

February 7, 2022

To the honorable Chair and Commissioners:

1100 S. 5th Street, Ste. 319

Milwaukee, WI 53204

P: 414.220.0530

The Milwaukee Preservation Alliance supports the nomination of the TOPS Club Inc. building at 4575 S. 5th Street, to the National Register of Historic Places. We concur with the nominator's finding of the TOPS Club Building as an important cultural site due to the significant advocacy of TOPS in the area of medical and social history. The Milwaukee Preservation Alliance concurs that the extensive outreach, financing, and advocacy done by TOPS historically in Milwaukee has been critical to the public health of the city and for the country, and this cultural significance qualifies the building for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

First started in 1948, Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) has been a prominent science based dieting organization, self-help social group, supporter of medical research into obesity, and has supported equity in accessibility. Their current building was constructed in 1965 by Baudhuin and Associates, Engineers. The front part of the building was home to the offices and the rear of the building housed the publication, printing, and distribution sectors of the organization. The building retains its integrity since its last remodel in 1969 and still houses the TOPS headquarters today. For these reasons, MPA supports the nomination of the TOPS Club Building to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of the people and places of Milwaukee.

Respectfully,
Tim Houge
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance