

**CITY OF SAINT PAUL  
HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT**

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**FILE NAME:** St. Andrew's Church

**HISTORIC NAME(S):** The Church of St. Andrew of Saint Paul

**CURRENT NAME:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

**INVENTORY #:** RA-SPC-0707

**OWNER:** Twin Cities German Immersion School Bldg and Educational Properties TCGIS LLC

**LOCATION/ADDRESS:** 1031 Como Avenue West

**HISTORIC ADDRESS:** 1051 Cross Street (renamed Como Avenue)

**ARCHITECT:** Charles A. Hausler

**BUILDER:** McGough Brothers

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** 1927

**BUILDING PERMIT#:** 24765

**DATE OF HPC PUBLIC HEARING:** November 5, 2018

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 10 Block 4 of Warrendale

SUBJ TO ESMT, VAC ALLEY ACCRUING AND FOL, BEG AT THE NW COR OF LOT 19 THENCE SELY ON THE NELY LOT LINE 60 FT THENCE S 78 FT TO PT 48.5 FT E AT RA FROM W LINE OF SD LOT THENCE SWLY 41.4 FT TO PT ON S LINE 25 FT E AT RA FROM W LINE THENCE WLY ON SD LINE 28 FT TO SW COR THENCE N 130.7 FT TO POB BEING PT OF LOT 19 ALSO ALL OF LOTS 10 THRU LOT 15 & LOTS 20 THRU LOT 23 BLK 4

**PIN(S):** 26 29 23 22 0038, 26 29 23 22 0172, 26 29 23 22 0172

**WARD:** 5

**PLANNING DISTRICT:** 10

**STAFF INVESTIGATION AND REPORT:** Christine Boulware

**DATE OF REPORT:** October 30, 2018

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**A. PURPOSE:** To consider local designation of the St. Andrew's Church as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

**B. CODE CITATIONS:**

1. Section 73.05 (a) of the City's Legislative Code states, in considering the designation of any area, place, building, structure or similar object in the City of Saint Paul as a heritage preservation site; the commission shall apply the following criteria with respect to such designation:

**(1) Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Saint Paul, State of Minnesota, or the United States.**

(2) Its location as a site of a significant historic event.

(3) Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City of Saint Paul.

**(4) Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural or engineering type or specimen.**

**(5) Its identification as the work of an architect, engineer, or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the City of Saint Paul.**

(6) Its embodiment of elements of architectural or engineering design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural or engineering innovation.

**(7) Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the City of Saint Paul.**

2. Section 73.05 states for *Planning commission review*. The heritage preservation commission shall advise the city planning commission of the proposed designation of a

heritage preservation site, including boundaries, and a program for the preservation of a heritage preservation site, and secure from the city planning commission its recommendation with respect to the relationship of the proposed heritage preservation designation to the comprehensive plan of the City of Saint Paul, its opinion as to the effect of the proposed designation upon the surrounding neighborhood, and its opinion and recommendation as to any other planning consideration which may be relevant to the proposed designation, together with its recommendation of approval, rejection or modification of the proposed designation. Said recommendation shall become part of the official record concerning the proposed designation and shall be submitted by the heritage preservation commission along with its recommendation concerning the proposed designation to the city council. The heritage preservation commission may make such modifications, changes and alterations concerning the proposed designations as it deems necessary in consideration of the recommendations of the city planning commission.

3. Section 73.05 states for *Communication with state historical society*. A copy of the heritage preservation commission's proposed designation of a heritage preservation site, including boundaries, and a program for the preservation of a heritage preservation site, shall be sent to the state historical society in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.193, Subdivision 6. Section 73.05 states for *Hearings*. Prior to the heritage preservation commission recommending to the city council any building, district or object for designation as a heritage preservation site the commission shall hold a public hearing and seek the recommendation of all concerned citizens
4. Section 73.05 states for *Finding and recommendations*. The heritage preservation commission shall determine if the proposed heritage preservation site(s) is eligible for designation as determined by the criteria specified in paragraph (a) of this section, and if the heritage preservation commission recommends to the city council that the site(s) be designated as a heritage preservation site, the commission shall transmit to the city council with its recommendation its proposed program for the preservation of the site.

#### **C. BACKGROUND:**

1. The Historic Sites Survey of St. Paul and Ramsey County was the first comprehensive inventory of historic buildings in St. Paul. The project began in December of 1980 and was completed in May of 1983. While Saint Andrew's is now located in District 10, at the time of the 1983 survey it was in District 6. St. Andrew's Church was inventoried during the survey (RA-SPC-0707) and identified as a Site of Major Significance and the Warrendale neighborhood was identified as a potential historic district. The 1983 survey was the start in developing neighborhood contexts by district council boundaries.
2. In 2001, the HPC commissioned six context studies including *Residential Real Estate Development: 1880-1950* which concluded that the original plat of Warrendale is a strong first candidate for further study as a local historic district and its significance is based on the planning ideas of the original plat, the strength of the developer's original marketing efforts, and the resulting architectural and community character. The context study noted that further study of the architecture and landscape of the area would result in a potential historic district both compact and representative of key ideas of its period of urban and architectural development.

*Churches, Synagogues, and Religious Buildings: 1849-1950* notes that at the time of the context study, there are "over seventy surviving churches from this period [1900-1930]"

that have been inventoried. It is not known the number that have been demolished since the context study was completed in 2001. The study describes, "Catholic church construction after 1900 included ... Several still extant twin-towered churches were built during this period, including the Church of St. Casimir at 937 Jessamine Ave. E (1904) and the 1,000-seat Church of St. Bernard (1907) by John Jager. The three-towered Church of St. Andrew at 1051 Como Avenue was completed in 1927."

#### D. FINDINGS:

1. **Legislative Code Sec. 73.05(b)** - The Planning Commission has not yet weighed in on the designation of St. Andrew's Church.
  - a. **Comprehensive Plan** - The designation is generally consistent with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, the Historic Preservation Chapter strategies call for designation and protection of historic resources:
    - HP 3.11** - Make the designation of significant historic resources as heritage preservation sites a priority for the City Council.
    - HP 3.12** - Designate historic resources, such as buildings, structures, objects, archaeological sites, historic districts, and landscapes as Saint Paul heritage preservation sites or historic districts; and
    - HP 4.3** - Protect undesignated historic resources.
      - Protect any undesignated property that is eligible for local designation or listing on the NRHP from destruction or a substantial loss of historic character until the HPC has an opportunity to consider alternatives to adverse effects, or pursue historic designation of the property, and/or find parties interested in acquiring and preserving it (see Strategy HP-1);
  - b. The ***District 10 Como Community Plan: An Addendum to the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan (2010)***, specifically states:
    - HLU 4.1.8 "Support the designation of historic resources such as buildings, structures, objects, archaeological sites, historic districts, and landscapes as Saint Paul heritage preservation sites or historic districts."
2. **Legislative Code Sec. 73.05(c)** and **Minnesota Statutes §471.193, subd. 6**, staff will submit the nomination form and draft preservation program to the State Historic Preservation Office if the HPC recommends St. Andrew's Church for designation as a local heritage preservation site.
3. The general integrity is assessed by evaluating seven aspects or qualities as defined by the National Park Service. St. Andrew's Church has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The **exterior historic integrity** of St. Andrew's Church is good to very good.
4. The **period of significance** for St. Andrew's Church is from **1927** when the church was constructed, to **1949** when over 400 families transferred from St. Andrew's Church to the newly established Maternity of Mary and Church of the Holy Childhood.
5. To understand the significance of individual properties or a group of properties, "**historic contexts**" are developed and informally refer to both a document and an understanding of circumstances surrounding an event or property. The National Park Service defines historic contexts as "those patterns or trends in history by which a specific occurrence, property, or site is understood and its meaning (and ultimately its significance) within history or prehistory is made clear." Contexts are based on a theme, geographic limits, and a chronological period to provide a framework for identifying, evaluating and treating the full range of properties that represent each historic context. Already established Saint Paul context studies that are applicable to St. Andrew's Church are *Residential*

*Real Estate Development: 1880-1950 and Churches, Synagogues, and Religious Buildings: 1849-1950.*

6. The **architectural significance** of St. Andrew's Church is noted in the nomination. The nomination highlights the primary Romanesque Revival Style architecture of the church with detail/design inspiration of northern Italy and southern France. The church also retains Byzantine influences in design elements and its Greek-cross layout. Larry Millett, local architectural historian notes in the *AIA Guide to the Architecture of the Twin Cities* that St. Andrew's Church is, "One of St. Paul's best period revival churches" and "by virtue of the quality of design and its beautiful detailing, [it] certainly deserves a high rank."
7. **Criteria (1)** St. Andrew's Church contributes to and is part of the character, interest and value as part of the development and heritage of the City of Saint Paul. The architectural style of the church along with its architectural and social value to the to the Warrendale neighborhood, former parishioners, along with its place in the development of the neighborhood between the two world wars demonstrates
8. **Criteria (4)** St. Andrew's Church is the retains the distinguishing characteristics of a Romanesque Revival Style Church in a northern Italy/southern France vocabulary with colorful Byzantine ornament and complex design.
9. **Criteria (5)** St. Andrew's Church was designed by architect, Charles A. Hausler who was the first city architect for Saint Paul. Hauslers architectural designs, including the Minnesota Building, the Minnesota Milk Company building, the St. Anthony Park, Riverview and Arlington Hills Carnegie Libraries, Riverview Commercial Club (razed), among dozens of other building in the city. His work has influenced the development of and in the City of Saint Paul.
10. **Criteria (7)** The Warrendale neighborhood has a unique layout designed by H.W.S. Cleveland, as it is not a grid, but a curvilinear plan and St. Andrew's Church is sited in a unique location within the plat. St. Andrew's Church is a singular physical characteristic and an established and familiar visual feature of the Warrendale neighborhood.
11. Saint Andrew's Church is significant under criteria (1), (4), (5) and (7) of Section 73.05 (a) of the Legislative Code.

#### **E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Based on the above findings, staff recommends that the nomination be accepted by the HPC and the HPC recommend Saint Andrew's Church for designation as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site for City Council consideration.

#### **F. ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Nomination Form
  - a. Part I: Introduction and Significance
  - b. Part 2: Limestone Context
  - c. Part 3: Description of Individual Properties
  - d. Part 4: Draft Preservation Program - forthcoming
2. Letters of testimony
3. Previous inventory form and 1903 Sanborn Insurance Map



1031 Como Avenue West  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
SHPO Inv. # RA-SPC-0707

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**St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
Individual Property Designation Form**



**Address:** 1031 Como Avenue West (formerly 1051 Cross Street, later renamed Como Avenue)

**Historic Name:** The Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

**Common or Current Name:** The building is commonly known as St. Andrew's Catholic Church or simply St. Andrew's. The current name of the property is the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

**PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION**

**PIN:** 26 29 23 22 0038, 26 29 23 22 0172, 26 29 23 22 0172

**SHPO Inventory #:** N/A

**Property Type:** Church

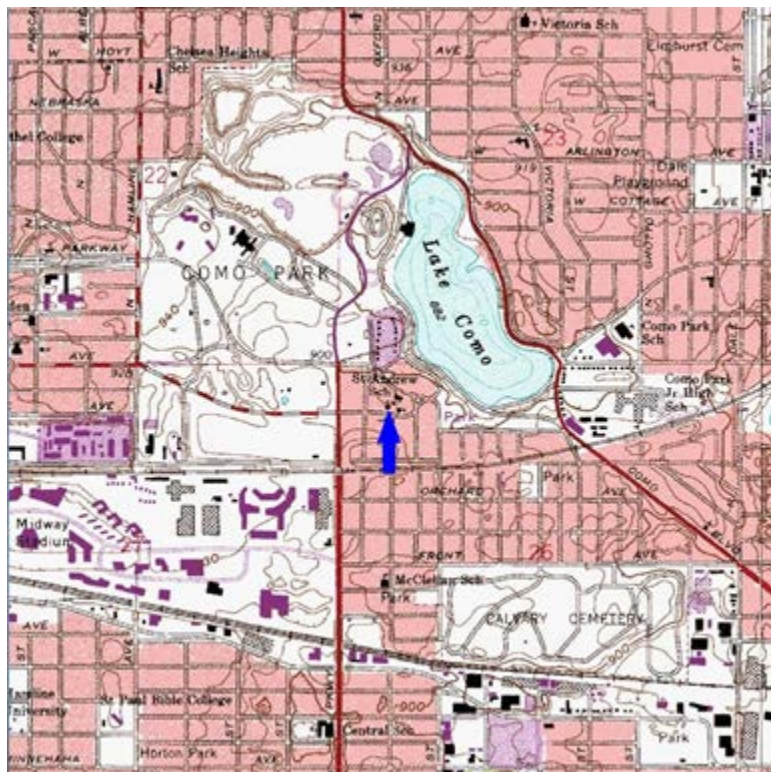
**Legal Description:** Lot 10 Block 4 of Warrendale

SUBJ TO ESMT, VAC ALLEY ACCRUING AND FOL, BEG AT THE NW COR OF LOT 19 THENCE SELY ON THE NELY LOT LINE 60 FT THENCE S 78 FT TO PT 48.5 FT E AT RA FROM W LINE OF SD LOT THENCE SWLY 41.4 FT TO PT ON S LINE 25 FT E AT RA FROM W LINE THENCE WLY ON SD LINE 28 FT TO SW COR THENCE N 130.7 FT TO POB BEING PT OF LOT 19 ALSO ALL OF LOTS 10 THRU LOT 15 & LOTS 20 THRU LOT 23 BLK 4

**Ward:** 5

**Planning District:** 10

**U.S.G.S. Map:** St. Paul West Quadrangle, MN, 7.5 Minute Series, Scale 1:24:000, 2016.



St. Andrew's Catholic Church (location noted with blue arrow)

## HISTORICAL ABSTRACT

**Building Permit #:** 24765

**Construction Date:** 1927

**Subsequent:**

**Architect:** Charles A. Hausler

**Builder:** McGough Brothers

**Moved:** N/A

**Original Address:** 1051 Cross Avenue, later renamed Como Avenue West

**Original Owner:** St. Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

**Subsequent:** Twin Cities German Immersion School Bldg and Educational Properties TCGIS LLC<sup>1</sup>

**Historic Uses:** Church

## DESCRIPTION

**Style:** Romanesque Revival

**Building Type:** Church

**No. of Stories:** 2

**Plan:** Rectangular

**Roof Type:** Gable

**Roof Material:** Multi-colored ceramic tile

**Structural System:** Reinforced concrete

**Foundation:** Concrete

**Façade Material:** Brick masonry

**Additional:** Multi-colored ceramic tile

**Outbuildings:** 1957 school building, which is connected to the church through a 2013-2104 addition.

**Other contributing features:** N/A

## VISUAL ASSESSMENT

**Exterior Condition:** Very good

**Exterior historic Integrity:** Very good

**Surrounding Land Uses:** Single family residential

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<sup>1</sup> According to Ramsey County Property Records, there are three property identification numbers for the property. The owner for 262923220038 and 262923220172 is identified as Attn: Kathleen Padian, Education Properties TCGIS LLC, 3248 Laurel St, New Orleans, LA 70115-2340. The owner for 262923220173 is identified as Twin Cities German Immersion School Bldg, 1031 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104.

## **St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission Individual Property Designation Form**

### **DESCRIPTION STATEMENT**

The Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul, commonly known as St. Andrew's Catholic Church or simply St. Andrew's, is located in a residential area on Como Avenue, two blocks east of Lexington Avenue, and one block to the southwest of Lake Como. Designed by architect Charles A. Hausler, and constructed in 1927, the building represents an example of the Romanesque Revival style.

St. Andrew's Catholic Church is a large, imposing building with overall dimensions of approximately 70 feet by 107 feet. The complex building features various bays, wings, towers, and roof forms. Resting on a raised basement, the building is clad in brown brick, in several dark tones, and trimmed with Bedford limestone. The elaborate brickwork features various patterns including Flemish, American, running, basket weave, and herringbone bonds, as well as extensive brick corbelling. A broad intersecting-gable roof, with multi-colored ceramic tiles, covers the main body of the church. The building achieves a highly-polychromatic effect through the use of dark brick, light stone, and multi-colored tiles. (Figure 2)

The south-facing principal elevation is a complex and detailed composition. (Figure 3) A broad set of stairs ascend to the main entrance and extend across the entire width of the building. A projecting entrance portico is set at the base of a high recessed arch. The entrance portico is characterized by wide alternating bands of brick and stone, a pediment with a series of blind arches, and a multi-colored tiled roof. Paired entrance doors with round window openings are set within an arched opening with ornate detailing and supported by stone columns. A round-arched opening with four round windows is placed to each side of the entrance.

The tympanum of the arch above the main entrance contains a sculptural panel in high relief. However, the sculpture is currently covered with fiberboard and is not visible.

Engaged towers are positioned to each side of the main entrance and extend above the building's roofline. Eight-sided turrets complete each tower. The turrets feature blind openings inset with tan and terra cotta-colored tiles, and multi-colored tile roofs.

A single entrance door with round windows is placed to the side of each tower. Each doorway is set within a recessed stone arch with similar detailing to that of the main entrance. A niche for sculpture is placed above each arch. The tympanum of the arch above each side entrance contains a sculptural panel in high relief. However, as is the case with the main entrance, the sculpture is currently covered with fiberboard and is not visible.

An elaborate rose window is set within the recessed arch above the main entrance. (Figure 4) The framework for the window is stone. A cross is centered in the window and is encircled with twenty, round window openings. There are three tear-drop shaped windows between each arm of the cross. The outer stone frame of the window features an ornate band of foliated panels.

The pediment above the recessed arch features a series of blind arches, a niche for sculpture, and brick corbelling just below the roofline. However, based on historic photographs, it does not appear there had ever been a sculptural piece within the niche.

The east elevation consists of several bays of various heights and roof forms and also includes a high tower. (Figure 5) The south bay extends from the main mass of the building and is covered with a shed roof. Two gabled roof sections project from the east side of the bay. (Figure 6) The section to the south features paired openings separated by stone columns on both the first and second stories. The first story openings are covered with round arches. The lower section appears to have contained rectangular windows, but the openings have been infilled with brick. The paired windows on the second story are covered with round arches, but both are set within a recessed panel that is also covered with an arch. The tympanum of the arch is infilled with square and diamond-shaped multi-colored ceramic tiles that match the colors of the roof tiles. (Figure 7) The adjacent gabled-roof bay contains an entrance, and appears to have been added at a later date, although the design and materials are consistent with the design of the church.

The next bay on the south elevation includes the tall, bell tower. Beginning at the base, the square tower features paired window openings that are similar to the windows on the second floor of the south bay. Next, the tower features a semi-circular balcony constructed with stone. This is followed by a narrow window, which is also found on the other elevations of the tower. An octagonal belfry is positioned at the top of the tower. Each side of the belfry contains a round-arched stone panel with four round windows. The panels are linked with broad stone bands. A low dome covered with multi-colored tiles completes the tower.

The next bay of the east elevation includes a high, gabled-roof section that represents the east transept of the church. Three, tall narrow windows are centered in the bay. The round-arched windows are separated by brick columns with stone bands. There is a cross just below the gable, which is formed by openings in the brickwork. A single brick pier capped with multi-colored tiles is positioned at the south side of the bay.

The final bay of the east elevation consists of a two-story projecting wing. The wing is covered with a gable roof, the north slope of which merges with the roof that covers the main body of the church. An entrance door set within a round-arched, brick-framed surround is positioned to the north side of the bay. A small double-hung window is located to the left of the entrance. The second story is defined by two, round-arched, multi-paned windows. Brick piers capped with multi-colored tiles are placed at each side of the bay.

The west elevation is nearly identical to the east elevation, except there is no tower, nor the later entrance bay found on the east elevation. (Figure 8) Instead, those areas of the west elevation feature additional window openings.

The north elevation originally featured three, round windows that opened onto the altar. But the openings have been infilled. A tall, square chimney is attached to the north elevation. Stone bands define the top of the chimney.



The interior of the church is in the form of a Greek cross covered by a groin vault. A balcony is located at the south end of the nave and is accessed by spiral stairs in each of the two towers along the principal elevation. The interior was simplified in the modern era as was often the case with Catholic churches as a result of the Second Vatican Council. (Figure 9) The lower level included spaces for dining and community gatherings and a kitchen.

### **Other Buildings**

St. Andrew's School is located a short distance to the north of the church and faces Van Slyke Avenue. The school was designed by Shifflet, Backstrom, Hutchinson, and Dickey and was constructed in 1957. The two-story brick building rests on a raised basement and features large window openings and a flat roof. There are classrooms on the first and second floors and dining space and a kitchen on the lower level.

An addition in 2013-2014 by the Twin Cities German Immersion School linked the school with the church. The glass and metal-clad building extends from the north elevation of the church and wraps around the west elevation of the school. (Figure 10)

### **Current Status**

In 2011, the congregations of St. Andrew's and the Church of the Maternity of Mary merged, and all functions transferred to the Maternity of Mary site at the intersection of Dale and Arlington. In 2013, the entire property was purchased by the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

### **Assessment of Integrity**

St. Andrew's Church retains very good integrity. The exterior remains in very original condition and there have been few changes. The interior has experienced a loss of integrity as a result of a simplification of the interior during the modern era as well as the more recent removal of all the furnishings, including the pews, altar, and stained glass windows, which were relocated to the Church of the Maternity of Mary. However, the interior retains its original layout, proportions, and spatial arrangement.

The 2013-2014 addition has also resulted in a loss of integrity. However, the addition is only attached to the north elevation of the church, which was largely a blank wall. Moreover, the strong visual presence of the church and its three primary elevations are not affected by the addition.

The integrity of the overall property was impacted by the 2013 demolition of the rectory, which was designed by Bettenburg, Townsend, and Stolte in 1950, and the 2000 demolition of the convent, which was designed by John Wheeler in 1926. However, the significance of the property is primarily associated with and represented by the church building.

## **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

**Period of Significance:** 1927-1949

### **St. Paul Historic Contexts:**

- Churches, Synagogues, and Religious Buildings: 1849-1950
- Residential Real Estate Development: 1880-1950

**St. Paul Heritage Preservation Criteria/Criterion:** 1, 4, 5, 7

St. Andrew's Catholic Church is architecturally significant as a well-designed example of the Romanesque Revival style. The church is not only significant in the Lake Como area, where it maintains a strong architectural presence, it is also among St. Paul's most distinctive period revival style churches. St. Andrew's Catholic Church is also significant for its association with Charles A. Hausler, who served as the first city architect for the city of St. Paul and whose large and diverse body of work had an important impact on the city.

St. Andrew's Catholic Church is also historically significant as an important institution in the Lake Como area that became a community center for the working-class congregation that it served. The church also served a community of Hungarian immigrants and is significant for its association with the Hungarian immigrant experience. The broader impact of the church was demonstrated by the five new congregations that were created from the area served by St. Andrew's Church.

### **History of St. Andrew's Congregation**

St. Andrew's Catholic Church was established in 1895 when four local residents petitioned the pastor of the Church of St. Vincent to create a mission church in order to serve the growing population of the Lake Como area. Even though the area that was to become the heart of St. Andrew's parish had been platted in 1859 as "Como Villa," growth had been very limited. But in 1883, the right of way for a subsidiary line of the Northern Pacific Railway between St. Paul and Brainerd was routed just to the south of Lake Como. More importantly, the directors of the Northern Pacific decided to construct extensive shops along the right of way. Construction of the eleven buildings that were to comprise the Como Shops was completed in 1885. As the shops became operational, employees sought housing nearby, and Como Villa and adjacent areas saw a rapid increase in population.<sup>2</sup>

The new mission church was housed in a building that had been constructed at the intersection of Hatch and Churchill streets in 1889 by a Presbyterian Congregation. After the Presbyterians vacated the building, it was purchased for St. Andrew's and moved diagonally across the intersection.

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<sup>2</sup> Pierre, Kenneth Jerome, "The Church of St. Andrew, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1885-1946" (M.A. Thesis, University of St. Thomas, 1966), 8-9. Zellie, Carole and Garneth O. Peterson, "St. Paul Historic Context Studies: Churches, Synagogues, and Religious Buildings" (St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, St. Paul, Minnesota, 2001), 4.

On April 6, 1907, St. Andrew's was incorporated as an independent parish. Father George Arctander became the first pastor. The congregation continued to grow and in 1908 the church was enlarged with a thirty foot addition. As of that same year the congregation included 195 families and a total of 923 parishioners.<sup>3</sup>

Following the death of Father Arctander, Father Thomas Printon was appointed the second pastor of St. Andrew's in 1910. Shortly after his arrival he made plans to improve the church building. In 1912, the church was raised and a basement hall was added for social functions. The front entrance to the church was also enlarged. But the congregation continued to grow and to help relieve the overcrowding, a new congregation, the Church of St. Columba, was established in 1914. St. Columba absorbed the southern portion of St. Andrew's parish.<sup>4</sup>

But even with the creation of this new parish, St. Andrew's still served 900 parishioners. It is interesting to note that the congregation was decidedly working class at this time. In the parish's 1916 statistical report, Father Printon stated, ". . . there are no business or professional men in this parish, except for one prize fighter."<sup>5</sup>

It had become clear a new church building was needed, as well as a school. Fund raising efforts began and land was purchased at the intersection of Argyle, Chatsworth, and Van Slyke streets. In 1919, a combination church and school building was completed. The two-story building was constructed on a raised basement and measured 98 feet long and 70 feet wide. The building was clad with brick and stone trim and covered with a flat roof. The church was located on the basement level, six classrooms were on the first floor, and the school auditorium was on the second floor. However, the congregation had difficulty raising funds for the building and its cost was ultimately paid through a gift of \$60,000 from Timothy Foley, a St. Paul businessman.

Thus, the first decade of Father Printon's pastorate began with a congregation of nearly 1,000 housed for worship in a church with a capacity of 300. It closed with a parish population of 1,458 in a larger church seating 850, but which was considered a temporary facility. It also closed with the prospect of over 200 pupils attending the first day of classes when St. Andrew's school opened in the fall of 1920.<sup>6</sup>

Between October 1923 and February 1926, more land was acquired for the parish that was located less than a block away from the combination church and school building. The land consisted of Lots 12-15, Block Four, of the Warrendale subdivision, on what is today Como Avenue. The first building erected on the property was a new convent in order to provide adequate living quarters for the nuns that staffed the school. Whereas six nuns from the Sisters of Notre Dame were able to staff the school in 1920, enrollment doubled to about 450 students by 1925, and twelve more teachers were needed. A fundraising effort began and in 1926 a new convent designed by John Wheeler was constructed.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Pierre, 24.

<sup>4</sup> Pierre, 28.

<sup>5</sup> Quoted in Pierre, 29.

<sup>6</sup> Pierre, 33.

<sup>7</sup> Pierre, 37.



On November 5, 1926, just four days after the nuns moved into the new convent, a building committee met with Father Printon to decide on the first steps to construct a new church that was designed by Charles Hausler. Construction proceeded at a rapid pace and the building was completed by the end of 1927. The church was built just to the west of the convent.

The parish had become the social as well as the liturgical center for Andrew's 500 families. Events held in 1927 confirm the diverse activities of the parish. They included a succession of card parties, club meetings, an all parish bazaar, dances, plays, lawn socials, festivals, and a traditional St. Patrick's Day program celebrated by a two-hour stage program.<sup>8</sup>

The Great Depression also affected St. Andrew's. The building program of the 1920s had left the church with \$131,000 in debt. In 1937, the indebtedness had only been reduced to \$111,500.00.

The 1930s brought further changes to the congregation. On July 24, 1939, the Church of St. Rose of Lima was incorporated from the northern portion of St. Andrew's parish. One hundred families from St. Andrew's transferred to the new parish.<sup>9</sup>

But additional congregations would also be created from St. Andrew's as the Lake Como area grew and expanded into the suburbs. Corpus Christi was established in 1940. And then in March 1946, the Archdiocese created what became referred to as "The Great Divide" by designating the area west of Lexington to Snelling Avenues as a new parish to be called the Church of the Holy Childhood. Then in 1949, Maternity of Mary was established to the east of St. Andrew's. Four hundred twenty-five families alone transferred from St. Andrew's to the Maternity of Mary and Holy Childhood.<sup>10</sup>

St. Andrew's continued to thrive and the congregation constructed a new rectory just to the west of the church in 1950. The building was designed by Bettenburg, Townsend, and Stolte. In 1957, a new school was built just to the north of the church. The building cost approximately \$300,000 and contained twelve classrooms, a lunchroom for hot lunches, a library, an auditorium, and offices. The school was designed by Shifflet, Backstrom, Hutchinson, and Dickey. The old church and school building was eventually demolished.

In 1968, as a result of the Second Vatican Council, the interior of the church was modernized and simplified. St. Andrew's was one of the first churches in the Archdiocese to be updated. As part of the changes, the three stained-glass windows in the chancel were closed off, although one of the openings was later reopened.

In 1989, St. Andrew's school merged with the school at the Maternity of St. Mary. The merged school was called Maternity of Mary/St. Andrew's – MMSA, and was located at the Maternity of Mary site. The school was still used for parish functions and continued to house a preschool

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<sup>8</sup> Pierre, 41.

<sup>9</sup> Pierre, 42-43.

<sup>10</sup> "1895-1995: Celebrating 100 Years as a Catholic Christian Community of the Como Area," (Ohio: United Church Directories, Church of St. Andrew, St. Paul, Minnesota), n.p.

program, but space was also leased to the St. Paul Public Schools for special programs.<sup>11</sup> Space was later leased to a French language immersion program.

St. Andrew's celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1995. But in 2011, the congregations of St. Andrew's and the Maternity of Mary merged, and functions transferred to the Maternity of Mary site at the intersection of Dale and Arlington. In 2013, the property was purchased by the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

### **St. Andrew's Hungarian Immigrants**

St. Andrew's was also notable for the Hungarian immigrants in the congregation. From 1880, St. Paul led all cities in Minnesota with respect to Hungarian born residents, who were also known as Magyars. The immigrants followed employment opportunities and settled in several areas in St. Paul. The oldest area, located south and west of Lake Como, included Ward 12 as well as portions of Wards 8 and 10. Within this area were four of the principal turn-of-the-century employers of Hungarian immigrants: the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railways, the St. Paul Foundry, and Koppers Twin City Coke. In 1980, the Como area still had a cluster of Hungarian families.<sup>12</sup>

Hungarian Catholics largely attended three congregations in St. Paul – the Churches of St. Agnes, St. Bernard, and St. Andrew. Organized as German-language parishes on St. Paul's North Side, St. Agnes and St. Bernard attracted German-speaking Hungarians from the Rice Street neighborhood who had come from northern Hungary. The Hungarian-speaking Magyars from the Como district also regularly attended St. Andrew and St. Agnes – especially from 1912 to 1921, when Hungarian-born Father Erno Ruckert served the latter as assistant pastor. But some were drawn back to St. Andrew's when a parochial school was opened there in 1920.<sup>13</sup>

As early as 1903, St. Andrew's welcomed the first group of Hungarian immigrants to the area and to their church. Their arrival is considered part of the second wave of Hungarian immigration that lasted from the 1870s to the end of World War I. Hungarian immigration continued to increase the membership of the parish.<sup>14</sup>

Like many of the immigrants that settled in Minnesota, the Hungarian-Americans founded organizations to support their immigrant community. At least two such organizations were created in St. Paul: the Baross Gabor Social and Sick Benefit Society founded in 1892 and the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Benevolent Society founded in 1904.

In 1922, Hungarian families were pictured on the steps of St. Andrew's, at the entrance to the combination church and school building. (Figure 11) A caption on the photo reads "Hungarian

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<sup>11</sup> "1895-1995," n.p.

<sup>12</sup> Kirchner, Paul and Anne R. Kaplan, "The Hungarians." *In They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups*, edited by June Dressing Holmquist (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), 424-425.

<sup>13</sup> Kirchner, 426.

<sup>14</sup> Pierre, 24. Pierre interviewed Mr. and Mrs. John Tarr on August 28, 1966. Mr. Tarr first came to St. Paul from Fertozseplak, Hungary, in 1905 with the help of Coleman Horwath who had emigrated from the same village in 1903. Mr. Tarr stated that the Meko, Lazar, Torok, Mentos, Hager, Basco and Varga families were also added to St. Andrew's Parish through immigration from Hungary.

Benevolent Society.” Since no organization has been identified with that specific name, it may be a reference to the Holy Trinity Society or perhaps the Baross Gabor Society.

Little is known about the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Benevolent Society, although the organization held celebrations at St. Andrew’s. However, the Baross Gabor Society had a clear connection with St. Andrew’s and held meetings at the church. The society, which remained in existence until 1973, had first met at “Como Hall” on Front Street, and then moved to the “German House” on Rice Street, and finally began to meet in the basement of St. Andrew’s.<sup>15</sup> Recent scholarship has also identified specific family members of St. Andrew’s who were also members of the Baross Gabor Society.<sup>16</sup>

St. Andrew’s long association with the Hungarian immigrant community may be summarized as follows:

St. Andrew, established as a territorial parish to serve all Catholics in the Como district, was popularly regarded as Hungarian because of its numerous Magyar members. Services were conducted in Latin and English, but the Magyar presence was nonetheless noticeable. Until the 1930s both the American and the Hungarian flags were displayed at the altar on traditional European holidays such as Holy Trinity Sunday, and as late as 1980 the parish retained an intangible but pervasive ethnic influence.<sup>17</sup>

### **Construction of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church**

On November 19, 1926, bids were opened for the construction of the new church and ground was broken on November 23. On December 2, an application for a building permit was filed with the city of St. Paul by M. J. McGough of the McGough Brothers construction company. The application described the proposed church as measuring 70 feet, one inch, by 107 feet, nine inches, and estimated to cost \$103,000. Building Permit No. 24765 was subsequently issued on December 6.

On December 25, 1926, *The Catholic Bulletin* reported that the concrete work for the church had begun the prior week. The article included the architect’s rendering for the building.<sup>18</sup> (Figure 12) On April 17, 1927, Easter Sunday, the cornerstone for the church was laid. The building was completed during the course of the year and was dedicated on December 4, 1927.

The following are among the contractors and companies that supplies materials for the building:

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<sup>15</sup> The Baross Gabor Social and Sick Benefit Society Collection, Immigration History Research Center (IHRC), University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis Minnesota. Interview with Janos (John) Preda by Anne Kaplan, July 23, 1980, Minnesota Ethnic History Project (MEHP) Collection, Project Records, 1969-1980, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, Minnesota.

<sup>16</sup> In 2018, Roy Neal and Evan Hoel interviewed former members of St. Andrew’s Church. Family names were cross-referenced with membership lists of the Baross Gabor Society and it was determined that members of the Horvath, Tarr, Meko, Jan, Lazar, Torok, Mentos, Hager, Basco, Vargo, Sass, Petro, and Kmerty families were members of both St. Andrew’s and the society.

<sup>17</sup> Kirchner, 427.

<sup>18</sup> “New St. Andrew’s Church Under Way,” *The Catholic Bulletin*, December 25, 1926, 11.

General Contractor – McGough Brothers  
Electrical Contractor – Addicks Electric Co.  
Plastering Contractor – M. and M.E. Gormanson  
Ventilating Contractor – Capital City Roofing and Cornice Works  
Arcadian Face Brick – Corning-Donohue Inc.  
Marble and Tile Work – Hoff Marble and Tile Co.  
Cut Stone – Wilcox Cut Stone Co.<sup>19</sup>

The church had a seating capacity of 810, with a capacity for the same number on the lower level, which could be used for social functions. The final cost of the building was approximately \$150,000, including the organ, furnishings, and other equipment.<sup>20</sup> Church records indicate that Hausler was paid a commission \$1,000.00 for the design of the church.<sup>21</sup> (Figures 13-14)

### **Architectural Significance of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church**

St. Andrew’s is an example of the Romanesque Revival Style, which is a revival of the Romanesque style that first developed in Europe in the 9<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> centuries. Design features found in St. Andrew’s that reflect this style include the use of semi-circular arches for all openings, and the use of arches, or a series of arches, even when there are no openings, in order to enrich the wall surface. The round arch motif is also repeated at a smaller scale in arcaded corbel tables. The towers with pyramidal roofs, the entrance portico set within a high recessed arch, and the tri-part window arrangement on the east and west elevations also reflect the style. The polymathic use of stone and brick is also an element of the style.

Yet, Charles Hausler’s design for St. Andrew’s draws its inspiration from a variation of the Romanesque style that developed in southern France and northern Italy, which is characterized by complex designs and colorful ornament. This contrasts with variations of the Romanesque style in northern German-speaking areas, for example, which are characterized by simplicity in design and more monochromatic compositions.

Additionally, the building also includes other stylistic influences. At the time of its construction the building was described as Byzantine, a style that preceded the Romanesque. Design elements in St. Andrew’s that reflect this style include the interior spatial arrangement in the form of a Greek cross and the interior groin vaults.

One of the first studies to call attention to the importance of St. Andrew’s was a survey of historic sites in St. Paul that was conducted in 1983. The building was described as a site of “major significance.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> A number of the contractors and material suppliers were identified through advertisements that were placed in an issue of *The Catholic Bulletin* dated December 3, 1927.

<sup>20</sup> “Archbishop to Bless St. Andrew’s Church at Dedication Sunday,” *The Catholic Bulletin*, December 3, 1927, 11.

<sup>21</sup> “St. Andrew’s Ledger,” St. Andrew’s Catholic Church Archives, Maternity of St. Mary Catholic Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.

<sup>22</sup> Murphy, Patricia and Susan Granger, “Historic Sites Survey of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, 1980-1983” (Ramsey County Historical Society and Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1983), 63.

More recent scholarship also confirms the significance of the building. In the *AIA Guide to the Architecture of the Twin Cities*, architectural historian Larry Millett noted that St. Andrew's is "One of St. Paul's best period revival churches."<sup>23</sup> Millett further explained the importance of the building as follows:

My statement in the guide that St Andrew's is "one of the St. Paul's best Period Revival churches" was based on simple observation. I've looked at most of the Period Revival churches in St. Paul and St. Andrew's, by virtue of the quality of its design and its beautiful detailing, certainly deserves a high rank. St. Thomas More (St. Luke's) Catholic Church (1925) on Summit Ave. and Our Lady of Victory Chapel (1924) at St. Catherine's University are also outstanding. . . .

It's one of the neighborhood's most important works of architecture and in my opinion qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as well as local designation.<sup>24</sup>

Thus, St. Andrew's is not only a significant building in the Como Lake area, but it is also among the most distinctive neighborhood churches in St. Paul.

### **Architect Charles A. Hausler**

Charles A. Hausler was born in St. Paul on January 27, 1889 and lived in the West Seventh Street neighborhood. (Figure 15) He attended Adams Elementary School, Mechanic Arts High School, and the St. Paul School of Fine Arts.<sup>25</sup> He decided to become an architect and at age sixteen he began an apprenticeship with Clarence H. Johnston of St. Paul. He then apprenticed with several other major architects in the region including Harry Wild Jones in Minneapolis and Louis Sullivan in Chicago. His apprenticeship with Sullivan is particularly notable as Sullivan is considered the father of the modern skyscraper and he exerted an important influence on a group of architects who practiced in what became known as the Prairie style.

Hausler returned to St. Paul before he was twenty years old and began a practice with Peter Linhoff. After three years, he became a partner of William Alban. Alban and Hausler designed a number of notable buildings in St. Paul including St. Anthony Park Methodist Episcopal Church (1911-1912) and Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation (1913), both designed in the Gothic Revival style. The firm also designed the Prairie style Knox Presbyterian Church (1912-14).

Hausler left the partnership in 1914 when he was appointed St. Paul's first city architect in 1914, at the age of only twenty-five. One of his first assignments was to serve as the supervising architect for the James J. Hill Reference Library. During his tenure, numerous municipal facilities were designed in his office, including schools, branch libraries, fire stations, and park buildings. He designed the William L. Ames School (1915) and the Como Park Elementary

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<sup>23</sup> Millett, Larry, *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities* (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2009), 521.

<sup>24</sup> Larry Millett, email message to Steven Greenwood, May 31, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> Lathrop, Alan, "Minnesota Architects" (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010), 94-95.

School (1916), both classically inspired buildings. He also designed the Randolph Heights School (1916), which features elements from the Mission Revival style.

Hausler designed three branch libraries for the city, St. Anthony Park, Arlington Hills, and Riverview. The three classically inspired buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>26</sup> He also designed the Mounds Park Pavilion (1916).

In 1915, Hausler hired Clarence “Cap” Wigington as the office’s senior draftsman. Wigington was an African-American architect who grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. Today, Wigington is recognized as the nation’s first black municipal architect.

Even while he was employed as city architect, Hausler maintained a private practice. One of his partners was Percy Dwight Bentley, who along with Hausler was also a notable practitioner of the Prairie style. The partnership produced a number of finely crafted Prairie style residences in St. Paul including the Frank and Rosa Seifert House (1914) and the Albert Wunderlich House (1915). Hausler also designed his own house (1917) in the Prairie style.<sup>27</sup>

Hausler resigned from his position as city architect in 1922 when he was elected to the state legislature. He represented St. Paul in the senate, starting out as a progressive Republican and ending up as a member of the Farmer-Labor party, although he continued to practice architecture while serving in the legislature. He left the state senate in 1939 to resume his career in architecture full-time.<sup>28</sup>

In 1929, Hausler designed the Minnesota Building in downtown St. Paul. The building is considered the first in the Twin Cities to employ the Art Deco style. The building is listed on the National Register.<sup>29</sup> Hausler also designed a new Art Deco style façade for the Minnesota Milk Company Building on University Avenue, which is also listed on the National Register.<sup>30</sup>

But Hausler’s architectural practice extended far beyond St. Paul. He designed schools, churches, and commercial buildings throughout region. He was described as “. . . an excellent public relations man and was particularly persuasive with school boards,” and he designed schools in Minnesota communities that included Tracy, Fulda, Farmington, Buhl, and Greenbush.<sup>31</sup> The Catholic Church also became a very important client for Hausler. He designed dozens of churches, schools, convents, and rectories for the Catholic Church, which are located in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota. His most notable designs include St.

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<sup>26</sup> Murphy, Patricia, Greg Carstons, and Matthew Michaud, “St. Paul Carnegie Libraries,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 1984.

<sup>27</sup> Hausler’s own house was built at 1735 West 7<sup>th</sup> Street, but it has been moved to 526 Grace.

<sup>28</sup> Hausler, Charles A. (1889-1971), <http://www.mnopedia.org/person/hausler-charles-1889-1971>.

<sup>29</sup> Zahn, Thomas and Bethany Gladhill, “Minnesota Building,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, 2009.

<sup>30</sup> Zahn, Thomas, “Minnesota Milk Company Building,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2013. Because Hausler’s work on the building was limited to modifications to the existing complex, the building was nominated to the National Register because of the importance of the Minnesota Milk Company rather than because of its architectural design.

<sup>31</sup> Brooks, H. Allen, *The Prairie School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries* (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1972), 317.

Boniface Church (1929) in Minneapolis, St. Joseph's Church (1929) in Owatonna, and St. Mary's Church (1930) in Hague, North Dakota, which is listed on the National Register. Stylistically, these later churches typically featured the Romanesque Revival style, rather than the Gothic style that was common for Hausler's early church designs.

Hausler died in St. Paul on July 12, 1971. He is notable as St. Paul's first city architect and for his prolific practice that was remarkable for its diverse range of architectural styles and high-quality designs.

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St. Andrew’s Archives. Church of the Maternity of Mary. St. Paul, Minnesota







Figure 2. South elevation. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 3. South elevation. Photo Rolf Anderson



Figure 4. Rose Window. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 5. East Elevation. Photo Rolf Anderson



Figure 6. South portion of the east elevation. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 7. Mosaic tile detail. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 8. West elevation. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 9. Interior view, n.d. Photo St. Andrew's Archives



Figure 10. St. Andrew's Church at the left, the school building at the right, and the addition that connects the buildings in the center. Photo Rolf Anderson





Figure 11. Hungarian families on the steps of St. Andrew's combination church and school building in 1922. Photo St. Andrew's Archives

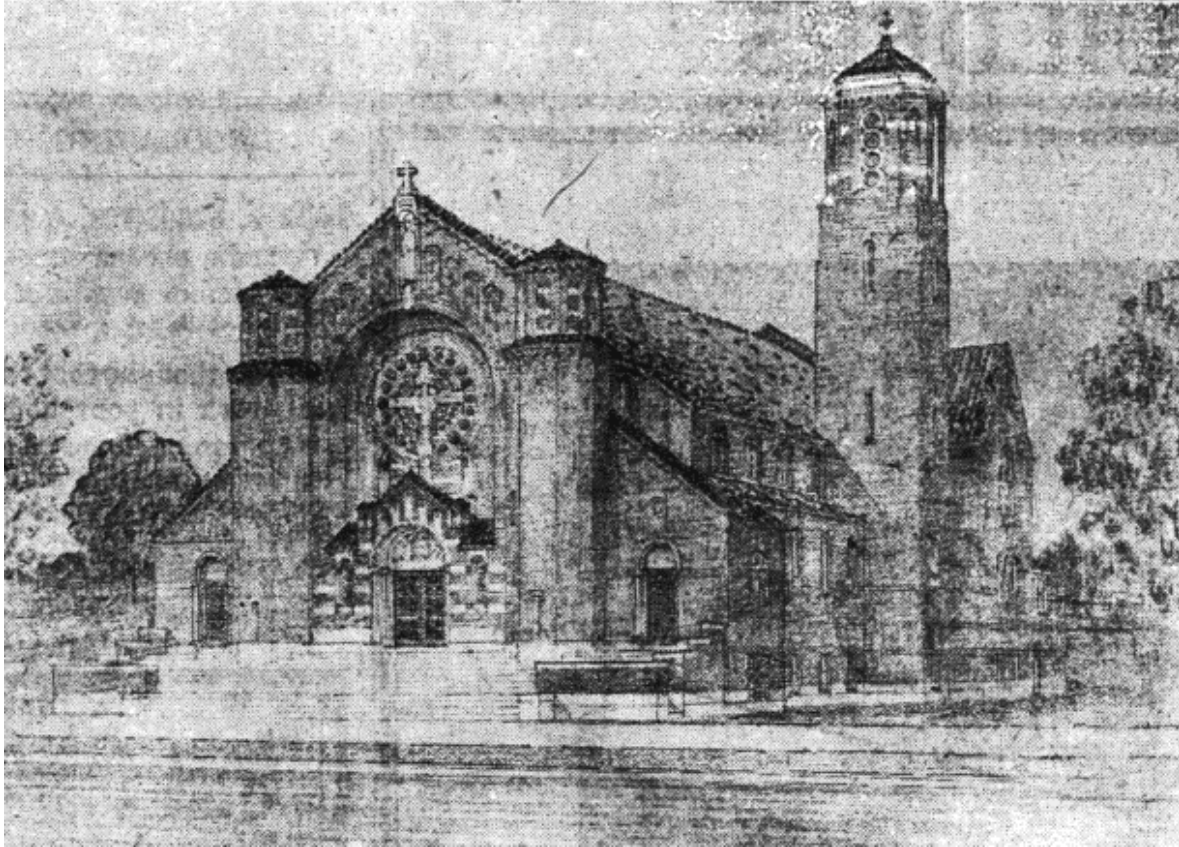


Figure 12. Architect's rendering of St. Andrew's Church. Image from *The Catholic Bulletin*, December 25, 1926.





Figure 13. Historic photograph of St. Andrew's ca. 1930. Image St. Andrew's Archives



Figure 14. Historic interior view ca. 1930. Image St. Andrew's Archives



Figure 15. Charles Hausler ca. 1920. Photo Minnesota Historical Society

**DATE OF FORM:** October 1, 2018

**PREPARED BY:** Rolf Anderson, Barb Bezat, Marilyn Chiat, Alan Lathrop, and Bob Roscoe



October 25, 2018

HPC Commissioners,

I write to you today to inform you of the Twin Cities German Immersion School's opposition to the Petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul (the "Property").

The Property is currently owned by Twin Cities German Immersion School Building Company (the "Building Company") and is occupied by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (the "School"), a K-8 public charter school founded in St. Paul in 2005. The School's mission is to support innovative education of the whole child through German immersion, and its values include curiosity, kindness, challenge and support, community, and intercultural engagement.

### **The School is a Model for Successful Charter Schools in Both Cities**

The School is nothing short of a success story. In providing a unique educational experience that produces superior academic results, the School's enrollment has grown to 580 students, and is projected to level off at 630 students within two years. At that point, the School anticipates enrolling three classes capped at 24 students each, in grades K-8.

After operating out of two prior locations, the School moved to the Property in 2013. At that time, the School converted the Property to an "Aula" -- an open space that is used for gym classes and for performing arts events. The School uses the basement of the Aula as a cafeteria, as a makeshift gym space for our smallest students, and as an additional performing arts space.

The Petition under consideration has been prompted by the School's decision to remove the Property and replace it with a purpose-built structure that is better suited to meeting the 21<sup>st</sup> century educational needs of its students. **It is important to understand that the School did not come to this decision lightly.**

The School first began analyzing how it could meet its future space needs in February of 2016. Over the ensuing months and years, the School considered numerous options that involved preserving the Aula and building a new facility on adjacent or nearby property. After determining that these options were not financially feasible, the School informed the community of its plans to remove the Property.

In response to the community's objections, the School revisited these options and also considered acquiring and moving to an entirely different campus, steps that cost the school time, energy and money. Ultimately, however, **the Board determined that it could not in good faith commit the School to the financial risks that any of these options would entail. Thus, as stewards of the School with a paramount obligation to the School's students, the Board decided that the prudent course is to replace the Property with a new building.**

### **Every Dollar Spent Opposing the Petition or Complying with a Historical Designation is a Dollar Taken Away from Educating Kids**

The School opposes the Petition because it will consume scarce resources that are solely intended for education. As a public charter school, the School does not charge tuition, and receives 94% of its funding from the State of Minnesota. And on a per-pupil-unit basis, the receives about 70% of what Saint Paul Public Schools receive for each pupil unit. In other words, it provides excellent academic results while being at a stark funding disadvantage vis-à-vis traditional public schools. That aside, every dollar spent on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the School is entrusted with educating.

Even a decision to move on the Petition, and to commence the historic designation process, will sap the School's resources. **There are the obvious financial costs associated with obtaining legal representation, and with hiring consultants to review and rebut the assertions made in the Petition, which are substantial. But there are also intangible costs like time and energy. Already, the Petition and the failed engagement leading up to it have consumed vast amounts of staff and Board member time that would otherwise be used to run and improve the School.**

Important initiatives like professional development and support for teachers, enhanced and updated subject-matter curriculum and programming, and teacher onboarding have had to make do with less given the time and energy that this issue has demanded. These costs—tangible and intangible—only stand to increase, and to further sap the school's resources should the Petition move forward.

### **The Non-Profit School's Future is at Stake if It is to be Forced into Maintaining an Old Building that is Falling Apart and is Functionally Obsolete**

Looking further out, there is also the prospect that historic designation could threaten the School's long-term viability. Saddled with the additional costs associated with

Innovative education of the whole child through German immersion.

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maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building, and forced to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure, the School may be unable to meet the needs of its staff and students, leading to increased attrition levels and, with them, decreased enrollment and revenues. Thus, it is not an overstatement to say that the School's future is at stake.

The School also opposes the Petition because the School believes as a matter of principle that historic designation should not occur over the property owner's objections. Especially when the property owner is a non-profit entity such as a public charter school.

**It is one thing when a for-profit entity is asked to use some of the profits that it derives from the neighborhood to preserve the historic character of that neighborhood. It is quite another to ask the same thing of a non-profit entity that is not deriving a profit from the neighborhood, but is providing a service to the neighborhood.**

**Furthermore, historic preservation is not a benefit to non-profit like a school, it is a burden.** Thus, any historic preservation over a non-profit property owner's objection should be funded by an assessment on the nearby properties that will derive the benefit from that designation.

The School's singular mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation imperils that mission. Thus, the School strenuously objects to the Petition, and asks that it be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Anderson  
Executive Director

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Karim Diouf, I have watched my student show a lot of excitement of the new plans for the school and he is looking forward to a pleasant learning environment that will give him extra opportunities to develop and build his future.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

*Jennifer Diouf*

Jennifer Diouf  
6585 Nathan Ln N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Amy Steege <amy.v.steege@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS - Please Deny Historic Designation

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of two children at the school, an 8th grader and a 4th grader, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

We are wondering where the now vocal neighborhood was when the church was decommissioned and sat idle prior to the school's move into the property and into the neighborhood. A few empty buildings sat for years with no tenants prior to our kids moving to this location. A handful of short-sighted individuals, some of whom don't even live in close proximity to the building, would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone and has been unsupported by its original institutional organization and or any other outside for-profit investors. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Amy Steege  
9341 Xylon Circle  
Bloomington, MN 55438  
612.723.2259  
[amy.v.steege@gmail.com](mailto:amy.v.steege@gmail.com)



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Debora Wood <woodkrusideb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin cities German Immersion School Building

DATE

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Micah and Mia Wood, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. My youngest child is in kindergarten and has no business seeing this. She should be able to go to school and feel safe. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Debora Wood

3029 Victoria Street North

Roseville, MN, 55113

Sent from my iPhone





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Matt Bauer <matt@ciderapps.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Heritage Preservation Commission - Re: TCGIS Historic Designation

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Carsten, Andreas and Juliane, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Matt Bauer  
11429 Harness View  
Woodbury, MN 55129



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Steve Shadwick <srshadwi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:11 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Sophie Shadwick, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting “our school” expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the “scary” protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school’s Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Dr. Steven R. Shadwick  
2577 Mailand Rd. E  
Maplewood MN, 55119



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Kathryn von Fange <katyvonfange@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation Concerns

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Landon and Luke Sanchez, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Katy Sanchez  
1750 Chatsworth St. N.  
Roseville, MN 55113



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to designate the former St. Andrew's Catholic Church building an historic site. Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

TCGIS is one of the top public schools in the state, based on standardized test scores. And it is one of the most successful charter schools, using any measure. The current size and structure of the facility that houses the school is not sufficient for the number of students. In addition, the church building is falling apart and needs an enormous amount of money to maintain. The school Board and school families recognize that a new facility on the current church footprint is required to continue the success of the school into the future. The Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.

A small minority would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will reject the petition to designate our school building an historic site.

Thank you.

William Stuber  
14004 52<sup>nd</sup> Ave N  
Plymouth, MN 55446





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jason Thomas <jasondeanthomas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that are thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Cordelia Thomas, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple of people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is a historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building a historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Jason Thomas  
203 Stanley Street  
West Saint Paul, MN 55118



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** krissandra.severson@wellsfargo.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:15 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of a TCGIS 4th grader I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Regards,  
Krissandra Severson  
1726 Maple Lane  
Roseville, MN 55113



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Carley Stuber <mindfulkinder@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:51 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. In reality, it will risk the long term viability of a Twin Cities charter school that is thriving and educating hundreds of children every year for future achievements and ultimately successful lives and careers.

As a parent of Kirsten and Carolyn, I have watched my students wonder what is going on and becoming worried about what will happen, which is impacting their school experience.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and in designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works within our financial means. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I am left with wondering, where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought vitality to the site? Or I am told when the church was trying to raise money to remain a church? Or when the previous school needed help? I fully believe history is valuable, which is why we send our kids to a German school to honor our family's heritage. And, I believe progress is equally important. I feel this is a request coming at the 11th hour each that harms the viability of the school.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school when determining if the Commission chooses to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea. I could imagine many ways that the school could honor the community and history without the longterm financial burden of this building.

Thank you.  
Carley Stuber  
14004 52nd Ave N  
Plymouth, MN 55446

Sent from my iPhone: Please excuse brevity and typos





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Nancy Strege <n.strege@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Reject the Petition to Give Twin Cities German Immersion School Building Historic Designation

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, now owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this amazing public charter school. It also will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is actually thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As the parent of a fifth grade student who has attended the Twin Cities German Immersion School since Kindergarten, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal, and I'd say selfish minority of neighbors who would rather not face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. I have to wonder where this vocal minority was when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until our school brought this property back to life.

Our school community truly does understand the emotional ties some neighbors have to the building, and we recognize the fact that change and progress often are difficult pills to swallow. Thus, as good stewards of this small neighborhood, our school's Board has taken painstaking efforts to search for alternative sites for us to move, and to design a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. However, after spending a considerable amount of time and money—investments that could have been used for more constructive educational endeavors for staff and students—it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

In short: the old church building is falling apart. It no longer worked for the church parish, and it does not work for our school. It is doubtful that any other entity would be interested in this space as is. Should our building be designated an historic site, our school could be financially forced to close its doors, which would likely mean this property would again sit idle and fall further into decay.

While this old building has a history, of course, its useful life has come and gone. It is now time to move forward in creating a space that will properly meet the needs of this unique and vibrant school community and that will greatly contribute to the ongoing vitality of this quaint St. Paul neighborhood.

Please thoroughly consider the unreasonable financial burden that would be placed on this successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I wholeheartedly urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

*Nancy S. Strege*

Nancy S. Strege  
2508 Matilda Street  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request to give historic designation to the former St Andrews Church, now owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school which could put it at risk of shutting down.

Historic designation is being sought against the owner's wishes and long after the owner's purchased the building. If this building is given historic designation, it will limit and/or exclude TCGIS, as owners, from their right to utilize the property in the way that is needed in order to function as a school.

As the parents of Luke and Max Karvonen, we feel that the Twin Cities German Immersion school provides a unique and invaluable education for the students by giving them a global perspective and the ability to speak a second language. These skills are becoming increasingly vital for future generations. Shutting down the school will take this opportunity away from hundreds of children and thousands to come.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

There are other historic churches in the area that are still churches, not gutted and could be more suited for historic designation without taking away such an invaluable education for children.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Tanya and John Karvonen  
1930 Gluek Lane, Roseville, MN  
612 708 9270



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Amy Hackett <hackettamy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:48 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS church building

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Amy Hackett  
1529 Hoyt Ave W  
Falcon Heights, MN  
55108



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Ryan.Mccoy <Ryan.Mccoy@target.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS church building

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Ryan McCoy  
1529 Hoyt Ave W  
Falcon Heights, MN  
55108





St. Paul, October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment; Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,



Gabriele Uitto  
1st grade teacher  
6041 5th St NE  
Fridley, MN 55432



October, 25<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church, a historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that. It is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – **that will put the school's future at stake**. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure **is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment**: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We are trying to get our kids to get the best education they can have. It is our goal to preserve (not a building that does not have any use since it is not any longer a church) but our SOCIETY with values and education. *Having a better education means to have a better society for our nation.*
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that is what this petition is really about – it is a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Susan Salazar  
599 Silver Lake NW.  
New Brighton, MN 55112



25-Oct-2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

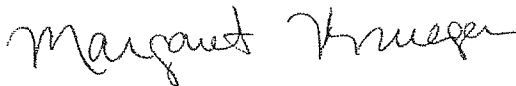
Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church and historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment; Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,



Margaret Krueger  
1989 Laurie Road East  
Maplewood, MN  
612-860-7440





Saint Paul, October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

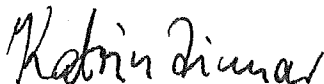
Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment; Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,



Katrin Zinnow  
1st Grade Teacher  
1430 Commerce Street  
Roseville, MN 55113



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Alex Detrick <adetrick1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 2:44 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Church must be replaced

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment; Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Alex Detrick  
TCGIS Parent  
1929 Ryan Ave W.  
Roseville, MN 55113



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Mil Ywa <milywa07@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:16 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Heritage Preservation Commissioners

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Michelle Wallace  
Parent of a student at Twin Cities German Immersion School  
711 10th Avenue North  
South St Paul, MN 55075  
651-274-7710





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** JASMINKA VISNJIC <jasnavisnjic@live.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:31 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School/HPC Petition

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school’s future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school’s long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school’s ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school’s building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that’s what this petition is really about – it’s a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration

Jasminka Visnjic  
8109 Clinton Avenue S  
Bloomington, MN 55420



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Julie Elias <shamrockdame@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:50 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Julie Elias  
4152 Brigadoon Drive  
Shoreview, MN 55126



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Nancy Strege <n.strege@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:39 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Reject the petition to declare a Twin Cities German Immersion School building an historic building

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea. There are far more deserving structures in the Twin Cities that deserve preservation. Our building, however, is not one of them.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

*Bob Strege*



Bob Strege  
Concerned Parent of Twin Cities German Immersion Student  
2508 Matilda Street  
Roseville, Minnesota 55113

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jacquie <jacqueline.gangler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:09 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a parent of a second-grade student at Twin Cities German Immersion School. I also have two future students, so I will have children attending this school until roughly 2032. I want to urge you to please reject the petition to turn our school into a historic location. I appreciate that the Aula is a beautiful structure as it stands today, but at the end of the day, it simply isn't meeting the needs of the children learning there and the cost of maintaining a historic building could ruin a very successful charter school. My son Oliver has come home from school telling me how he kicked a lunch table during a game in gym class, and knocked over silverware. This is because the younger grades have to have gym in the basement of the Aula, which also serves as the lunchroom. When he receives help with a reading specialist it has to happen in the hallway because there is not another space to work with him. I can only imagine how challenging it is for the teachers to keep students on task when there are so many distractions in a school hallway. This construction project would create appropriate spaces for our children to learn.

I am eager for this matter to be put to rest as it is becoming confusing and a little frightening for the students when they see a small group of adults protesting outside their school and signs around the school implying that their school is bad for wanted to improve the building. Our school board has gone out of their way to include the entire community in the decision process and has explored many other options, this is what is best for the students and that has to be more important than a pretty building that people have fond memories of.

Thanks for taking the time to read my email.

Jacquie Engelmayer  
885 96th Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Joel Erkinen <erkinen.joel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:12 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School Project

10/25/2018

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School. I desperately urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. My Daughter's name is Greta. She is in 3rd grade and loves her school! My son Gavin will be attending the school next year. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small group of neighbors who would rather save a building that is falling apart than enhance the education of our children. The old church was closed down in 2011 and it is not even recognized by the Catholic Church. The neighbor's wanting to "save" it so they can look at it and remember the good old days is selfish.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will hinder that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition. The structure is failing. Memories live in our minds and not in objects. We can look at photos or take videos to attempt to preserve memories rather than take future memories from our children.

I implore you to do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation.

This is not one of them.

Thank you.  
Joel Erkinen  
1773 Eldridge Ave W  
Roseville, MN 55113r



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Candace Davis <satyrn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:15 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Aula Hearing

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This is a petition put before you by a small group of people who care more about a crumbling building that is pretty than the education of children.

I've had to have hard conversations with my 6 year old about why there is a group of people protesting with angry signs outside of the school, and had to answer questions like, "why do they hate us?"

He's 6 - and thinks that a group of adults hate him and I find that sad and ridiculous.

To put it bluntly, we need more space. There are currently special education kids being taught in the hallways. The Aula is the only gym and performance space that the school has. The acoustics are terrible for a group, and as a parent, having to sit in there on a hot day for just 20 minutes is terrible, I cannot imagine what it's like for our kids to have to have gym class there on a hot and rainy day. The Aula is failing, regardless of the attempts at upkeep by TCGIS.

Also, the building was once a church and while the stained glass and crosses are gone, there are still signs here and there that note what it once was. But this is a public school and that does not belong there.

What it comes down to are two sides - an old building, which is no longer a church because they sold it off long ago - and the future of our children.

If so many people cared about the building so much, why didn't they protest when the Archdiocese sold it? Where was all of the uproar then?

The school has spent an enormous amount of money during this, looking for alternative locations - none of which have worked for us, and bending to the demands that SHSA has put before the board.

That money could have gone much farther for teacher development and programs for our kids.

I know that a big fear is that the school will tear down the building and then still grow to big and move. I understand that. But the school has put a cap on admissions and will stick to it. That will allow us to stay at the Como location for years and years to come.

TCGIS is an amazing school, which amazing staff and hardworking people. And I know that there are many neighbors that agree with TCGIS - that you need to be looking at the future of our children right now.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.  
Candace Davis  
Roseville, MN  
TCGIS Parent



October, 24<sup>th</sup> 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. W.  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an *outstanding education for children* of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Matthew Kleiner  
10172 Terrace Ct. NE.  
Blaine, MN 55343



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Theresa Gardella <theresagardella@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 10:37 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS Historic Designation  
**Attachments:** image002.png

October 25, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader at Twin Cities German Immersion, I urge you to reject the petition to designate our children's school an historic structure.

When my husband and I first saw the school, we were impressed with the beautiful building and excited that our children would attend a school with such a unique feature. However, the beauty of the building, and the memories that it holds for our neighbors, does not and should not take precedence over the education of our children. The building is crumbling and can no longer serve the students, staff and faculty.

Our children and our school are thriving. Designating the building an historic structure will certainly undermine our success and will have long-term negative consequences.

Again, I urge you to choose the children – our present and our future - over the past.

Sincerely,

Theresa Gardella

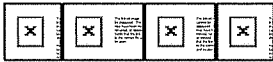
2809 Marion Street

Roseville, MN 55113

On Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 9:05 AM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

	<p><b>George Gause</b> <b><i>Heritage Preservation Supervisor</i></b> Planning &amp; Economic Development <u>25 4th Street West, ste 1400</u> Saint Paul, MN <u>55102</u></p> <p><b>P:</b> 651-266-6714</p> <p><a href="mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us">george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us</a></p>
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*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Theresa Gardella <[theresagardella@gmail.com](mailto:theresagardella@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:01 PM

**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Brian <[b.okstad@gmail.com](mailto:b.okstad@gmail.com)>; [tanderson@tcgis.org](mailto:tanderson@tcgis.org)

**Subject:** TCGIS Historic Designation

October 25, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Katherine Mercer <kcmerc@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:41 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Letter re Historical Designation Petition for TCGIS Aula

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of three students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This petition will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money - funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students - it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. Again, I urge you to reject the petition.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kate Mercer  
1573 Ashbury Place  
Eagan, MN 55122



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Jaime Willoughby <jbwerkme@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 11:16 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Petition for historic location/ Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Jaime Willoughby  
3351 Emmert St.  
Shoreview, MN 55126





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Natalie Yaeger <natalieyaeger@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:15 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Request to reject petition

10/25/18

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of 2 students currently attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to REJECT the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

As a former TCGIS school board member and finance chair. I heard assessments that the building has foundation leaks, water issues, a clay tile roof that would cost over \$1M to repair and is not at all energy efficient. The previous owners/church decided to sell off these problems. The neighborhood and church community did not request nor want historic designation when they sold off and closed this church in 2011. Now, the current owners and school community ALSO do not desire, nor request this historic designation.

The only thing that designating this decrepit structure a historic location would achieve would be to bankrupt a highly successful school and deny my children their education. Furthermore, the abandoned building will sit in the community to rot, as no one will take on the expenses that would be required to preserve this building.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. Abandoned churches are now a dime a dozen. There are far more deserving, viable structures in both cities that deserve preservation. There are owners that are requesting this designation. This is NOT one of them. The handful of people wanting this designation should not be allowed to bully through this process.

Thank you.

Natalie & Aaron Yaeger

1462 Bussard Ct.

Arden Hills, MN 55112



**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Luiza Cernea <luiza.cernea@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:16 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** St. Andrew church building

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

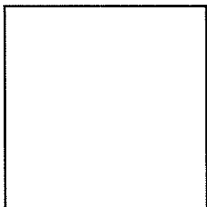
As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather force educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Luiza Cernea  
1075 County Road B2W  
Roseville, MN 55113



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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Robbie.Nagel <Robbie.Nagel@target.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:21 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** 'tessalnagel@hotmail.com'  
**Subject:** TCGIS School Expansion

10/25/2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Being a part of the school community and watching the school grow and development from a small, tiny endeavor to what it is today, is one of my proudest moment. All of my 3 kids have been at this school from the beginning and all of the teachers, as well as the staff have done nothing short of a fantastic job on creating a warm and inviting learning environment. Everybody at the school understands the history behind the old church building, but we're talking about the kids' educational future, which should have priority over a building that hasn't been used in years.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

David C. Nagel  
2680 Brittany Lane  
Woodbury, MN 55125

*ROBBIE NAGEL* TARGET PD&D + Outdoor Furniture (D009/084) + Sr.PDS + 50 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Minneapolis MN 55403 + TP3-10 + PH(612 696 1991)



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Colin Roney <roneyc@grovesacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Colin Roney  
1864 Asbury Street  
Falcon Heights, MN 55113





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Susan Burke Westacott <burke007@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:13 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic preservation petition - Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St.Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Commissioners,

I am the parent of one student and one graduate of the Twin Cities German Immersion School and I am writing with regard to the petition to consider a portion of that school building for historic preservation status. The school, despite some traffic headaches, is a major asset to St. Paul, which should be recognized when considering the petition.

My understanding is that the building is quite old, expensive to heat and maintain, not a financially viable option for the school to remodel, and not sufficient for the needs of the students. It is, of course, also quite attractive and some residents of the neighborhood like it and are used to it and perhaps also have an emotional attachment based on their personal history from when the building was a church. This group objects to the changes proposed by the school to better meet the needs of current and future students.

This group of residents does not bear any of the responsibility for the upkeep of the building, the education of the students, or the operation of the school but is attempting to stop the current owners of the building from proceeding with plans to replace the current building with a more appropriate and efficient building. Their latest attempt is this historic preservation petition.

According to the petition, the architect credited with this building “designed dozens of churches . . .”, in Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota. Presumably there are many fine examples still standing and are still serving their local communities. It’s not like the removal of this particular building would wipe out the contributions of this architect.

The Catholic Church decommissioned this particular building in 2011 – clearly the economics of this particular building outweighed the sentimental considerations of the congregation or the neighborhood. Is it so important all of the sudden that the saving of the exterior of this building should outweigh the needs of the current owners and the mission of the public school? The imposition of restrictions that would come with historical preservation status would likely place an immense, unreasonable burden on the school.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration and for your service on the commission!

Susan M. Westacott

2517 Pahl Ave

St. Anthony, MN 55418

--

Susan M. Burke Westacott

[burke007@umn.edu](mailto:burke007@umn.edu)

612-626-7400

College of Continuing and Professional Studies | [ccaps.umn.edu](http://ccaps.umn.edu)

University of Minnesota | [umn.edu](http://umn.edu)

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Mindy Johnson <mindyr.johnson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:13 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin cities German immersion school

10/25/2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Brian and Mindy Johnson

3038 Victoria St. N., Roseville MN 55113



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Alyssa Landberg <alyssaldlandberg@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:23 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historical Designation of the Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parents of students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, we urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.

Designating part of the school as a historic location will put the school in financial risk. The school would like to improve the educational environment of the students by turning an outdated, inefficient and dangerous section of the school into an updated and useful environment for the children. While I understand that people within the community have an emotional attachment to their old church, it has not been a church for many years. The school cannot fulfill their mission of educating students if a historic designation is placed on this building. This is an unfortunate situation of having to suss out what is possible and not possible for a charter school to achieve with their limited funding. Historic designation is not fiscally responsible for the school, and still does not address the needs of the current students at the school. The children deserve the best education possible.

There are far more deserving structures in the Twin Cities that deserve preservation. This location is not a good fit for historical designation for many reasons, but at the top of the list is that it will harm the school and the children's education.

Thank you for your time.

Alyssa and Anthony Landberg  
Columbia Heights, MN



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I would encourage you to reject the petition to turn our school's property into a historic location. I do not deny that this building is attractive on the outside, but in order for it to be marginally usable for the school, the inside no longer holds any of its historic character. Additionally, the building is in need of significant repair, which would be completed with public money that could be put toward an appropriate, efficient facility rather than a marginally workable, inefficient facility.

Let's look forward and give the future students of TCGIS an opportunity to learn in a great facility rather than anchor them to one that just isn't adequate.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wilson  
2100 Highland Place  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421





October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of three students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, ages 5, 7, and 9, I urge you to reject the petition to turn their school property into a historic location. No doubt, you are familiar with the issue at stake and have read letters both supporting and rejecting this petition. As this issue has been raised, I've tried to think about it from your perspectives and can understand the dilemma before you. It seems to me we have a collision of desires that many of us share, myself included. **We want to preserve our past while simultaneously investing in our future.**

I grew up in church. When I first moved to Minnesota my wife and I would stop in rural areas and take photos of churches that dotted the landscape. Often, these buildings seemed a bit forlorn, relics of a past vibrancy in a community that had changed. As a church, St. Andrews must have suffered the same fate as others before, and based on current trends in church attendance, others to come<sup>1</sup>. With a desire to preserve our past, the old church building that currently serves as a school gym/theater/cafeteria may seem to be a desirable enough candidate.

But, as a parent of three children attending a school with a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum that prepares them to be globally-minded citizens located in the Twin Cities metro area, the idea that essential investments in our future can only be completed in the constraints of a forced preservation of the past just cannot be supported. I've come to this conclusion based on a multitude of reasons, such as:

- Preserving the old building will require increased expenses, that will not come with increased revenues. **This will clearly mean that less money will go to instructing and supporting our children.**
- Renovations will not provide the needed functional space required for the school. **Paramount to investing in the future of our children is assuring that the building meets their needs.**
- It quite simply is not a church. It is a school operating out of a former church. **Efforts to preserve church buildings should be focused on buildings operating as churches, not as schools.**

In closing, I cannot help but think about my youth spent growing up in a church. As a Baptist, a typical refrain was that the church was not the building, it was the congregation. The building was where we gathered to commune, to learn, to reflect, to go forth a better person into the world. This isn't all that different than the mission of a school. And I like to think that former parishioners of St. Andrews smile as they look down on the playground and see the vibrancy of the children that now occupy that space. **And I like to think that they would want all of us to put investments in them and their future before anything else.** I'm asking you to do the same and to reject this petition.

Thank you for reading my views as you thoughtfully consider this matter.

Ryan Warren  
2450 Holton Street  
Roseville, MN 55113

<sup>1</sup><https://churchleaders.com/pastors/pastor-articles/139575-7-startling-facts-an-up-close-look-at-church-attendance-in-america.html/2>



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I would encourage you to reject the petition to turn our school's property into a historic location.

I do not deny that this building is attractive on the outside, but in order for it to be marginally usable for the school it was necessary to remove all of the historic character from the inside. Additionally, the building is in need of significant repair, which would be completed with public money that could be put toward an appropriate, efficient facility rather than a marginally workable, inefficient facility.

Let's look forward and give the future students of TCGIS an opportunity to learn in a great facility rather than anchor them to one that just isn't adequate.

Sincerely,

Kristin Wilson  
2100 Highland Place  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Jennifer Nieters <jnieters@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:37 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Jennifer Nieters  
5828 Buffalo Ln  
Shoreview, MN 55126

DATE  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

--

Jennifer Nieters  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106  
[jnieters@tcgis.org](mailto:jnieters@tcgis.org)

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## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Lisa Antony-Thomas <lizabella16@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:57 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a 7th grade current student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School (Cordelia) and as a parent of former student who is now a senior in high school (Xander), I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and narrowly focused minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. I can understand and sympathize with the nostalgia and ownership these neighbors feel about the old St. Andrew's church, but let's be honest, families residing in a neighborhood do not have control over each and every business or new neighbor who moves in and out. And this school is a GOOD neighbor!

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. We have had to move our location three times already. This place feels like home. We love our building, we love our neighbors and we love the feeling of having a "forever home." By designating this property as a historic designation, you deny us the right to live into our home and feel safe, comfortable, and secure.

Thank you.

Lisa Antony-Thomas  
203 Stanley Street E  
West Saint Paul, MN 55118  
651-767-2397





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Timothy Singleton <timmytiles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:27 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: St. Andrew's Church in St. Paul  
**Attachments:** image005.jpg

October 25, 2018

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

My name is Timothy Singleton and I am an employee of the Twin Cities German Immersion school. I believe strongly in the school's vision and would like to tell you why I think the school needs to revamp the current building.

I have been working here for three years, and I know that we offer these children an amazing education. I wish I could have had something like this when I was younger, as it gives them ability to learn a new language, just doing what they would normally do in a school day. Our results are amazing, this shows on standardized tests, and also by how many people want to send their children here. The school has decided to grow slowly, and needs the space. The committee has exhausted every other option, and believes this is the best way to go.

Our neighbors have been very aggressive, protesting with the intent of having our students see them. This is a group of people that simply don't want us here. I have seen signs that say "find another building" on their websites. I see their side of their argument, but they aren't willing to pay for the improvements over the course of time. I firmly believe the safety and area our students learn is significantly more important than bricks that have been given up on by the catholic church more than a decade ago. If this church was really worth saving, either they should buy it, or the church should never have sold it.

The school is very cramped, using many spaces as a multi-use place and it is a very real concern that we will lose teachers because they don't like working in such a building. The place where they have gym are boards that are coming apart, and is so odd shaped that you can't have a real game of anything.

I ask of you that you don't approve of making this a historic sight, as it might cost some students the access to very good teachers because of a building that people want to keep because "it is pretty".

I thank you very much your attention.

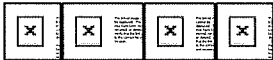
Sincerely,

Timothy Singleton  
8698 134th St W Apple Valley, MN 55124  
651-352-3582

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 12:31 PM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

 **George Gause**  
***Heritage 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](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Timothy Singleton <[timmytiles@gmail.com](mailto:timmytiles@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:24 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** St. Andrew's Church in St. Paul

October 25, 2018

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

My name is Timothy Singleton and I am an employee of the Twin Cities German Immersion school. I believe strongly in the school's vision and would like to tell you why I think the school needs to revamp the current building.

I have been working here for three years, and I know that we offer these children an amazing education. I wish I could have had something like this when I was younger, as it gives them ability to learn a new language, just doing what they would normally do in a school day. Our results are amazing, this shows on standardized tests, and also by how many people want to send their children here. The school has decided to grow slowly, and needs the space. The committee has exhausted every other option, and believes this is the best way to go.

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
25 Fourth Street West  
Suite 1400  
St. Paul, MN 55120

*Via electronic mail*

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

My name is Katy Jackson Huebsch and I am a parent of a Twin Cities German Immersion School ("TCGIS") student and a TCGIS graduate. I have been a member of the TCGIS family since 2007 when my eldest daughter enrolled in kindergarten. I respectfully request that you **reject** the petition before you from the Save Historic St. Andrew's ("SHSA") organization to designate a TCGIS building as a historic property.

TCGIS' simple mission is to provide an outstanding education **for children of all backgrounds in the broader Twin Cities area**. In fact, my family is representative of the power of TCGIS to draw families from outside the city of St. Paul, as we live west of Minneapolis and make the journey twice daily to the Como Park neighborhood just so our children can attend this marvelous school.

I understand that the decision to close the parish of St. Andrew's was made **eight years ago**, a sad time for church members to be sure. Since then, the former St. Andrew's property has **not** been used for church business. The property is **not** owned by the former parish or Diocese. In fact, in 2013, the TCGIS Building Company purchased the property for use as a home for TCGIS.

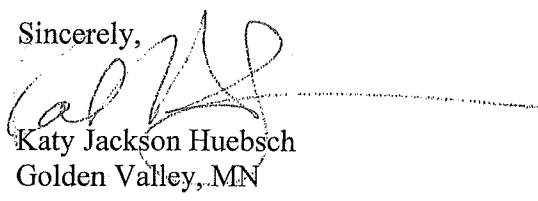
Extensive renovations have already been made to the former St. Andrew's property. When TCGIS moved in, the old rectory was removed and new classroom space built. The former church building was retrofitted in an attempt to use it as a multi-purpose Aula, which includes among other things a cafeteria, gymnasium and performance space. Frankly, the **Aula never functioned as intended**. The acoustics are terrible, the sports teacher frustrated by the poorly functioning space, and the cafeteria dark and dreary.

Since its founding in 2005, TCGIS has been renowned for excellent results. It is ranked among the top K-8 schools in Minnesota. Due to this **unprecedented success of TCGIS**, space on the campus is stretched to capacity. Additional classroom space is desperately needed to accommodate the growing student body. TCGIS must be allowed to remove the old church building and replace it with **dedicated, functional educational space for our children**.

In my opinion, not only should the petition before you from SHSA be **denied as time barred**, but **equity demands it be barred** as a short-sighted, last ditch attempt by a small group of Como park

neighbors who would value a relic from former days over allowing the continued success of a beautiful, functional, inclusive school in their neighborhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Jackson Huebsch', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Katy Jackson Huebsch  
Golden Valley, MN

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Emma Carroll <ecarroll@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** German Immersion School Support

October 25, 2018

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a teacher working at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Emma Carroll  
3724 Fairlawn Dr  
Minnetonka MN 55345

 **TCGISgebaude**

--  
Emma Carroll  
6,7,8 Art Teacher  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Churchill, Caroline <caroline.c.churchill@medtronic.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:48 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Against the Historical Designation of the Aula at TCGIS

Attention:

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

My name is Caroline Churchill and I am writing against the nomination for historical designation of the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) "Aula" building. We have been part of the TCGIS school since 2010, and my child is now in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. In 2015, we moved to the Como neighborhood, specifically to be located close to TCGIS and now live 3 minutes from the school. My son is also on an IEP and receives special education services at TCGIS.

I remember how excited we were to visit the Aula for the first time but was surprised at how horrible the acoustics were during the orientation. Additionally, the basement cafeteria was dreary and compact. Although I do appreciate the exterior beauty, immediately when entering the Aula, you can clearly see **this is no longer a sacred space**. The school has done their best to work with the acoustics and Aula environment, but it is simply outdated, expensive to maintain, and not environmentally safe. To remediate the space and update to historical standards is not logical and would be a substantial and unnecessary financial burden on the school. My preference is for a new addition to be built that will hold a new and improved gym and cafeteria along with ample room for Special education staff and students.

Although my graduate studies were in Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, my undergraduate studies were in art history and chemistry. I am also all but dissertation for a master's degree in Art History. I mention this, because I believe this makes me a logical (scientific) and historical opinion holder on the issue of the Aula and the historic nomination proposal for said building under debate.

The TCGIS Board has made substantial and thorough investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move and also other building designs. The results have shown that that neither moving nor re-designing the Aula building are financially possible. We have also seen the direct impact of the neighbor's behavior and public relations have a direct impact on lowering the value of the property. We cannot sell the property for what we purchased it at because no one wants to be in this space without having the ability to upgrade the Aula.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden a historic designation would have on a successful public school and I urge you to reject the idea.

Sincerely,

**Caroline Churchill, PhD**

Clinical Research Manager | Coronary Structural Heart

**Medtronic**

8200 Coral Sea Street NE, MVS33 | Mounds View, MN, 55112 | U.S.A.

Office 763.526.1029 | Mobile 651.269.7198 | Fax 763.526.5899

[caroline.c.churchill@medtronic.com](mailto:caroline.c.churchill@medtronic.com)

[medtronic.com](http://medtronic.com) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

**LET'S TAKE HEALTHCARE  
FURTHER, TOGETHER**

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jesse Whitney <jwhitney@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:49 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS Designation Petition

Thank you!

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 2:49 PM Jesse Whitney <jwhitney@tcgis.org> wrote:  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Jesse Whitney  
4025 Arthur St NE  
Columbia Heights Mn 55321

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 1:17 PM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

**George Gause**

***Heritage 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](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Jesse Whitney <[jwhitney@tcgis.org](mailto:jwhitney@tcgis.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:16 PM

**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** TCGIS Designation Petition

c/o George Gause

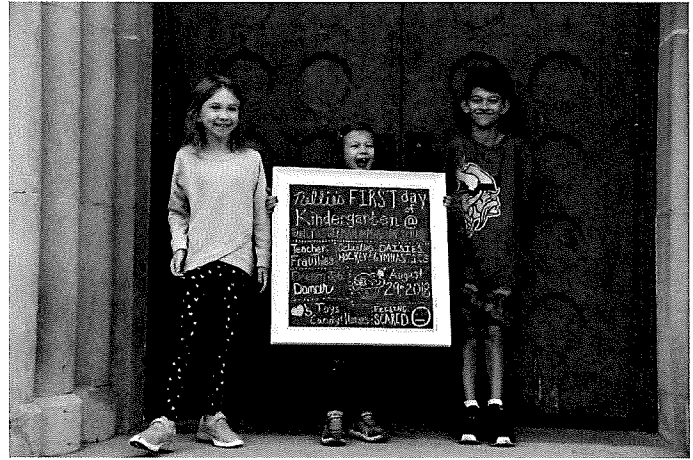
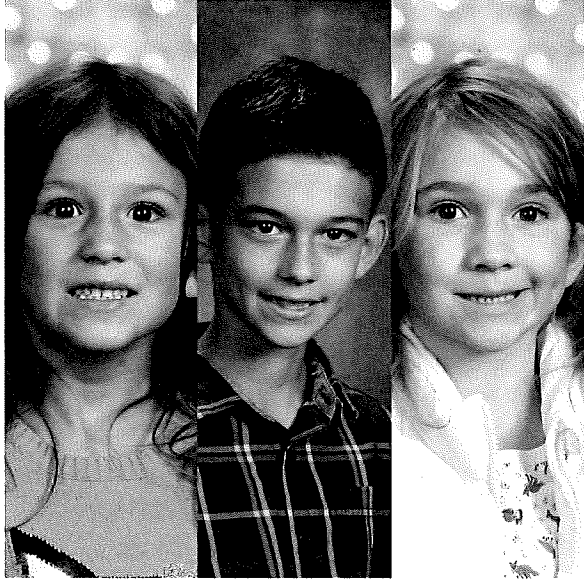
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.



We value education, we think TCGIS is AMAZING, and we think it can be even better with building improvements!



24 October 2018

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a TCGIS family with strong familial roots in education, we want to be sure **to voice our support for moving forward with the TCGIS building improvements and to state our decision to oppose granting historical status to the St. Andrew's church building.**

Although we certainly appreciate the historic value and beauty of the building and we, personally, love our first-day-of-school photos in front of the big church doors (photos above); we, as a family, know that the value of this charter school is something immeasurable and we think the time has come to allow the school to make the building and site changes it has so thoughtfully determined are best for the school. This means saying goodbye to the architectural structure that is no longer safely functional for the school and is too cost prohibitive to preserve and welcoming a new facility that will help our kids, Hudson (9), Elsa (7) and Nellie (5) and school flourish.

We think that after allowing past modifications to the church structure to allow it to evolve into an educational facility and community, it is too late to try to reclaim the church as a historical site and it is simply not practical or fair to our school to push that agenda at this time. My husband and I work at the University of Minnesota and thinking about education and space is at the heart of both of our professional lives. Ryan has worked as a Chief of Operations in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and now works as Director of the Educational Technology Innovation Center in the CEHD where the needs to balance space and improvements and learning needs are a constant struggle. I work in the College of Veterinary Medicine as a Research Administrator and am very aware of the value of space to the mission of educational institutions. **Sometimes, in order to move great educational missions forward, spaces that no longer function (and that are unsafe and prohibitively expensive to repair) need to be demolished and replaced by new facilities that are more efficient and better designed with contemporary architectural knowledge about space and learning.** TCGIS needs improvements desperately and the group of administrators and families have been very, very thoughtful about the process and decision of how to best update the school's facility. The Warren family fully agrees with our school leadership and exploratory committees that our best path forward is demolition of the St Andrew's space. **We look forward to a beautiful new facility that will become historic for the German Immersion educational experience it provides Twin Cities families and for the great things these thoughtfully prepared children will go on to accomplish.**

My husband and I have both have been licensed public school teachers with Ryan teaching at a public high school in Indianapolis involved in coaching and counseling at camps for special needs children during his summers. I obtained teaching licensure through the U of M Curriculum and Instruction Department with student teaching experiences at Bloomington Kennedy and Minneapolis North. Three of the four grandparents for the Warren kids spent their lives working in public education as elementary, middle, high school and post-secondary teachers and principals. Even the great grandparents of the Warren children valued education first and foremost. Their great-grandmother and great-great aunt attended one of the oldest teaching programs in Minnesota and a great-grandfather taught in a little one-room schoolhouse in Kentucky.

Our family values education and all that it does to advance our society. We researched our children's educational choice very carefully and made a make heartfelt decision to forego a lottery obtained spot to attend Roseville's Parkview School and some other wonderful private school options after visiting TCGIS. TCGIS is simply a unique educational opportunity serving Twin Cities families. Offering an immersion experience that brings in German-speaking interns to the school is an expensive proposition and our school needs to make every dollar count. We already deal with teacher retention issues because it is difficult to compete salary-wise with other schools. While it would be a nice problem to have extra dollars to spend in a path forward to making our school functional, a path that includes historic preservation and retrofitting of an outdated building is not an option. We value this school and the incredible educational mission it offers and we value moving forward with building a new facility that someday will be historic for the great educational mission it delivers.

Thank you for listening and I hope that you are willing to allow the TCGIS to move forward with demolition and building a beautiful school addition that improves student outcomes and learning.

Best,

Kersten Warren  
2450 Holton Street, Roseville, MN 55113  
Telephone 612-695-4211



October 25th, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o  
George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear members of the Preservation Commission:

Growing up as a member of an active and tight-knit community in small-town Minnesota, I developed a deep affection for many buildings, some still with us and some now memories.

As lovely as I find much of the exterior of the building that once housed the Church of St. Andrew, and as strong as I know the personal affection for that building must be for many residents, I must urge you to reject the petition to designate the remaining structure a historical property.

You are very busy, and I will be so blunt as to at risk sounding far less sensitive than I believe myself to be: our kids cannot bear the cost of the upkeep of our personal memories in this manner; there is just not enough to hold on to for a price so high, both in terms of expenditures and in terms of its effect on their future.

Thank you for your time.

Brian Okstad  
2809 Marion St.  
Roseville, MN 55113





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Clare Roney <roneycl@grovesacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:06 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,  
My name is Clare Roney and I have two children currently attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School and a third in the future.

I urge you to reject the petition to designate our school property for historic preservation. This petition is being presented by a minority of neighbors who would rather provide an education in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish was closed in 2011. This is especially true because they have no financial stake in the building. In addition, this building is not so unique as to deserve historical preservation.

My 6 year old son said it best, " Mom, I want all kids to be happy and the Aula (the former church space) is not enough space for our Sport class (Physical Education class).

The message is simple. If the neighbors want to preserve the building, they should buy it. In its current condition, it is too expensive for TCGIS to maintain. We own the building and we want to have a school.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

My children have had the very best experience at TCGIS and we feel so grateful for this school. Please do the right thing and deny any historic preservation designation. There are structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you,

Clare Roney

1864 Asbury Street

Falcon Heights, MN 55113

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Clare Roney <roneycl@grovesacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:06 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,  
My name is Clare Roney and I have two children currently attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School and a third in the future.

I urge you to reject the petition to designate our school property for historic preservation. This petition is being presented by a minority of neighbors who would rather provide an education in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish was closed in 2011. This is especially true because they have no financial stake in the building. In addition, this building is not so unique as to deserve historical preservation.

My 6 year old son said it best, " Mom, I want all kids to be happy and the Aula (the former church space) is not enough space for our Sport class (Physical Education class).

The message is simple. If the neighbors want to preserve the building, they should buy it. In its current condition, it is too expensive for TCGIS to maintain. We own the building and we want to have a school.

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My children have had the very best experience at TCGIS and we feel so grateful for this school. Please do the right thing and deny any historic preservation designation. There are structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you,

Clare Roney

1864 Asbury Street

Falcon Heights, MN 55113

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Ahlem Hughley <ahlemhughley@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Fw: Historical designation TCGIS

Edited to add my address. Thank you!

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**From:** Ahlem Hughley  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:19 PM  
**To:** george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us  
**Subject:** Historical designation TCGIS

10/25/2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

I am writing you in regards to the proposed historical designation of the Twin Cities German Immersion School. My son Joshua Hughley is currently a first grade student and has attended TCGIS since Kindergarten. As a native of Germany, you would think that TCGIS would have been my first school choice for my son. Surprisingly, it was not. I was originally planning to homeschool him, but my husband requested to try out a "real school" first. We were excited after we got a spot at TCGIS, a school in high demand, but my initial plan was to see how it goes and eventually homeschool, as I had planned. Well, it turned out that TCGIS is an outstanding school, and my wish to homeschool is no longer present since my son is receiving a great education. I see dedicated and loving teachers every day, teachers who spend their spare time in the classroom, teachers who inspire and encourage students. I also see teachers who struggle; they struggle with space issues, with safety issues, with financial issues.

While the former St. Andrews church building is beautiful, it is not suitable for a school. TCGIS is currently working hard to create a better learning environment for the children and teenagers. A forced historical designation will destroy all their efforts to achieve this.

Historical designation will satisfy a small number of people who like to look at an old building, but do not care about the people in the building. It will also not put any responsibilities on this small group of people, but on the school who is not asking for designation. A building should serve the people inside, not the other way round.

TCGIS is extremely special to many families. My son, although raised bilingually, would never speak German with me before attending the school. He simply didn't understand that German was a real language spoken by many. To him, it was just him and me. Since attending TCGIS, he is using the German language at home with me. He finally understood that other people speak German, as well. TCGIS, its teachers, staff and families are a true gift to us.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject the idea of historical designation. I would not be in the best interest of the school, the staff and the children.

Thank you,  
Ahlem Hughley  
241 Cobbler Court  
Circle Pines, MN 55014

25 October 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear members of the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

I write to you about a request coming before you to give historic designation to the Aula at Twin Cities German Immersion School, former known as St. Andrew's Church. I am the parent of two TCGIS students; it is our eighth year with the school. Over the years, my family has rejoiced as we joined other families, staff, and community members in helping the school grow and strengthen. My children are receiving an exceptional education based in academic rigor, caring staff, creative educational programs, and a mission to foster global citizenship. We are one of the few charter schools in the region, and even among language immersion schools in the nation, to achieve such success.

When the school moved into the Como neighborhood, it was with great excitement at moving forward and great hopes that we could incorporate the lovely former church building as our Aula. Unfortunately as the years have passed, it's becoming increasingly apparent that the building will not suit our students' needs without a great influx of money. As a charter school, we cannot hold a vote on a tax levy for more funds. We already receive less from the state than other public schools. Our staff is among the lowest paid in the state, yet their commitment to our students never waivers. Our parents come together again and again to fundraise as much as we can to give our teachers and kids what they need. One of our children is particularly impacted because they have special educational needs, and must often sit in the hallway with a staff member, in full view of anyone passing by, in violation of their right to privacy, in order to have the support they need. This is not right.

A small group of neighbors, appearing to be led by an even smaller group who do not live in the neighborhood, are spearheading an effort to have the Aula be declared an historic property in order to block the school from replacing it and building a structure that will suit our students' needs for the future. Despite nearly two years of work by a dedicated group of volunteer parents, staff members, and community experts to find a solution suitable for all interested parties, this group continues to insist that its will be obeyed without giving any concrete information about what they would like the building to be, who will pay for it, and what the school will do with a building they cannot use or change. I work for a non-profit located in a structure with historic designation. Despite having staff members whose job is to find grants and funding, we fall very short of what we need to properly maintain the property, and make improvements that would help our members who are most in need of it.

Sadly, we all know that resources for historic properties and schools are scarce. We must make difficult decisions in the allocation of resources. My family is a supporter of historically and architecturally significant properties. We donate money yearly to such causes. But we realize not everything can be saved. We must prioritize properties that will offer the most benefit to the most people. For example, we currently focus on Historic Fort Snelling, which is dire need of funds for repair and to able to tell the stories of those who've been traditionally silenced, such as slaves and Native Americans. Strengthening this property has local, state, and even national significance. For all the beauty and memories of the Aula to many people, it is, at the end of the day, a private building that the public can only observe from the outside, without a unique history.

While not forgetting the past, we must ultimately look to the future, a future that hopefully will be shaped by intelligent, educated, forward-thinking people. TCGIS is preparing its students to be that future, not only in Minnesota, but by making global connections and friendships. We cannot be eating into our finances, time, and resources trying to help a small group of adults who are uncomfortable with change. It is time that the space formerly occupied by St. Andrew's continue its journey in a new direction by providing our students what they need. I urge you to reject the historic designation for the property owned by Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia Miller  
2574 Fernwood St  
Roseville MN 55113



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Elizabeth Tobias <etobias@germanschool-mn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic designation of Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear Mr. Gause,

I am writing to you as an employee of Twin Cities German Immersion School. I have been working here for 2 years. I provide Special Education support services to students.

The school needs more classroom space.

Currently, I am forced to provide some of those services in the hallway because there is not enough classroom space. Students who have attention challenges are not going to succeed when sitting in a hallway with incessant distractions. Students with special education needs also deserve privacy when receiving support; which is not going to happen in a hallway.

The school needs more office space.

There are teachers and special education staff who use the staff lunchroom as an office, because there are no rooms available. This prevents them from being able to have private conversations. They cannot store private papers there. They don't even have anywhere secure to leave their purse/wallet or coat.

The Aula building is pretty on the outside. It is however a complete waste of interior space. The vast majority of that huge building is empty space that *cannot be repurposed to anything else*.

The neighborhood is part of TCGIS, as much as the school is part of the neighborhood. Our students do walk-about to learn about ecology and natural science. They do an Austrian-style bicycle license test on the surface roads. They play in the park. They learn to appreciate the beauty of the neighborhood and see it as part of their own life, even those who don't live there.

What do the neighbors think we will do with the building, if it's designated 'historic'? What do they want us to do with it?

I notice that every single journalist reporting on this issue has sided completely with the preservationists. The "news" articles end with hand-wringing about changes without considering the positive changes TCGIS already brings to the neighborhood. The historic preservation committee is receiving a biased presentation of facts from many sides.

Please consider all of the facts. Do not be swayed by conspiracy theorists who make unsubstantiated claims. Consider the source of the information and claims being presented to you. Most of all, please consider the consequences to designating the site protected. I am confident you will conclude that it does not require protection.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Tobias

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Elizabeth Tobias  
Educational Assistant  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Lauren Kalish <lkalish@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:18 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Letter regarding TCGIS and Former St. Andrews

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake.

I have worked at TCGIS for five years now, joining the school during our last construction project when we combined two buildings. I, like many others, enjoy looking at the beautiful roof and frame of what once was a church. When you step inside of our building, however, you are greeted with the sounds and sights of laughter, of learning, and of growing.

