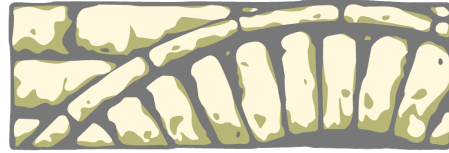


MADISON TRUST



for Historic Preservation

Advocacy News

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How to Stay Abreast of New Threats Relating to Madison's Historic Structures

By Kurt Stege

Advocacy Committee¹ Co-chair



How Are We Supposed to Keep Track?

Several Madison Trust members have mentioned that it is difficult for them to keep up with historic preservation threats within the city. In many instances, they read about issues online or in print, but it is just before the matter is presented to a reviewing body. In other words, there isn't enough time to follow up.

One of the few straightforward methods for learning about many of the more controversial and tangible issues relating to historic preservation is to review emailed City of Madison notices that someone wishes to demolish one or more buildings. The notices arrive a few times over the course of a month or two if you have a (free)

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¹ The Charter for the Trust's Advocacy Committee includes the following statement of Purpose:

Formulate and assert positions that further the protection of Madison's historic resources. Engage in related activities that advance that protection. Monitor relevant City boards, commissions, and committees for significant preservation matters.

subscription that can be obtained online. Once I have the building's address from the notice, I check it on a map application (such as Google Maps) to review a photo of the location. In most instances, the building will have no historic significance. Sometimes, however, the significance is obvious.

The notices from the city are titled "Upcoming Demolition," even though they only reference filing *an application* to demolish a building and the notices also fail to mention that the application may be denied. A typical notice reads:

Please be advised that [applicant] will be filing a demolition permit application on [a specific date after the date of the notice] for Plan Commission review that calls for a [nature of building] located at [address] to be demolished. For more information regarding this forthcoming application, you may contact the applicant, [name, address, email address, phone number].

Applicant's Comments:

[The applicant may explain the underlying reason for the application, such as "to build a new house."]

If you have any questions about the Plan Commission demolition permit approval process, please contact the City of Madison Planning Division at (608) 266-4635.

If receiving these demolition application notices is of interest to you, here are the steps for getting them:

1. Go to <https://my.cityofmadison.com>.
2. Follow one of the next steps:
 - a. If you already have an account with the City for making payments or for other services, click on the "Login" box and sign in. OR
 - b. If you need to create a new account, click on the "Register" box and complete the necessary information.
3. In the far left column of the resulting page, click on "Email Lists", the second box on the list.
4. On the resulting page titled "My Account: Email List Subscriptions," you will be presented with a list of about 25 options. Look for "**Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development**" about 10 down from the top, and click on it.

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5. On the resulting page titled “Email Lists,” there will be about 20 options. Click on “**Upcoming Demolitions**” which is next to the last one.
 - a. Also, complete the “Confidentiality” section before clicking on the “Submit” button on the left side of the page.

“Upcoming Demolition” notices are one of a number of sources the Advocacy Committee relies upon to learn of threats relating to the protection of Madison’s historic resources. **Other sources include:**

- Neighborhood association contacts/newsletters.
- Emails from other individuals in the community who are interested in historic preservation who, for whatever reason, have already learned of the issue.
- Alder newsletters issued weekly
 - [Click on an alder](#) and add your email where it says “Subscribe to Email List” in the left column
- News articles in print media
- New filings with the Landmarks Commission
- Legal notices in the Wisconsin State Journal of upcoming public hearings
- Agendas for individual meetings of the Landmarks Commission, the Plan Commission, and the Urban Design Commission. The bottom of the right hand column of the [meeting schedule page](http://www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/meeting-schedule) [www.cityofmadison.com/city-hall/committees/meeting-schedule] allows you to sign up for receiving emailed notices of the schedule. The procedure is comparable to that for receiving “Upcoming Demolition” notices except it is found under the heading of “City Hall.” Please note that commission meeting agendas are often issued only one or two workdays prior to the date of the meeting. Plan Commission agendas also typically list matters that have tentatively been scheduled for future meetings.

The Advocacy Committee does its best to monitor all of these sources.

In case you are not aware of it, the Advocacy Committee occasionally issues an “**Advocacy Alert**” to those newsletter subscribers who sign up for this service. The alerts are often sent just a few days before an important meeting of one of the Madison commissions noted above and they explain the different ways to participate at the meeting. If you wish to receive the alerts but are not already on our distribution list, [head over to our website](#) to sign up!