



Interdepartmental Memorandum

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

TO: City Council Members
FROM: Christine Boulware, PED
RE: Written testimony received for Ord 19-1, St. Andrew's Church Public Hearing
DATE: May 15, 2019

The following written testimony was received by the Department of Planning and Economic Development for the May 15, 2019, City Council Public Hearing to amend Chapter 74 of the Legislative Code by enacting a new section designating St. Andrew's Church as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site – Ord. 19-1

In support of:

David Greenwood-Sanchez, via email
Rosario Greenwood, via email
Robert Roscoe, via email
Historic Saint Paul, via email

Neutral:

Against:

Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)

From: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 2:12 PM
To: Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: In support of historic preservation for the former St. Andrews church building

From: David Greenwood-Sanchez <greenwoods@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 12:05 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: In support of historic preservation for the former St. Andrews church building

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear George Gause,

My name is David Greenwood-Sanchez, and I am writing to voice my complete support for the historic preservation of the St. Andrew's church building.

Below are a few points I would like to address:

First, my support is for historic preservation of a building that was designed and utilized as a church for almost all of its existence. This, however, does not mean that historic preservation preserves the building as a church; the building's previous use in no way defines or determines its future use(s). There are no shortage of examples of church buildings that have been successfully re-purposed for non-religious uses, and it is quite misleading for supporters of demolition to continue to promote the narrative of St. Andrew's as a church, rather than as a former church building. This works to create an image of historic preservation as religiously-motivated, or for the benefit of a select religious community, which is simply untrue.

Second, I am not convinced by the rationale behind the proposed demolition of the former church building. The practice of destroying well-preserved, culturally-significant, and historically-eligible buildings should be conducted with some sense of restraint, limited to only cases when (a) the destruction permits the creation of something of equivalent or greater value, and (b) when there is simply no other option. I do not believe that the creation of a multipurpose gymnasium and study space warrants the destruction of the former St. Andrew's church building -- a unique, well-preserved, culturally-significant, and historically-eligible building designed by St. Paul's first City Architect, Charles A. Hausler. Instead, this proposed destruction satisfies a narrow interest (accommodating TCGIS's continued expansion and receipt of additional state funding) at the

expense of the wider public interest (the preservation and maintenance of our heritage, our architecture, and our historic resources).

Third, I support historic preservation because the building has a lot of life left; it is in excellent condition for a near-100 year old building, and holds tremendous value to the Como community, the city of Saint Paul, and the state of Minnesota. The TCGIS school board has repeatedly referred to the building as a "[dilapidated former church](#)." However, this assessment contradicts those of the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Minnesota State Preservation Office (SHPO), as well as assessments by Minnesota's most esteemed architects and architectural historians including Larry Millet, Tom Fischer, Bob Roscoe, and Paul Larson. I feel very comfortable confiding in the architectural assessments of our state's institutions and experts, who have coalesced around recommendations of local historic preservation as well as inclusion of the building on the National Register of Historic Places. I feel less comfortable confiding in the architectural assessments of the TCGIS directors and board.

Sincerely,

David Greenwood-Sanchez

PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Fulbright-Hays Scholar, 2018-19

Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)

From: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: Vote in favor of Saint Andrew's Historical Designation

Are you compiling these?



George Gause

Historic Preservation Supervisor

Planning & Economic Development

25 4th Street West, ste 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-6714

george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us

The Most Livable
City in America



From: rose green <rsangreen7@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Vote in favor of Saint Andrew's Historical Designation

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Dear Mr. George Gause,

I write in support of Saint Andrew's Historical Designation. As a 35+ years citizen of Saint Paul and taxpayer in the Warrendale Area, I want to voice my concern of the threat of demolition of this architectural work of art. I moved into this neighborhood drawn by the charm, elegance, beauty, character and tranquility of this area. Two years after I came into this neighborhood, I decided to join the Church after I knew neighbors who were not even catholic and had prominent roles representing their area, in activities such as garage sales and also in the arts and crafts group, music, boy and girl scouts, etc. We neighbors used this building as a center for many activities. Even when the French Immersion School was functioning, until they left, we neighbors were able to use this parish and its basement with the new state of the art kitchen that was product of the remodeling the church did before it transferred hands. Nothing but good was obtained from this building.

Since TCGIS took control of the school and former church, we neighbors had never once been invited inside of the building. They marginalized the neighbors from the school, controlled all the media and even hired a media corporation in charge of keeping a good image while lying to the community. We neighbors have been denied the ability of expressing our views with some few exceptions. The division they had created in this neighborhood is so great because of their decisions regarding the demolition of the rectory and now the threat of demolition of the church building, a product of their own decision to expand.

