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Equity Analysis of Milwaukee's Locally Preserved Sites and Districts Connection to Historically Underrepresented Groups

The total number of locally preserved sites connected to historically underrepresented groups is 80 out of 169 (47%). The two groups that account for the largest total are women and working-class (44 total between the two). The white ethnic groups included in this study (German, Irish, Italian, and Polish) are associated with working class backgrounds or women. There are numerous sites in Milwaukee connected to these groups that did not constitute being included in this project given their socio-economic backgrounds and the fact white ethnic Europeans have been well represented throughout U.S. history. There are a few examples of higher socioeconomic individuals or sites being represented despite there not being a lack of representation of wealthy individuals, architecture, etc. in U.S. history. However, these examples are accounted for because of their relation to historically underrepresented groups, for example women and Jewish individuals. The two distinctive underrepresented groups in this study were a Dutch Catholic family's home and eastern European architectural building. It should be considered that African American and LGBTQ totals are low because of the low population number of these groups in Milwaukee. Census data indicate that Milwaukee's African American population compared low to other Great Lakes cities, such as Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit and didn't grow to the height it is today until the second half of the 20th century. The same can be said of the LGBTQ population compared to cities like Chicago. Also, the construction of I-794 and I-43 demolished sites that could've been attributed to these two groups. It should be noted that because of the oppressive history toward these two groups further studies need to be done on their possible connection to locally preserved sites or future ones. Another thing to note is Latinx low total is most likely attributed to their immigration to Milwaukee being more recent in history. Lastly, due to the erasure of Indigenous history many indigenous connections to local sites may be lost or further more extensive research needs to be done to discover this lost history.

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