

To: Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission
RE: 2635 W. Greenfield – Harris Pharmacy Building permanent historic designation

Dear Ald. Bauman and members of the Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, which is strongly in support of the permanent historic designation of the building at 2635 W. Greenfield Ave, also known as the Harris Pharmacy Building. The Harris Pharmacy Building is a notable commercial building which contributes to the South Layton Boulevard Historic District. The building has stood at the site since 1896 and is significant for being an excellent example of the Mediterranean Revival Style which remains largely unaltered since its conversion from its original Queen Anne style in 1931. The building still retains original leaded glass, stone trim, and iron balconies, and also includes some Art Deco touches such as fluted pilasters.

Losing this building would have a detrimental effect on the integrity of the South Layton Boulevard Historic District and would diminish the character of the neighborhood at large as it is located on a prominent corner on Layton Boulevard.

According to the urbanist Jane Jacobs, small businesses such as bookstores, ethnic restaurants, antique stores, neighborhood pubs, and small start-ups thrive in old buildings. There is a real opportunity here to reuse this historic building located on a prominent intersection, which is well-suited for a local business to occupy. We understand the school's and church's desire for more space and hope that an alternative solution that can be found that avoids demolishing this historic structure.

Respectfully,

Peter Zanghi
President
Milwaukee Preservation Alliance