



## Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

### LIVING WITH HISTORY

|                         |  |                     |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>HPC meeting date</b> | <b>5/13/2024</b>                             | <b>CCF # 231877</b> |
| <b>Ald. Jackson</b>     | <b>Staff reviewer:</b> Tim Askin             |                     |
| <b>Property</b>         | 2479 N Sherman Boulevard                     |                     |
| <b>Owner/Applicant</b>  | GREATER MOUNT ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH |                     |

### Proposal

The church requests to shorten, rather than reconstruct a peaked parapet wall on the rear parish hall.

### Staff comments

The main church was designed by Van Ryn & Gelleke and completed in 1917. Van Ryan & DeGelleke were prominent architects of that era and primarily famous for their work with Milwaukee Public Schools. The church requests demolition of a decorative feature on their 1954 rear addition that was designed by LeFebvre and Wiggins and built by C. G. Schmidt. There was an honest design effort with this addition, but it was fairly minimal and it is certainly inconsequential amongst their oeuvre. They are best known for St. Sava.

Demolition criteria are as follows:

1. Condition is imminent hazard: not met
2. Importance: met
3. Location: met
4. Potential for restoration: restoration is economically feasible, but not for this congregation at this time.
5. Addition: met
6. Replacement: not met

Three of six criteria are clearly met. It is an unfortunate case of deferred maintenance, but it is a relatively unimportant addition to the building. The false gable detail does not make a major difference in the compatibility of the addition to the original church. The Commission need only “consider” the six criteria, so with three criteria met, this could merit approval.

### Recommendation

Approve with conditions. Do not eliminate raised parapet detail entirely.

### Conditions

Partially reconstruct raised parapet without the false gable detail. Build four courses above the current flat lower parapet line with new flat upper parapet to match the first step of the existing raised section. May reduce by one course if insufficient salvage brick is available.