

Elmer, Linda

From: Historic Preservation Commission
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 12:24 PM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: FW: KNEISLER'S WHITE HOUSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICATION HEARING MONDAY, APRIL 2 AT 3PM MILWAUKEE CITY HALL ROOM 301B
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From: Beth Hildebrand [<mailto:bihildebrand@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2018 12:07 PM
To: Historic Preservation Commission; Hatala, Carlen
Cc: robtjohn@milwpc.com; Ron Winkler; NANCY TAWNEY; JOHN GURDA; ro7112@ameritech.net
Subject: KNEISLER'S WHITE HOUSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPLICATION HEARING MONDAY, APRIL 2 AT 3PM MILWAUKEE CITY HALL ROOM 301B

March 26, 2018

Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission

Milwaukee City Hall

200 East Wells Street, Room B-4

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Re: Kneisler's White House Tavern Historic Preservation Application

2900 South Kinnickinnic Avenue; Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing at the request of John Ebersol who submitted an Application for Historic Preservation of the above property: Hearing is set for Monday, April 2 at 3PM in Room 301B Milwaukee City Hall.

As a 4th Generation Kneisler and former owner of The White House Tavern I believe the Building has historic significance that needs to be protected and preserved for posterity such as:

- Built in 1891 as a **Schlitz Brewery Tied-House**. Breweries strategically built Roadhouses fronting them to local tavern owners. William C. Kneisler exclusively poured Schlitz Beer to pay the mortgage to the Brewery.
- A **Roadhouse** situated on Kinnickinnic Avenue or Highway 32 which was then the main road between Milwaukee and Chicago. The White House was the halfway point for a horse drawn buggy between Downtown and South Milwaukee. A perfect spot to stop to water horses, have a Free Lunch with a Nickel Beer or stay overnight in one of the two Boarder's Rooms above the tavern.
- **Unique Queen Anne Victorian 5-sided structure with 3 Sunburst Windows, prominent Gables and 2 imposing Turrets.**
- Originally known as the Capitol because of the twin turrets, it was **nicknamed the White House by local politicians**. In the 1920's Judge Ted Wiedemeyer and Alderman Erv Zilman gathered there on Election Day to watch the tally of votes on the green Chalkboard that hung on the wall in the days before television. The Chalkboard hooks still remain today in the Bar.
- The **original mahogany Back Bar with Walk in Cooler and Brass Rail** glimmers with decades of scrubbing, oiling and polishing.
- At the turn of the last Century Women were not allowed in the Tavern and were confined to the **Annex** by a separate entrance. This Lady's Parlor is off the kitchen where the Free Lunch was prepared.
- After World War II it was custom that Women should only be seated at tables like Ladies and not served at the **Standup Bar**. Bar stools were only added in the late 1970's.
- Awarded **Bay View Historical Society Landmark** status October 6, 1991 in Celebration of Kneisler's White House 100th Anniversary.

Since the sale of the White House by the Kneisler Family in 2007 there has been a **blatant disregard for its History** by new owners. An inappropriate Air Conditioning System with exposed ducts was installed. It was disgracefully Vinyl Sided covering the Victorian Clapboard with Gingerbread Trim in 2017. Much of the historic memorabilia was sold or tossed in the Dumpster. I believe there is a need for any future remodeling of the Building and its contents to be properly monitored for prosperity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Hildebrand 414-315-6544 with Jessica Luetzow

Great Grand Daughters of William C. Kneisler and Great Nieces of Herbert C. Kneisler

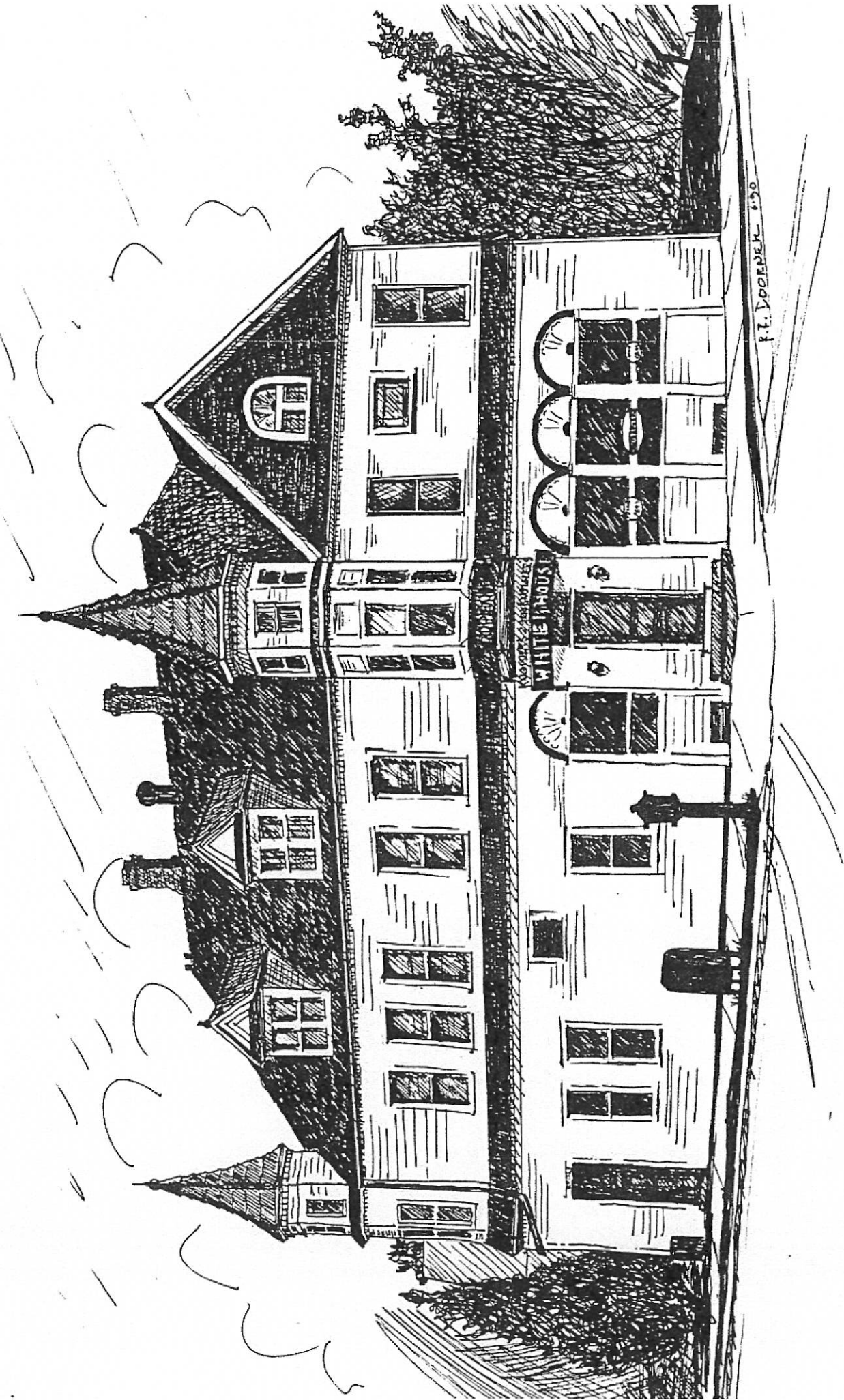
CC: John Ebersol

Bay View Historical Society Landmark Historian Ron Winkler

Bay View Historical Society Past President Nancy Tawney

Milwaukee Historian John Gurda

Dick O'connell



R. R. DOORNEY

"THE WHITEHOUSE"

100/100