

## TEMPORARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION PETITION INSTRUCTIONS

Please type or print clearly.

To request a public hearing on temporary designation in accordance with Section 320-21 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances, it is necessary to complete the attached petition and return it to the staff of the Historic Preservation Commission. In general, the photographs, slides and documentation submitted with this petition are non-returnable. To file a petition, you must be the owner of the subject property, or a resident of the City of Milwaukee, or a City of Milwaukee Alderperson.

**1. Name of Property**

Provide the name by which the property is generally known, if any. Give the full address of the property including zip code.

**2. Name and Address of Owner**

Provide the name, address, and telephone number of the owner. If there are multiple owners of real interest, include all parties, using a separate sheet of paper, if necessary. Provide name, address, and telephone number of the applicant, if different from the owner.

**3. Attachments**

If possible, the petition should be accompanied by a minimum of one clear black-and-white (or color) original photograph at least 3 x 5 inches in size showing the principal exterior elevation of the building. It is advisable to provide additional photographs if the structure merits more extensive pictorial coverage or displays significant features on several elevations. Digital images on a disks or flashdrive are acceptable. To supplement your application, you may want to submit historical documentation as further evidence of why the structure is worthy of historic designation. A permanent designation form must already be on file or submitted simultaneously.

**4. Legal Property Description**

Provide the legal property description from the deed or tax assessor's records.  
<http://assessments.milwaukee.gov/>

**5. Description of Structure**

Describe the structure's shape, building materials, and exterior features in paragraph form. Specify types and colors materials, the design or pattern of decorative ornament, and the arrangement of architectural elements. Also describe other features on the site such as outbuildings, decorative fences, sculpture, fountains, or landscape treatments that may add to the significance or historic character of the site. Briefly describe additions or alterations and non-historic features. Use continuation sheets, if necessary.

**6. Significance**

In a brief opening paragraph, enumerate the areas of significance checked above and explain specifically why the site is important in each of these categories. In subsequent paragraphs, and on continuation sheets, if necessary, detail the history of the site and the people or events that have contributed to its significance. You may want to attach photocopies of documentation to support and further amplify your research.

**7. Major Bibliographical References**

Include major references. Use continuation sheets, if necessary. Be sure to include publisher, city, and publication dates for books and edition dates for newspapers and periodicals.

**8. Form Prepared By**

Provide your name, your mailing address, and the telephone number where you can be contacted during the day. Have this form acknowledged by a Notary Public.

Please return this form to the following address:

**Historic Preservation Commission  
Office of the City Clerk  
841 N Broadway, Rm B-1  
Milwaukee, WI 53202**

If you have questions or need assistance in completing this form, please call the Historic Preservation staff at **(414) 286-5722**.

**MILWAUKEE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
TEMPORARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION PETITION**

**1. Name of Property:** Forest Home Library

Address of Property: 1432 W Forest Home Ave Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Zip Code

**2. Name and Address of Owner**

Name: City of Milwaukee

Street Address: 809 E Broadway

City: Milwaukee State: WI Zip Code: 53202

Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code)

Applicant (if different from owner) Kelsey Kuehn & Eric Vogel (Vogel Design Group LLC)

Street Address: 2405 E Wyoming Pl

City: Milwaukee State: WI Zip Code: 53202

Daytime Phone: 414.588.3125 OR 414.416.7080 Evening Phone same

**3. Attachments**

The following information is enclosed:

- Exterior photographs or digital images (required)
- Copy of newspaper notice of demolition permit application
- Copy of Orders from the Department of Neighborhood Services
- Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Legal Property Description**

**BURNHAM, ROGERS & BECHER'S SUBD NO 2 OF NE 1/4 & SE 1/4 SEC 6-6-22 BLOCK  
14 LOTS 8 TO 17 INCL**

## 5. Description of Structure

Number of stories: 1

**Wall cladding** (check each that apply)

Clapboard  Brick  Stucco  Stone  Wood Shingle   
Terra Cotta  Asphalt Siding  Asbestos Tile  Aluminum/Vinyl Siding  Artificial Stone

Other: Precast Concrete, Glass, Exposed Corten Steel Framing

Describe Outstanding Features:

The Forest Home Library is a single story, flat roofed structure of approximately 14,560 sqft. The interior architecture is emblematic of the midcentury period and features an open floor plan with exposed post and beam lattice construction that casts striking light conditions across the space.

The building is clad in precast concrete panels and features large spans of glass and exposed structural weathering (Corten) steel framing. At the Northwest and Southwest corners of the building the corten steel framing extends beyond the roofline to create a partially covered outdoor porch. At the South facade, the structural steel lattice likely functions as a kind of brise soleil to the interior space, regulating daylight and temperature. A raised portion of the roof at the center of building creates a clerestory of windows that also enhances passive daylighting.

