Bay View Historical Society in 2016. The Edmunds House has scroll saw brackets which make it quite elaborate.



George Edmunds House, 2550 S. Shore Dr., Bay View Historical Society landmark. Note the facsimile 1873 flag with 37 stars.

Ron Winkler Bio

Ron Winkler is a Bay View-born writer and historian who has been writing about Bay View since 2002. He is the author of *Bay View* (2011) and *Milwaukee's Town of Lake* (2013) in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. He has researched a series of nine walking tours of Bay View and serves as the Landmarks Chair for the Bay View Historical Society. In 2014, he coauthored the history of his alma mater, Bay View High School, from which he graduated in 1968. He has written the entry for Bay View in the Encyclopedia of Milwaukee.

In addition to his work as an author and tour guide, Winkler is a lecturer and columnist for the Bay View Historical Society and Badgerland Striders. He has a B.S. in Psychology and an M.S. in Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a two-time winner of the Bay View Historical Society's Volunteer of the Year Award.