

1/7/2025

Re: Mr. Alonzo Robinson Jr. – Architect

Dear Milwaukee Preservation Office

I am Mr. Kim A. Robinson Sr. son of Alonzo Robinson Jr. first Black registered Architect in the city of Milwaukee, state of Wisconsin. It is a blessing to know that my dad's work is still standing and is part of the Historical landscape of Milwaukee. On November 21, 2021, the Milwaukee Fire Department Headquarters designed by Alonzo Robinson Jr. in 1960 was renamed the Alonzo Robinson Milwaukee Fire Department Administration Building.

My father left home at age 13 to attend high school in Dover, Delaware. DSU (Delaware State University) was called the State College for Colored Students at the time he enrolled. Founded in 1891, DSU is proud of their heritage as one of the country's first land-grant educational institutions. He finished two years of college and was drafted into the U.S. Army under the rank of First Sergeant, a senior non-commissioned officer (NCO). When he was honorably discharged from the army, he attended Howard University which offered a 5-year Architectural Program that he had aspired to do before getting drafted. He graduated from Howard University (Washington D.C.) school of Architecture in 1951. He moved his family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to take a job with the Bureau of Bridges and Buildings. He went on to design churches and other buildings throughout the city.

As the Inner-city of Milwaukee landscape is changing with the times road work such as bike lanes, speed bumps, the new museum going up on 6 street, etc is just a small example of why we should consider persevering the Architectural work of Alonzo Robinson Jr. The Central City Plaza which is located at 600 W. Walnut Street is one of my father's projects that expressed his love for Architecture. The one-story building located at 1747 N. Sixth Street could be saved and used by an Architectural organization in conjunction with the new museum going up down the street.

The Robinson Family feels that Alonzo Robinson Jr. Architectural work was Built to Last.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Kim A. Robinson

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