



Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

LIVING WITH HISTORY

HPC meeting date	1/8/2023	CCF #231191
Ald. Brostoff	Staff reviewer: Tim Askin	
Property	3230 E Kenwood	MacLaren House
Owner/Applicant	Andy Nunemaker	

Proposal

1. Restore the circular, cement driveway in the front of the main house and connect it via a new 26 foot wide cement driveway running along the inside of the Kenwood Blvd wall. The drive will be edged with cobblestones
2. The new drive would open through the 4th westernmost concrete wall portion and
3. The current cutout would be replaced (using the same materials as the existing wall).
4. Remove the 1970s asphalt parking lot to the south of the main house and replace with sod

Staff comments

Guidelines for the landscape at this property are minimal: "Site Features: New plant materials, walls, fencing and light fixtures shall be compatible with the historic architectural character of the building."

During occupancy by Mrs. MacLaren, the sole vehicular approach to the house appears to have been from Hampshire Street. Re-creating this approach would require allowing guests to pass through the new garage. Some sort of access from Kenwood was present by 1951, roughly in line with the current curbcut. It may have been pedestrian only until the 1960s.

The new proposal is vastly different, but generally compatible with the character of the site. It creates a traditional long approach that is commonly associated with large English estates which were the model for this home. There will be some loss of landscape character from the new paving, but it is likely balanced in square footage by the removal of the parking lot.

HPC staff sought input from the Department of Public Works because of the curbcut. They find the proposal acceptable.

Recommendation

Approve with conditions

Conditions

1. Follow all DPW requirements