The building occupies a trapezoidal site bordered by S 15th St and W Forest Home Ave. A parking lot occupies the North end of the site. The South end of the lot features three mature trees, two raised, triangular concrete planting beds, and a freestanding sign for the former library. All original signage and landscaping is intact.

**Please see attached images and research.**

**6. Significance**

Areas of Significance:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> religion            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> community planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> economics               | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> other:              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education    | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  |  |

Date Built: 1966

Date(s) Altered (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Builder/Architect: Von Grossman, Burroughs & Van Lanen Architects

Written Statement of Significance, including history of structure:  
(continue on a separate sheet, if necessary)

In 1967 the design of the Forest Home Library was recognized by AIA Wisconsin with an Honor Award AND by the American Institute of Steel Construction with a Design Excellence Award. A Milwaukee Sentinel article from February 18, 1967 wrote that AIA judges called the Forest Home Library design "an alive and creative solution to small scale public architecture." Further comments from the jury published in this article include: "There is very good detailing on this project and some nice spaces have been created. The building is a totality in a sense that exterior and interior mesh fully. This building demonstrates a great deal of competence in technology. There is unity through the building. The interior and exterior relate to each other, and the consistency in detail implies that it had a strong hand in control of it." The Forest Home Library also formally appears to express sympathy with trends in passive design. A raised roof portion at the center of the building creates a clerestory of windows which allows for passive daylighting and extended steel structural steel framing at the south façade acts as a brise soleil, controlling light and temperature.

The history of the architectural applications of corten steel reveals that the Forest Home Library is far more distinct and important than it might first appear. The Forest Home Library is an excellent example of precast concrete and exposed weathered (Cor-ten) steel framing which, at the time, was significantly more expensive than conventional steel framing. While Corten Steel became famously popular among contemporary artists in the 1950s and 60s, such as Beverly Pepper (of which we have a sculpture by here in Milwaukee) and Richard Serra and experienced an architectural renaissance in the twenty-first century. Weathered steel was first developed in the 1930s for use in the manufacturing of railroad hopper cars. The first use of weathering steel in an architectural application is seen on the John Deere World Headquarters in Moline, Illinois, completed in 1964 and designed by Eero Saarinen (and less than 10 years prior, Saarinen's War Memorial Center opened to the public here in Milwaukee). This renders the very early use of corten steel at the Forest Home Library in 1966 significantly more important. It might be the first (and only?) building of the era in Milwaukee that utilizes the material.

This building was designed by the Milwaukee based mid-century architecture firm von Grossmann, Burroughs, & Van Lanen. Frederic Richard (Fritz) von Grossmann, Charles W Burroughs, and Robert Van Lanen started their firm in 1955. Before joining with Burroughs and Van Lanen, Fritz von Grossman had a noteworthy career on his own. Von Grossmann received his Bachelor's in Architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1928 and a graduate degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1932. Von Grossman practiced architecture independently from 1939 until 1955. In 1957 he won an AIA Honor Award for his design of the Masons of Wisconsin Grand Lodge Headquarters located on Milwaukee's East side (another building of significant midcentury architectural merit, though it is also not historically designated).

**The Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office stated that the Forest Home Library is preliminarily eligible for listing in the State and National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in 2018.** SHPO also stated that there is possibility that the Forest Home Library is eligible under criterion A in the area of Education, but that more research needs to be done to make the argument.

**7. Major Bibliographical References**

See attached Newspaper Articles

**8. Form Prepared By:**

Name: Kelsey Kuehn & Eric Vogel Date: 10/15/2020

Address: 2405 E Wyoming Pl

City: Milwaukee State: WI Zip Code: 53202

Telephone: 414.588.3125 OR 414.416.7080

Email: kelseykuehn@gmail.com & fvogeliv@gmail.com

**Signature must be acknowledged by a notary**

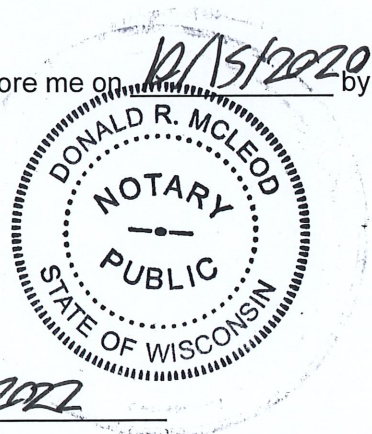
Signature of preparer/applicant: *Kelsey Kuehn & Eric Vogel*

State of Wisconsin

County of *Milwaukee*

This document was acknowledged before me on *10/15/2020* by *Donald R. McLeod*

*Donald R. McLeod*  
Seal & Signature of notarial officer



My commission expires: *9/22/2022*

Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission  
Office of the City Clerk  
841 N Broadway, Rm B-1  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
[HPC@Milwaukee.gov](mailto:HPC@Milwaukee.gov)

414-286-5722