I believe in education, but in good citizenship, respecting the neighbors and the areas they live. I am aware that TCGIS want to demolish the building at all cost, but in this time and age, we can teach only by example and defending what we believe is a good cause that lasts for future generations.

Thanks for your consideration.

Rosario Greenwood

Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)

From: Robert Roscoe <bobroscoe@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 1:52 PM
To: Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)
Subject: I sent this letter to all Saint Pal Councilmembers

Think Before You Click: This email originated outside our organization.

Robert Roscoe / Design for Preservation

1401 East River Parkway, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414 612.317.0989 broscoe@earthlink.net

May 13, 2019

Councilmember Kassim Busuri

St Paul City Council , Ward 6

15 Kellogg Blvd West

310 City Hall

St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: St Andrew Church historic designation

Dear Councilmember Kassim Busuri

I am asking you and other city councilmembers to approve historic designation for St. Andrews Building on Como Avenue in the Warrendale/Como community in St. Paul.

St. Andrews is owned by a German Immersion organization, who is rumored to consider demolition of this elegant structure to build a gymnasium.

St. Andrew's historical information lists Charles Hausler as the church's architect. Hausler designed many public buildings, including the three branch libraries funded by Andrew Carnegie. Besides Romanesque Revival, his building styles include Classical Revival, Prairie School, and Art Deco.

Where St. Andrew's significantly differs from the principal body of Romanesque Revival structures is its high degree of architectural articulation. Many building elements here provide a lively complexity unlike the typical sober architectural expression of this style.

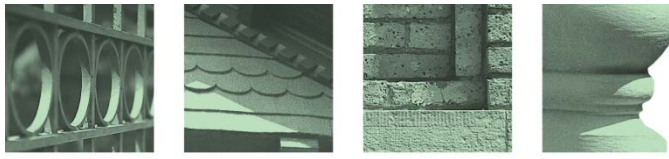
Historic designation is strongly supported by many residents in the community, as given evidence at a community forum several months ago.

St. Andrews has an iconic value for St. Paul.

I live in Minneapolis, a city that is occasionally considered to tear down its history. Please, Councilmember Busuri, do not allow St. Paul to tear down its history.

Respectfully,

Bob Roscoe



HISTORIC SAINT PAUL

May 15, 2019

Dear City Council Members;

Historic Saint Paul respectfully urges you to support the designation of 1031-1051 Como (the former Saint Andrew's Catholic Church, aka Saint Andrew's) as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

Historic Saint Paul works to preserve and promote the cultural heritage, character, and vitality of Saint Paul neighborhoods. We are keenly aware of the importance of preserving and investing into buildings that reflect the architectural and cultural history of Saint Paul.

Saint Paul is a richer, more complex and interesting city thanks to efforts of local residents, historians, the Heritage Preservation Commission, and leaders who have worked to identify and protect historic resources that hold and tell our important stories – at times in the face of severe opposition. Saint Andrew's is a structure that deserves recognition and protection.

Saint Andrew's has a strong architectural presence in the Como neighborhood. It was designed by Charles Hausler, the first city architect for the city of Saint Paul, who left a notable legacy in Saint Paul and across the region. It is a well-designed and finely detailed example of Period Revival style churches, and according to prominent historians, one of the city's best and most distinctive examples.

Equally important is the role Saint Andrew's played as a community center for the working class community and Hungarian immigrants it served. The stories it holds are important in the understanding of the development and social history of our city. Preserving places that honor those memories serve a significant public purpose.

Saint Andrew's meets several criteria necessary to be considered eligible for local designation, and has been determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by our State Historic Preservation Office. The fact that past owners &/or the City of Saint Paul has not previously pursued historic designation does not diminish its significance.

Concerns have been raised that Saint Andrew's current owners do not support designation. That is unfortunate, as they are presently stewards of a truly special place. However, owner support for designation is not a requirement. In fact, significant structures and districts in Saint Paul have been designated without expressed support from property owners – and have yielded lasting and positive results for the city, preserving some of its most cherished and celebrated places.

A recent example is the Victoria Theater on University Avenue. The former owner's preference was to demolish the structure and construct a parking lot. It was the most financially viable/beneficial option open to him at the time. Designation of the property helped create an environment that allowed a mutually beneficial solution to be found. It is now in the process of becoming a vital performing space that will serve the multi-cultural community in which it is located.

We ask and encourage you to give Saint Andrew's the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

Carol Carey
Executive Director