



Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission Staff Report

Living with History

HPC meeting date: 9/15/2015
Ald. Tony Zielinski District: 14
Staff reviewer: Carlen Hatala
PTS #90300

Property	1710 E. PRYOR AV. Pryor Ave. Iron Well, an individually designated structure
Owner/Applicant	Carrie Lewis, Superintendent Milwaukee Water Works 841 North Broadway Milwaukee, WI 53202
Proposal	The Bay View Historical Society wants to re-install its plaque on the Pryor Avenue Well. It had originally been installed on the structure in 1980 and removed when the recent restoration occurred in 2013.
Staff comments	<p>Late historic preservation staff, Paul Jakubovich, and Milwaukee Water Works Superintendent, Carrie Lewis, both agreed that no signage/plaque would be installed on the newly refinished concrete exterior surface of the well. Staff has since studied the site and structure.</p> <p>There is a metal diamond plate door that serves as the access to the pipes within. On the door's interior is inscribed "Iron Workers 11/3/94". This probably documents when the current door was installed. The well head did not exist in 1894 so this must refer to 1994.</p> <p>There are two ways that a plaque can go on the site. One is to have it nestled into the brick pavers that surround the well head. The other is to attach the plaque to the metal utility door.</p> <p>Installing the plaque among the pavers creates some problems with visibility in the winter due to snow cover.</p> <p>Historic Preservation staff as well as Superintendent Lewis finds that installing the plaque on the service door appears to be an appropriate alternative. The door itself is not original and is utilitarian in character.</p>
Recommendation	Approve
Conditions	Locate the plaque on the lower portion of the access door. Rather than use screws that would damage the character of the interior and the signature "Iron Workers", some non-invasive type of adhesive is to be used.
Previous HPC action	
Previous Council action	