

October 31st, 2018

Michael Justin
Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 West 4th St., Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55102

RE: Local Historic Designation of Saint Andrew's Church

Dear Mr. Justin,

It is with great pleasure that we, members of Save Historic St. Andrew's (SHSA), write in support of a determination of eligibility of the former Saint Andrew's Church as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation Site. We share in our Capital City's respect for history and recognition that authentic reflections of our past are a vital part of today's healthy communities. We are grateful that City policies prioritize historic preservation and encourage active citizen participation. SHSA would like to thank the staff of the Heritage Preservation Commission for their guidance in pursuing the protection of an historic landmark in our community.

We recognize that SHSA is seeking historic designation without the cooperation of the building's owner, the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) Building Company. However, throughout this process it has been our sincere hope that TCGIS would welcome other community perspectives and expertise to the table to genuinely explore alternative options to full demolition of the building. To this end, we have been diligently working with local experts in adaptive reuse to organize a design charrette, where viable alternatives can be developed that incorporate both the needs of the school and concerns of the broader community. If the former St. Andrew's church, now the Aula of TCGIS, is determined to be eligible for historic designation, we anticipate that it may be the needed catalyst for working together towards a collaborative solution.

Our efforts towards historic designation began when we learned that TCGIS intended to demolish and replace the Aula/St. Andrew's as a part of the school's expansion plan. As a true grassroots effort that started with a handful of neighbors just seven months ago, all our accomplishments represent the hard work of dedicated citizens operating without the advantages of an organized institution. Regarding our efforts, we would like to highlight the following:

1) Substantial neighborhood and public support for historic preservation of St. Andrew's

- Over 600 people – the majority being Como neighborhood residents – signed our initial petition, asking for TCGIS to delay building plans to allow for a historical assessment of the property and broader community input.
- We have raised \$8,530 from 89 people via a GoFundMe campaign.
- 140 "Save Historic St. Andrew's" lawn signs are on display, most by homeowners in the Como neighborhood.
- Over 80 people attended our public forum on October 11th, 2018.

2) Broad and supportive press coverage

This issue has been covered in 17 news stories from 7 media outlets. Many of the headlines emphasize concern for the potential loss of a historic building (most recent listed first):

"Historic Designation Could Save Former St. Paul Church From Wrecking Ball", KSTP Channel 5 News, 10/24/18,
<https://kstp.com/news/st-andrews-church-como-park-neighborhood-st-paul-historic-designation-wrecking-ball-german-immersion-school/5120870/>

"German Immersion school board votes to demolish old St. Andrew's Church", City Pages, 8/7/18,
<http://www.citypages.com/news/german-immersion-school-board-votes-to-demolish-old-st-andrews-church/490187151>

[“TCGIS Board votes to tear down St. Andrew’s and build new”](http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-board-votes-to-tear-down-st-andrews-and-build-new/), St. Paul Monitor, 8/7/18, <http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-board-votes-to-tear-down-st-andrews-and-build-new/>

[“School to demolish former St. Andrew church building”](http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/school-to-demolish-former-st-andrew-church-building/), The Catholic Spirit, 8/7/18, <http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/school-to-demolish-former-st-andrew-church-building/>

[“Old St. Paul Church to be Demolished for School Expansion”](https://kstp.com/news/old-st-paul-church-to-be-demolished-for-school-expansion/5012318/), KSTP Channel 5 News, 7/31/18, <https://kstp.com/news/old-st-paul-church-to-be-demolished-for-school-expansion/5012318/>

[“German-immersion school board votes to raze old St. Paul church for new addition”](http://www.startribune.com/german-immersion-school-board-votes-to-raze-old-church-for-new-addition/489646501/), Star Tribune, 7/31/18, <http://www.startribune.com/german-immersion-school-board-votes-to-raze-old-church-for-new-addition/489646501/>

[“Como neighborhood fights to save 1927 church from demolition”](https://www.twincities.com/2018/06/24/st-paul-mn-st-andrews-church-como-german-immersion-school/), Pioneer Press, 6/24/18, <https://www.twincities.com/2018/06/24/st-paul-mn-st-andrews-church-como-german-immersion-school/>

[“TCGIS denies request by 600 petitioners to delay building project”](http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-denies-request-by-600-neighbors-to-delay-building-project/), St. Paul Monitor, 6/12/18, <http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-denies-request-by-600-neighbors-to-delay-building-project/>

[“Neighbors band together to save historic St. Andrew’s Church”](http://monitorsaintpaul.com/neighbors-band-together-to-save-historic-st-andrews-church/), St. Paul Monitor, 6/12/18, <http://monitorsaintpaul.com/neighbors-band-together-to-save-historic-st-andrews-church/>

[“Future of Old St. Paul Church Sparks Debate”](https://kstp.com/news/future-st-paul-church-st-andrews-catholic-sparks-debate/4939191/), KSTP Channel 5 News, 6/7/18, <https://kstp.com/news/future-st-paul-church-st-andrews-catholic-sparks-debate/4939191/>

[“Retired priest hopes to save childhood church building from demolition”](http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/retired-priest-helping-save-childhood-church-building-from-demolition/), The Catholic Spirit, 6/5/18, <http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/retired-priest-helping-save-childhood-church-building-from-demolition/>

[“In Como Park, a battle to save St. Andrew’s Church from a school’s bulldozer”](http://www.citypages.com/news/in-como-park-a-battle-to-save-st-andrews-church-from-a-schools-bulldozer/484202371/), City Pages, 6/1/18, <http://www.citypages.com/news/in-como-park-a-battle-to-save-st-andrews-church-from-a-schools-bulldozer/484202371/>

[“Group rallies to prevent tear-down of former St. Andrew church”](http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/group-rallies-to-prevent-tear-down-of-former-st-andrew-church/), The Catholic Spirit, 5/21/18, <http://thecatholicspirit.com/news/local-news/group-rallies-to-prevent-tear-down-of-former-st-andrew-church/>

[“Neighbors hope to save historic St. Andrew church”](https://www.parkbugle.org/90293-2/), St. Paul Park Bugle, 5/11/18, <https://www.parkbugle.org/90293-2/>

[“TCGIS neighbors want community ‘anchor’ to remain”](http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-neighbors-want-community-anchor-to-remain/), St. Paul Monitor, 5/7/18, <http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-neighbors-want-community-anchor-to-remain/>

[“TCGIS likely to tear down former St. Andrew’s Church”](http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-likely-to-tear-down-former-st-andrews-church/), St. Paul Monitor, 4/10/18, <http://monitorsaintpaul.com/tcgis-likely-to-tear-down-former-st-andrews-church/>


[“St. Paul school ready to part with its repurposed old church, but neighborhood isn’t”](http://www.startribune.com/school-ready-to-part-with-its-repurposed-old-church-but-neighborhood-isn-t/478120753/), Star Tribune, 3/27/18, <http://www.startribune.com/school-ready-to-part-with-its-repurposed-old-church-but-neighborhood-isn-t/478120753/>

3) The independence of the historic preservation consultants

We would like to emphasize the distinct independence maintained by the historic preservation consultant team hired by SHSA to prepare the historic nomination of St. Andrew’s. From the very first steps, Rolf Anderson clearly prioritized, through direct communication and by his actions, the need for unquestionable objectivity in his work. In the process of selecting a professional to lead this work, this was a key factor in our decision. Although members of SHSA helped to locate archived documents, the interpretation of the historical information was made by the consultant team alone. In fact, many members of SHSA never met Rolf Anderson or other members of the team until our forum on October 11th, after the completion of the nomination document.

Given the strength of the nomination, we urge the Commission to vote in favor of designating the former St. Andrew’s Church eligible as a St. Paul Heritage Preservation Site. We believe the facts speak for themselves.

Sincerely,



Anna Mosser, on behalf of Save Historic St. Andrew’s

Jeffery M Thole
810 Idaho Ave. West
St. Paul, MN 55117
October 30. 2018

Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Committee
c/o Michael Justin
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Committee;

I am not a neighbor of the former St. Andrew's Church, and I am not a former parishioner. I am a concerned resident of St. Paul that appreciates the history and architecture of the former St. Andrew's Church at 1031 Como Ave.

The architecture is unique. They call it Romanesque Revival, but it is actually a combination of several early styles. The brick work is custom and artistic. The brick work varies greatly on different sections of the building. And the multi-colored tile roof is amazingly beautiful. I have not noticed another roof like that any where else in St. Paul.

The architect was Charles A. Hausler. Mr. Hausler was highly respected for the quality of his work. And Mr. Hausler was quite progressive for his day, often hiring women and minorities to help with the drafting work. Mr. Hausler went on to represent St. Paul ward 5 and 6 in the Minnesota Senate. There he fought to improve building and safety codes.

So for the reasons stated above, I ask you to help the Como/ Warendale community to save St. Andrews. Six other Hausler designed buildings already have historical designation. But none of those six are as unique and beautiful as historic St. Andrew's.

Most Sincerely,


Jeffery M Thole

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2018 12:46 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: The Former St. Andrew's Church

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair:

I am sending this email / letter to ask that you vote in favor of the request to make the building located at 1031 Como Avenue, which is the former St. Andrew's Church, now used by The Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historical landmark.

This is an important historic treasure for several reasons. It is a unique example of Romanesque Revival architecture. It was designed by the first City of St. Paul architect Charles Hausler, who's buildings are historically significant. Six Hausler designed buildings are listed on the Register of Historic Places. It is also treasured by neighbors, such as myself, who truly enjoy its unique beauty.

Historic treasures cannot be regained once they are lost, and cannot be rebuilt if they are torn down. This beautiful historic treasure is under threat of demolition. Please prevent this from happening. Please prevent St. Paul and the neighborhood from being robbed of this priceless gem.

This building has been surveyed and deemed eligible to be listed as a local *and* a national historic building. Therefore, I strongly and urgently request that you support nominating the former St. Andrews Church as a historical landmark.

Sincerely,

Judy Gronquist Grant
1455 Breda Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Muriel R. Gubasta
5662 Brandlwood Court
St. Paul, MN 55110

31 October 2018

Georgé Gause
Director
St. Paul's Heritage Preservation Commission
25 West 4th Street
Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55102
George.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Subject: November 5, 2018 public hearing to determine the eligibility of the former St. Andrew's church building as a local heritage preservation site.

Dear Mr. Gause:

My family has been in the Como Park neighborhood since approximately 1900. It was around that time that my paternal great grandparents, Coleman and Justina Horvath, emigrated from Hungary to St. Paul, Minnesota and settled in Como Park. Since 1903 my family had been parishioners of St. Andrew Church. Also, Coleman Horvath, like many Hungarians who settled in the Warrendale neighborhood, monthly contributed money to the building of the new St. Andrew Church building on Como Avenue.

Coleman and Justina were married in 1908 in the first St. Andrew Church, which was located near Argyle and Hatch in St. Paul. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the St. Andrew Church on Como Avenue. All six of their children attended St. Andrew's School; their oldest child, Gizella, my paternal grandmother, was in the first, First Communion Celebration at St. Andrew Church. Gizella's children, John Gubasta, Jr. (my father) and his sister Dolores Gubasta attended St. Andrew's Catholic School. My siblings and I were the fourth

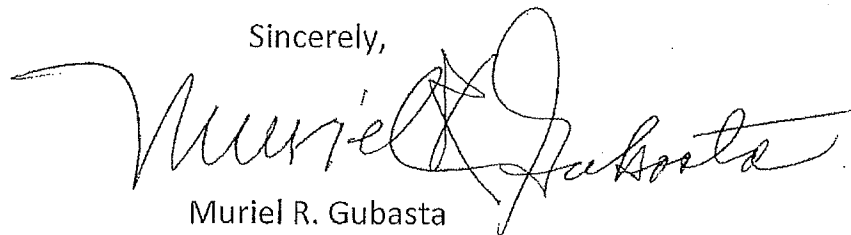
generation to attend the school and my nephew, Evan, was the fifth generation to do so.

There are several hundred other family stories that are similar to mine. Families of German, French, Hungarian, Italian, Russian, Greek, and Spanish heritage (to name a few) who fused their spiritual and social lives in Church of St. Andrew and its school. Even though many of those preceding generations have moved on, it does not mean St. Andrew Church building no longer has historic and cultural value. To raze St. Andrew Church building is to destroy the rich, historic and cultural identity of this beautiful neighborhood in Como Park.

Charles A. Hausler, St. Paul's first city architect in 1914, designed the St. Andrew Church building. It represents a distinctive example of the Romanesque Revival Style, which was inspired by Romanesque churches built in southern France and northern Italy. For newly arrived immigrants to the United States, like my paternal great grandparents, St. Andrew Church building represented the courage and the strength of the human spirit to endure great hardships to reach the shores of their new country, struggling to win acceptance in the New World while retaining the unique habits, customs, and beliefs that today contribute to our shared identity.

On behalf of the Gubasta and Horvath families, I strongly implore St. Paul's Historic Preservation Commission to designate St. Andrew Church building a local heritage preservation site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel R. Gubasta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "G".

Muriel R. Gubasta

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: The Burkhow's <ajburkhow@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 11:50 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Cc: Ted Anderson
Subject: Re: The Twin Cities German immersion school

Hi Mr. Gause,

I noticed that my letter was not included in the HPC packet for Monday. If you are able to add it at this time, please do.

Thank you,
Allison Burkhow

On Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 10:55 AM Allison Burkhow <ajburkhow@gmail.com> wrote:
Greetings!

I am a parent at the German immersion school. We have had 5 children in the school since 2008. Our first child began school the year that TCGIS transitioned into its second location. Then we were a part of the transition to the property where the school currently is located in the Como Park area.

I understand the conundrum of what to do about this unique church building. It is a beautiful structure aesthetically. As a church worker and member, I also understand the great sentimental value that the church has to people both historically and spiritually.

As someone who is invested in the school, I also understand the challenges of the current church building for our purposes. I have attended many performances and activities in the Aula space. I can tell you that the acoustics in that room are horrible. Sound echoes off the walls making even an amplified voice hard to understand. Audience seating for performances is metal folding chairs. As a gymnasium it is also substandard. There are stairs and uneven spaces for children and balls to run into. And there is no space for bleachers so we are unable to host any sporting events in our space. It is not an ideal space for either a gymnasium or auditorium.

I honestly do not know the solution to the issue we are facing about this space. But I do have some thoughts that I wish to share as you weigh the issues. I can appreciate the beauty and history of a significant structure, but historical places are either refurbished and sustained by actual tours of the building itself, or they are re-purposed for some practical reason. I do not see the church building becoming a historical destination in its own right. If that were the case, it would have been purchased and restored years ago.

It HAS been reorganized into a practical space since the German school moved into the property. But now, understanding the costs involved in maintenance and updates it is no longer practical for us. Frankly, it would be irresponsible for the school to invest large sums of money into this space, especially as it is not an ideal facility for us.

Honestly, I am not opposed to moving our school elsewhere in search of better accommodations, though I do have friends who feel strongly about staying in this neighborhood. We are ideally located within walking distance of wonderful natural areas. Como Park has been an excellent way for us to make up for the lack of open yard space on our campus. Parking during busy times is also an issue for parents, but we are organized and try to be respectful of the neighborhood.

So if we DID find another suitable facility and decided to move, how difficult would it be to sell this property? With the neighborhood controversy and hostility be enough to deter potential buyers? Would the lack of expansion space available and other factors I mentioned make the property unappealing to new buyers? TCGIS cannot absorb the costs needed for long term maintenance and restoration of the church building. Does the community prefer to have a vacant, lifeless building at its center?

These are a few of my thoughts and concerns surrounding the Historical designation of the former, St. Andrews church. I do not envy the decision you will have to make, but I think your impartial leadership will be very helpful to this disagreement - so I thank you for your moderation!

Thank you for your time.
Allison Burkhaw
7800 Tyler Street NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
763.639.767 cell

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 26, 2018, at 8:16 AM, Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Greetings!

I am a parent at the German immersion school. We have had 5 children in the school since 2008. Our first child began school the year that TCGIS transitioned into its second location. Then we were a part of the transition to the property where the school currently is located in the Como Park area.

I understand the conundrum of what to do about this unique church building. It is a beautiful structure aesthetically. As a church worker and member, I also understand the great sentimental value that the church has to people both historically and spiritually.

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It HAS been reorganized into a practical space since the German school moved into the property. But now, understanding the costs involved in maintenance and updates it is no longer practical for us. Frankly, it would be irresponsible for the school to invest large sums of money into this space, especially as it is not an ideal facility for us.

Honestly, I am not opposed to moving our school elsewhere in search of better accommodations, though I do have friends who feel strongly about staying in this neighborhood. We are ideally located

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: Scott Wendell <scott.wendell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2018 9:22 AM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Subject: TCGIS

Mr. Gause and the St. Paul HPC,

I am a Como Park resident with no ties to TCGIS, other than to appreciate that we have an extremely successful public school in our neighborhood. I wish to keep the school where it is, and give future children the opportunity to experience language immersion education. I ask that you reject the nomination of the former church building for historic preservation.

The neighborhood would be much better suited by having an active school in a building that meets their needs, as opposed to a deteriorating building or, at worst case, a vacant property. The objectives of a small number of neighbors that can directly see the building out of their front windows should not take priority over the thousands of people who have and will continue to receive a benefit from the school.

This small group of neighbors near TCGIS have, in my opinion, never been willing to accept the school into the area. I question why preservation is a priority now, when it has not been over the past seven years since the Catholic Church sold the building, or even any time before. To me, it is selfish of these neighbors to deny children the best possible educational experience.

Again, I ask that you reject this nomination.

Sincerely,
Scott Wendell
1350 Como Blvd E
St. Paul, MN 55117

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Sent: Friday, November 02, 2018 7:55 AM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Subject: FW: a letter in support of TCGIS
Attachments: image002.png

From: Carrie Nelson <c.nelson1789@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:30 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: a letter in support of TCGIS

Hello, Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

My letter is short, but heartfelt. I want to let you know that my two children attend the Twin Cities German Immersion school, a place that has shown them welcome, provided their first friends, and consistently offered us their best, earnest efforts. My oldest has some special needs and the school administration has gone above and beyond to assist with her inclusion and to fight alongside us, for her. It is a wonderful school, thriving and doing right in so many ways.

My husband and I did not grow up in Minnesota and so we don't know the familiar fondness so many here do for neighborhoods and buildings. Maybe, in that sense, our opinion doesn't count as much. But our children are growing up here, and I can tell you that school means everything to them. I ask you to continue to let it grow by giving it the sorely needed instructional space the new building plan would provide. As a community, we should throw our efforts wholeheartedly behind good programs doing great things.

Sincerely,

Carrie Nelson

1822 Fairmount Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55105

attending their own school districts?

Sounds much more noble to want to save a church building.

I wonder if they have thought what it will be like to have vacant buildings in the middle of our block again. How long they will be vacant this time? Who will buy a church building in need of so much maintenance? My own concern is whether the middle of our block will become a mini Shalom Home replica (corner of Snelling and Midway Parkway).

Lastly, I just found out there was a deadline for getting this communication to you. It was not mentioned in the letter you sent to announce this meeting for Nov. 5th.

Good Luck with this decision.

Marilyn A. Miller

1150 Churchill St. m.miller1150@comcast.net 651-261-8994 -cell

Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)

From: Maryln Miller <m.miller1150@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:55 PM
To: Boulware, Christine (CI-StPaul)
Subject: St. Andrew's Church Designation - 1031 Como Ave.

Dear HPC Chair,

I have lived across the alley from the St. Andrew's site for forty-two years. We were members of the parish community. My children went to school there and I worked for the parish as a volunteer and in a paid position for several years. There are many good memories of time spent there. Long term friendships were formed there. It was a sad day when the Archdiocese no longer saw it as a viable parish. The Archdiocese abandoned and sold it with little concern for its future. The new owners of the property made no commitment to preserving the buildings as they were at time of purchase.

I thought the HPC had a guideline that a building must be at least one hundred years old to qualify for HP. This building does not qualify. I thought another guideline was that the building owner must be seeking the HP status. The owners are not seeking this status. If these guidelines are true, I'm not sure why any of this is being discussed. I also heard (true or not) that HPC is not concerned about alterations to the interior of the building of which there have been many over the years. The exterior was altered by attaching the school building to the church building. In order to preserve the church building with integrity will HP require the attachment be taking down?

The Twin Cities German Immersion School has grown and is seeking to alter *their* property again. On the flip side there are some well intentioned people seeking your help to preserve the building and the memories it may contain even though they no longer go in it or even drive by it. Here are a few of the other reasons people have to save the church building.

They want the school to move out of the neighborhood because of traffic, noise, parking. For twenty minutes, twice a day there is traffic, This happens approximately 175 days per year. This happens near every school in St. Paul.

Some people aren't in favor of charter schools. Aren't they just tuition free (publicly funded) private schools?

Some people think this charter school is manipulating its test scores.

Some people question where this school obtained their financing and how they are spending it.

Some people question the distance from which the children come to attend this school. Shouldn't these children be

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: Erin Dooley <erin.dooley@spps.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 8:59 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of support for preservation of the former St Andrew's Building

October 30, 2018

George Gause

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr Gause:

I am writing you to express my strong support for nominating the building located at 1031 Como Avenue - the former St. Andrew's Church, now used by The Twin Cities German Immersion School – as a local historical landmark.

When my family moved to the Warrendale neighborhood almost 20 years ago, we were taken aback by the lovely sloping streets, older homes (ours was built in 1910), and amenities that have been well preserved that were in the neighborhood. The Streetcar Station was, at the time, park offices, but has been transformed into the lovely museum and D10 offices that are the center of social and political happenings in the area. The nearby streetcar/pedestrian bridge which was refurbished a few years ago is a lovely memorial to the city's early mass transit and nearby park features. The beautiful Lakeside Pavilion was not yet in use by Black Bear Crossing, but soon after was a wonderful example of using older spaces to meet current needs – a trend that continues today with its most recent tenant, Spring Café.

One additional piece of "history on display" is the former St Andrew's Church building. While no longer a church, it has stood prominently in the area with its beautiful exterior structures and notable tile roof for nearly a century. The rest of the property was rented out to several successive school and educational office tenants over the years. The building old school building was always occupied, much to our delight. When the entire property was sold, we were worried about the future of the site, but when it was purchased by another school, and they said that they planned to re-purpose the building, we were thrilled! There is something about having these lovely historical landmarks in this tiny corner of St Paul that connects one to the city itself. When we learned through the historic preservation study that it is "historic" on many different levels, that feeling of connectedness to the city made sense.

I am hopeful that your group will find this lovely piece of St Paul History to be eligible for Historic Designation. I also feel strongly that there can be a consensus as to its use by the current, or perhaps future owner/tenants that would allow for use and preservation.

I thank you and your team for their consideration and hard work on matters such as these; this is what makes St Paul great.

Sincerely,

Erin Dooley

1035 Van Slyke Ave

St Paul, MN 55103



Erin Dooley

Science Teacher/Restorative Practices Facilitator, Murray Middle School

Saint Paul Public Schools • 2200 Buford Ave St Paul MN 55108

Office: 651-488-8415

erin.dooley@spps.org



Not everything that counts can be counted; not everything that can be counted counts. -- Albert Einstein

Murray Middle School

2200 Buford Ave

St Paul, MN 55108

651-744-5248 -- erin.dooley@spps.org

October 30, 2018

Michael Justin
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair:

I am writing you to express my strong support for nominating the building located at 1031 Como Avenue - the former St. Andrew's Church, now used by The Twin Cities German Immersion School – as a local historical landmark. As a social studies teacher in the Como community, I see the value of protecting historic architecture for our future. I believe buildings such as this one is important to preserving our Minnesota heritage.

I have learned the church was built in 1927 and designed by Charles Hausler who was the first City of St. Paul architect and who has six other buildings - Arlington Hills Library, Anthony Park Library, WestSide Library, Minnesota Building, Minnesota Milk Building and St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hague, North Dakota – all listed on the Register of Historic Places which gives credence to his superb architectural design skills.

The building, which is under threat of demolition, was extensively surveyed by a reputable team of historical architects and is deemed eligible to be listed as a local and a national historic Building.

I urge you to vote in favor of the request to make this fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture as a historical landmark to the St. Paul City Council.

With concern,



Kristin Koch
3612 Bailey Ridge Circle
Woodbury, MN 55125

October 30, 2018

Michael Justin
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair:

I am writing you to express my strong support for nominating the building located at 1031 Como Avenue - St. Andrew's, now occupied by TCGIS - as a local historical landmark.

St. Andrew's began as a mission church in 1895 and served for more than a century as the anchor for numerous working class and immigrant communities in the growing Capital City. The importance of the historical and culture value of St. Andrews can't be overstated, it's legacy runs deep in the community.

Charles Hausler (1889-1971) wore many professional hats as an engineer, architect, senator, deputy sheriff. Charles Hausler was considered the leader among architects in St. Paul with unusual talent.¹ Haulser was licensed as architect in 1908 and was licensed in MN/ WI/ ND/ SD, MT and FL. In 1915, Hausler hired Clarence "Cap" Wigington as a senior draftsman. Wigington was an African-American architect and is recognized as the nation's first black municipal architect. Hausler also appointed William M. Godette as junior architect. The Commissioner and Haulser were given credit for their 'broadminded action' regarding this appointment. Godette was the second African American hired by Hausler, not a standard practice at the time.

Charles Hausler, the Father of "building codes," wrote St. Paul's first building code in 1921. Safety was key in his designs, he preferred one-story schools because children could get out quicker in the event of a fire. He preferred concrete over steel, because steel could bend and lose its strength in a fire whereas concrete would not.

St. Andrew's was extensively surveyed by a reputable team of historical architects and is deemed eligible to be listed as a local *and* a national historic building. I urge you to vote in favor to make St. Andrew's as a historical landmark to the St. Paul City Council.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Youngquist
651-503-6314
Bonnie.Youngquist@comcast.net
1170 Churchill Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

¹ Minnesota and Its People, Volume 2, pages 1083 - 84. 1915

October 30, 2018

Michael Justin
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair:

I am writing you to express my strong support for nominating the building located at 1031 Como Avenue - the former St. Andrew's Church, now used by The Twin Cities German Immersion School - as a local historical landmark.

The building, which is under threat of demolition, was extensively surveyed by a reputable and independent team of historical architects and is deemed eligible to be listed as a local and a national historic building.

The church was built in 1927 and designed by Charles Hausler who was the first City of St. Paul Architect and who has six other buildings - Arlington Hills Library, St. Anthony Park Library, West Side Library, Minnesota Building, Minnesota Milk Building and St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hague, North Dakota - all listed on the Register of Historic Places which gives credence to his superb architectural design skills.

In addition, Mr. Hausler designed nearby Como Elementary School. There are likely other buildings and residences of architectural importance nearby as well. Hausler designed some Prairie style homes in Saint Paul. It would be interesting to see if he had a hand in designing the home at 1231 W. Como Boulevard. Consideration of the neighborhood as an Historic District is conceivable given the proximity of the known Hausler-designed buildings to Como Regional Park.

Hausler's contribution to Saint Paul's built environment did not stop at designing public buildings and Prairie style residences. He also developed some of Saint Paul's initial building codes and was elected to the Minnesota Legislature; a true Renaissance Man.

St. Andrew's was fortunate to secure Hausler as their designer; and the parish contributed substantially to the growth of the Warrendale neighborhood. The congregation was known to include Hungarian, German and Italian immigrants. St. Andrew's provided a spiritual and social center for the neighborhood and parish. My home was built in 1906 and is immediately east of the Church building. It was likely constructed by Hungarian or Slavic laborers. My neighbor, Nick Torok, is a metal detector hobbyist and found some coins in my yard that were Slavic and dated to the late 1800's, early 1900's.

With Hausler as the designer and the building's history as a spiritual and social center of the neighborhood, the historic relevance of this structure is obvious. To support historic designation further, neighbors and supporters of maintaining the structure are working hard to identify options for adaptive reuse of the building and entire site to provide the space the current owner believes it needs while keeping the structure intact.

This site has housed a school and been the center of the community for over 100 years. It will not become vacant eyesore, regardless of the current owners' suggestions to that effect.

I urge you to vote in favor of the request to make this fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture as an historical landmark to the St. Paul City Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teri Alberico", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Teri Alberico
1023 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

From: Sara Cox <sara.cox12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 30, 2018 2:20 PM
To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter of Support for Historic Designation of Former St. Andrew's Church

October 30, 2018

Michael Justin
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 Fourth Street West, Ste 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Mr. Justin:

We are writing to express our strong support for nominating the former St. Andrew's Church (now the Twin Cities German Immersion School - TCGIS) located at 1031 Como Avenue as a local historic landmark.

We have lived at 1152 Churchill Street for 12 years and look out at the former church from our kitchen, dining room and living room windows. We are directly across the alley from the west parking lot of the school (the former site of the Rectory). The church building is a defining feature of the Warrendale neighborhood - an imposing and beautiful structure that holds the history of this neighborhood, including a rich history of Hungarian immigrants.

The threat of demolition has paradoxically created an opportunity to learn more about the history of this building — and what a rich history it is. We have been delighted to learn about the pedigree of this building and its architect, Charles Hausler.

As parents of two children, one of whom will start kindergarten through SPPS next year, we respect the desire of the parents and the school administration to provide quality education, but there are other options for providing this than demolition of a historic building. What a wonderful space for the TCGIS students to learn about our history and to study within the walls of a historic landmark.

We urge you to vote in favor of the request to make this this truly one of a kind building a historical landmark.

Sincerely,

Sara & Ryan Cox
1152 Churchill St
St. Paul, MN 55103

October 30, 2018

Michael Justin
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Chair
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

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Teri Alberico
1023 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103