



February 21, 2025

Re: Milwaukee Register of Historic Places Listing
Alonzo Robinson Designed Buildings
Milwaukee Register of Historic Places
1747 North 6th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

On behalf of the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation, we ask that you accept this letter as our strong support for the retention of the Alonzo Robinson designed buildings at 1747 North 6th Street. Acceptance of being listed on the local register of historic places will be extremely helpful. Though that won't prevent demolition in perpetuity, it will at least require thought, consideration, and community dialogue about retention possibilities.

Mr. Robinson was Wisconsin's first licensed African American Architect. As such, the Trust holds him in the highest standing. His legacy and creativity are a tremendous asset for the state of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation is honored to be the steward of the great architectural and cultural treasures in Wisconsin, and we consider the work of Alonzo Robinson to be rare and priceless. As an organization, we are committed to supporting our great landmarks and working with communities and owners to develop creative ideas for retention and reuse.

As the Trust gets involved with struggling communities throughout the state, the challenge of financial support and dwindling populations in small towns is acute. We look closely at Milwaukee to show us the way. The struggle to save Alonzo's buildings certainly will be challenging but not impossible. The excellent reputation of Milwaukee as a place that thoughtfully honors its heritage places from all ethnic groups, is spreading throughout the state.

We ask that the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission vote to include these properties on the local register and help us to continue to showcase Milwaukee, both locally and nationally, as a place of outstanding heritage treasures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan P. Wilhelms". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Wilhelms
Board President, for the Board of Trustees
Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation.