

TEMPORARY HISTORIC DESIGNATION PETITION

1. Name of Property: CRAIN / CLAFLIN HOUSE

Address of Property: 1773 N. CAMBRIDGE AVE. 53202
Zip Code

2. Name and Address of Owner

Name: CAMBRIDGE 1773 LLC REGISTERED AGT. SK MANAGEMENT LLC

Street Address: 3723 S. 1ST ST.

City: MILWAUKEE State: WI Zip Code: 53207

Daytime Telephone Number: _____
(Area Code)

Applicant (if different from owner) CARLEN HATAHA ON BEHALF OF ALD. NICK KOUAC

Street Address: 200 E. WELLS @ STREET

City: MILWAUKEE State: WI Zip Code: 53202

Daytime Phone Number: 286-3447 Evening Phone Number _____

3. Attachments

The following information is enclosed:

☒ Exterior photographs or digital images (required)

☐ Copy of newspaper notice of demolition permit application

☐ Copy of Orders from the Department of Neighborhood Services

☒ Other (explain) DEMOLITION NOTICE FROM DNS

4. Legal Property Description

CAMBRIDGE SUBD. PART LOT 6 SEC 21 & LOTS 15-16 BLK 19B
ROGERS' ADDN IN NE + SE 1/4 SEC 21-7-22 BLOCK 242
S. 10' LOT 18 N 37' LOT 19

5. **Description of Structure**

Number of stories: 2 1/2

Wall cladding (check each that apply)

Clapboard ☒ Brick ☐ Stucco ☐ Stone ☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Terra Cotta ☐
Asphalt Siding ☐ Asbestos Tile ☐ Aluminum/Vinyl Siding ☐ Artificial Stone ☐
Other: _____

Describe Outstanding Features:

This house is located on the city's Lower East Side approximately two blocks from Prospect Avenue. Its main facade faces east and the building is situated behind a small grassy front lawn. There are some foundation plantings. The house sits on a brick foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. The hip roof with gables has asphalt shingles. The house is irregular in plan with a wing at the north and south elevations and a rear addition. It is wood framed with clapboards that have a narrow exposure on the upper story and wider exposure on the first.

The facade feature a full length front porch with hip roof that is supported by three pairs of double fluted Ionic columns that rest on brick piers. Brick wing walls that framed the steps have been removed. On the first story is a large bay window to the right or north of which are entry doors. The second story features a pair of 6-over-one windows above the bay window on the south and a single six-over-one window to the north or right. These windows are emphasized by gables that extent through the hip roof. The largest, at the south, shelters the paired windows and is clad in shingles. It also features a Colonial Revival circular multi-paned window. The bargeboards are wide and simple. To the right or north is a smaller gable that features half-timbering. Between the two gables, on the roof is a petite dormer with hip roof, multi-paned windows and shingle cladding.

The north elevation features a pair of windows and a small oriel. The projecting wing features a gabled roof that is oriented parallel to the street. There is one large window on the first story and a smaller window on the second story with six-over-one sash.

The south elevation features one small square window on the first story and a larger window on the second. At this elevation is a wing with gabled roof that parallels the street. It serves as a large two-story bay with windows located to meet the needs of the rooms within.

6. Significance

Areas of Significance:

<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> science	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) <u>HISTORY</u>	

Date Built: 1880

Date Altered (if applicable) 1903 ADD'N, REMODEL 1904

Builder/Architect: 1880- UNKNOWN 1903-1904- H.A. BETTS

Written Statement of Significance, including history of structure:
(continue on a separate sheet, if necessary)

The Crain / Claflin House is significant both for its architecture and its owners.

The house belongs to the golden age of Cambridge Avenue when the street was populated with prominent business people, policy makers and socialites. The house was built in 1880, per the tax rolls, and was most likely Italianate or Victorian Gothic in style. The basic footprint of the house dates to this time period and the north and south wings are typical of this period. The 1894 Sanborn map shows that the covered entry was located in the north wing, where a large window is situated today. A prominent bay window extended from the front. Under the second owner, the house was remodeled into its current appearance. The architect of this remodeling, H. A. Betts was well known for his work in the Arts and Crafts style but in this instance, created a very hybrid design. He changed the entrance to the front of the house and built a large porch across the facade, supported by pairs of Ionic columns. This along with the oculus or circular window in the south gable are elements of the Colonial Revival style. The plain shingles in the south gable, the half-timbering in the north gable, the six-over-one sash are all elements of the Arts and Crafts. The house had been maintained in this form with some modifications to the present day. The house is a good example of 19th and early 20th century practices that preferred remodeling and updating to demolition and building over. The house is a very well designed example of the type of hybrid that could be produced by a talented architect who provided updates to the then-23 year old house. The elements added by Betts make the house appear that it had been designed to look this way from the beginning.

The house is also prominent for its early owners. It was built in 1880 by Charles E. Crain, who was prominent in the insurance industry and was the head of a free Lecture Society that brought notables into town. A letter written to Crain by Frederick Douglass is at the University of Chicago. The letter indicates that Douglass was unable to lecture in Milwaukee (at least at the time requested). Crain was also active as a school commissioner and in veterans societies.

The next owner of the house was Thomas Claflin the president-treasurer of the Model Laundry Company. This business located in the neighborhood after being downtown, and constructed a 2-

story building at 1719 North Warren Avenue. A later addition in 1908 was built at 1716 North Arlington. The prominent Huebsch Laundry Company acquired the Model Laundry in 1914.

7. Major Bibliographical References

Milwaukee City Directories
Milwaukee Tax Rolls
Milwaukee Permit Records
Milwaukee Sentinel

8. Form Prepared By:

Name: CARLEN HATALA ON BEHALF OF ALD. KOVAC Date: 6/17/2015

Address: 200 E. WELLS ST.

City: MILWAUKEE State: WI Zip Code: 53202

Telephone: (414) 286-5722

Signature: Carlen Hatala

Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission
Office of the City Clerk
200 E. Wells Street Room B-4
Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-286-5722