Walking through the halls day after day I am reminded how tight we are for space. I remember when the building was being built and it seemed so fresh, new, and spacious. We had extra pull out space for kids in all grades, extra classrooms for our after school programming to take place in - it was incredible! Only a few years later and we are desperately in need of more space to better suit the needs of our students and staff.

I know our neighbors have strong memories of a portion of our school from when it used to be a church years ago. I understand that they have emotional ties to the space and what it symbolizes. But it is no longer what they remember it to be. It is simply a shell of what they hold in their memories.

Moreover, our 557 students and roughly 80 staff members should not suffer because of our neighbors' emotions. We are literally running out of space and our students are the ones directly impacted by this. We have waitlists for every single grade at our school, with almost 100 students on our waitlist for kindergarten alone. People move to this area to hopefully send their kids to TCGIS. It would be incredibly disappointing if our building plans to move forward were thwarted by an historical designation.

I urge you to think long and hard about the hundreds of students that are current or future graduates of the Twin Cities German Immersion School. They need a safe space to come to learn and grow. Our hope with the new building plan is to provide that for them.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you for your time.

Lauren Kalish

--

Lauren Kalish  
Front Office Coordinator  
Twin Cities German Immersion School

1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106  
[lkalish@tcgis.org](mailto:lkalish@tcgis.org)

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## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Louise Brask <lbrask@germanschool-mn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Please say NO to historic preservation of property 1031 Como Avenue St. Paul

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The authoritative request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As an employee since 2015, I have watched my students ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My students have expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will strongly consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building a historic site. I urge you to dismiss the idea.

Thank you.

Frau Louise Brask  
Special Education Due Process Specialist, Educational Assistant and Yearbook Coordinator at Twin Cities German Immersion School  
773 Cook Ave E

Saint Paul, MN 55106

--  
**-Frau Louise M. Brask**

Special Education Due Process Specialist, Educational Assistant, and Yearbook Coordinator  
Twin Cities German Immersion School

**Contact**

address: 1031 Como Ave, St Paul, MN 55103

office phone: (651) 492-7106

cell phone: (952)826-9435 / e-mail: [lbrask@germanschool-mn.org](mailto:lbrask@germanschool-mn.org)

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Suzanne Hall <shall@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:31 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Opposition to petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew

Dear Mr. Gause,

I am a teacher at Twin Cities German Immersion School. I would like to express my opposition to the petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew. While I agree that the outside of the building is beautiful, the inside leaves much to be desired with regard to beauty as well as functionality. The church of St. Andrew was decommissioned as a church because the parishioners were unable / unwilling to support it. Because of this, the building was sold. In my opinion, the community had the opportunity to support the building as a church but did not. If those who oppose our school's building project were raising money to preserve the building, we would have a different situation. As things currently stand, the community is asking the Twin Cities German Immersion School (a not for profit organization) to spend the extra money required to preserve this former church building which does not meet the needs of our teachers or students.

Our school has not come to this decision lightly. We are absolutely out of room. Many teachers (myself included) currently teach or have previously taught in inadequate spaces which diminish the students' educational opportunities. Although we do rent some space from the church across the street, we are still bursting at the seams. The Aula (former church of St. Andrew) has structural issues and does not meet our current needs. Maintaining the building as it currently is is not financially feasible. For these and other reasons, I oppose the historical designation petition.

Thank you for your time,

--

Suzanne Hall  
K-3 Drama Teacher  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106  
shall@tcgis.org

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Andy Nessel <aneset@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:44 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a former parent and current employee of the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I have had the pleasure of watching this school grow from its humble beginnings with two classes and 44 students to what it is today: a safe and nurturing educational environment that has many dedicated staff members working hard to help the next generation flourish. Even in years where many larger public school districts had to cut back on extra curricular classes like art, music, drama and languages, our school has always managed to find a way to provide students with a full education. Despite the fact that public charter schools like ours are funded with less, we have always been able to do more for our students.

In 2013, the school purchased and moved into this current space, and from the beginning, a select few in this neighborhood have worked against us. I have fielded phone calls and sat in on many angry meetings with certain neighbors over the years. These same individuals are now the ones trying to derail our ability to provide the best campus possible to our students with the funding we have available.

Many of the individuals working against us may not be here in the near future, however, our school would still be spending our limited budget on maintaining a building that is grossly inadequate for our student body.

I hope that your commission will consider the undue financial and curricular burdens this will create on our school and its ability to properly educate future generations of students.

Sincerely,  
Andy Nessel  
Facilities Coordinator  
Twin Cities German Immersion School



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Gael Braddock <gbraddock@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:31 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** RE: Petition Requesting Historic Designation

10/25/2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I serve as the Director of Human Resources for the Twin Cities German Immersion School, and am also a parent of a second-grader at the school. I, myself, have no linguistic or cultural connection to Germany, but in my experience with the School as both an employee and parent over the past three years, I can personally speak to its commitment to serving its students with high-quality, innovative education. Every day, I am honored to see teachers instilling the values of kindness, curiosity, challenge & support, and intercultural engagement in our students, and am proud to see these values flourishing in my own child.

When I began working for the school, the organization's relationship with some surrounding neighbors could be described as "rocky" at best. Some of our neighbors justifiably felt unheard by previous School Administrators. As this dynamic became apparent to our School Director, Ted Anderson and me as we started our new leadership roles for TCGIS, we made serious, committed efforts to building a better relationship with our neighbors. These efforts included:

1. I was designated as Community Liaison, and began attending monthly Como Neighborhood (District 10) Land Use Meetings to serve as a consistent method of communication between the School and our neighbors;
2. Based on neighborhood feedback, we increased our staffing to safely manage traffic at student drop off and pick up times;
3. We implemented an overhaul of our dismissal processes this school year to decrease traffic impact on the surrounding neighborhoods, including adding two new bus routes (which serve to decrease vehicle traffic);
4. We promptly respond to all neighborhood questions or complaints;
5. We have set a strict expectation that no staff utilize public street parking on VanSlyke Avenue, a street on which one neighbor has expressed dissatisfaction with vehicles parking on the street in front of her home;
6. Neighbors are notified of public meetings at which they can express any opinions on school matters, and of any events that may draw increased traffic to the neighborhood.

These efforts, among others, have seemed to build a healthier and more respectful relationship between the School and the immediately-surrounding neighborhood. I have been a part of many of the meetings in the past year in which neighbors and school representatives have come together to learn about and share opinions on the building project. While the tense discourse around the impending construction project has been somewhat discouraging, I remain hopeful that the School and our neighbors can continue to engage with each other in respectful and productive ways.

At some point in the process of deciding how to move forward in our needed building project, it became clear that some neighbors felt their opinions were not adequately sought in the process. The school quickly responded to this sentiment, sharing information and holding listening & information sessions. The School is thankful to District 10 Community Council for facilitating some of these events, and in response to these events, the School made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that

works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

On a personal level, I understand and empathize the wishes of the group petitioning for historic preservation. The school's Aula is a striking and beautiful structure. I love driving toward it every morning. I wish the exterior could be maintained while we create a space inside that serves our students' needs. However, as I write this, I'm currently sitting on the floor of the school's library because my office space has been repurposed. Every day, I see teachers struggle to effectively teach in a building that makes it difficult to do so. I walk the school hallways and see our special education students trying to learn with constant interruptions. I have also seen the work that Board members and School Administration have put into seeking options that do not include altering the Aula's exterior, and I have full confidence that every possible option has been considered. Unfortunately, to create a space that serves the schools' student needs while remaining financially viable, we must accept that the Aula needs to be rebuilt.

It saddens me to see the divide this issue has caused between the School and some neighbors, as both sides were working diligently to create better relationships. However, I remain confident in the school's commitment to continue engaging our surrounding community, and am grateful for the continued dialogue in which neighbors are willing to participate.

As unfortunate it is to have to alter a building with a lovely facade and happy memories, I urge you to understand that the School has done its due diligence in seeking alternatives, and trust that the School has found the only financially responsible way to serve our students in the ways they need is to rebuild the current Aula structure. Please deny the petition for historic preservation status for the Aula.

Kind regards,

Gael Braddock  
Director of Human Resources  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
[gbraddock@tcgis.org](mailto:gbraddock@tcgis.org)

1029 Van Slyke Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

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

24 October 2018

Dear Commission

I am unable to attend the November 5<sup>th</sup> hearing regarding consideration of the Saint Andrew's Church as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

I am writing this letter to express my strong support in favor of approving this designation. I have lived within sight of this building for three decades and feel that it is mine and my neighbors' duty to speak up on behalf of this wonderful neighborhood resource.

The former Saint Andrew's Church building is an important part of this pocket neighborhood. The building is rich in architectural beauty and also in its history of service to its many users. To the lay person it is obvious that the building is amazing and worthy of recognition and preservation. The historical and architectural research done by professionals and submitted to your Commission provides scholarly evidence which confirms what we residents already know. The Saint Paul City Comprehensive Plan emphasizes historic preservation.

Please consider the desire of the neighbors to recognize this important building, the supporting research and expert opinions, and the intent of Saint Paul to preserve our history, and recommend approval to designate the former Saint Andrew's Church as a Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Site.

Sincerely



Kris Anderson

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** MICHELLE Tait <mkkttait@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 9:18 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: St. Andrew Church

Michelle Kneer Tait  
1643 N Dunlap Street #3  
St Paul MN 55108

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018, 11:00 PM MICHELLE Tait <mkkttait@gmail.com> wrote:

Please save St. ANDREW CHURCH from demolition. We need to preserve more beautiful buildings in St. Paul. In my request to the City Council, I was given a form letter. They have shown no interest, from my perspective. I love the St. Andrew Church & have been a Como resident for 68 years. Thank you for supporting our concerns.

Michelle Kneer Tait

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Dianne Miron <ddmiron@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 8:56 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Fwd: The importance of preserving St Andrews

George:

As you requested I am resending my letter which was sent yesterday and have included my address.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Dianne Miron  
5734 W Bald Eagle Blvd  
White Bear Lake, MN  
55110

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Dianne Miron <ddmiron@comcast.net>  
**Date:** October 25, 2018 at 8:30:28 PM CDT  
**To:** [George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
**Subject:** The importance of preserving St Andrews

I am writing this in support of preserving the structure of Saint Andrews church in St Paul. I attended St Andrew's grade school where I received the highest quality education. I have always loved the area but I've always treasured the memory of the years at Saint Andrews. I look at this church building and the value is more than nostalgic. I've worked in management and as a Director in healthcare my entire career. I believe reverence and faith add to and sustain the quality of our life. To dismiss this as just a structure is a huge mistake. The value of Saint Andrews church is not only in the nostalgic but architecturally it is profoundly beautiful. It's history as a cornerstone to this particular neighborhood is significant. The design is unique and impressive. To lose this and dismiss it as simply a building, is losing a part of this special Como community and a historical landmark.

I believe it needs to be preserved and treasured as an important part of our history.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Miron

5834 W Bald Eagle Blvd  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Sent from my iPhone

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 10:04 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** FW: Inquiry from Heritage Preservation  
**Attachments:** image002.png

**From:** marijo schwiderski <marijo1025@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:31 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Inquiry from Heritage Preservation

To the Heritage Preservation Commission,

Please vote to preserve/save Historic St Andrews Church. I was all for repurposing the inside of the building by TCGIS, but totally against tearing that beautiful building down. I was baptized, Confirmed, schooled at St Andrews.

Sincerely,

Marijo Schwiderski  
957 Como Blvd East  
St Paul, Mn 55103



October 25, 2018

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

I am a teacher at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, and I urge you to reject the petition to designate our school property, formerly Saint Andrew's Church, as a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small minority of neighbors who are selfishly putting their own desires ahead of our students *needs*. They are willing to sacrifice the learning needs of children to protect a former church that hasn't had a parish since its closing in 2011.

Our school's mission is to provide an outstanding education of the whole child through German immersion. In the current building, this mission becomes difficult to carry out when teachers are sharing and frantically shuffling between crowded and cramped classrooms, while others have to walk across the street to use another church for class space during the school day. This is disruptive to routines and takes up valuable time that would be better spent on learning activities.

We have outgrown our current space, and as owners of the property we should be able to renovate the space as we see fit to meet our needs. Historic designation will greatly complicate that objective and put our program at risk. Our school's budget is already under pressure as it is with the proposed building project demands, and now we have to expend even *more* funds responding to this petition; money that should instead be going towards curriculum or programming to enhance student learning and teacher development.

There are places in Saint Paul that are far more deserving of historic preservation than the former Saint Andrew's Church building. Please, do what is best for my students and my colleagues and deny historic designation. Help our school grow to higher potential.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,

Rachael Schlee  
5th and 6th grade English Teacher  
2104 Fairway Drive NE  
Columbia Heights, MN 55421



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing to request that you deny the pending historical preservation application before you. The Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) is a public charter school that provides an urban education for children in the Como neighborhood and from around the Twin Cities with a German language pathway to St. Paul School's Central High School. We value intercultural exchange and host a number of international exchange interns. Our community hosts a neighborhood 5k event, and attracts many families interested in sending their children to school in St. Paul. As a parent of first grader Quinn Knoph, I am excited to continue his education in the same city where my husband and I work.

As a parent of first-grader Quinn Knoph, I have guided him through the consideration about why neighbors are protesting the expansion of his school. Our understanding is that the church was decommissioned and sat idle until TCGIS added new life to the site. We are now at a stage where we want to provide additional investment into the neighborhood that will enhance opportunities for families and children in the area. The individuals seeking historic preservation have not proffered reasonable alternative uses for the building, should TCGIS have to vacate the property. This would be a waste of a valuable community resource.

Our school's mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put the program at risk. The TCGIS Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I respectfully ask that you deny the designation request.

Thank you.

Sarah McGuire Knoph  
1790 20<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jody Ross <jodyrosswrites@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:55 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: In Favor of School Making Changes

Dear Mr. Gause,

I am writing on behalf of Lily and her mother, Krista Ostrom, one of your families. I believe the school should be allowed to transform the building to suit the needs of the students and not be considered a protected historic status. Most charter schools make changes to the structures they rent to accommodate new learning practices. This is standard. I request that the school's plans be honored.

Sincerely,

Jody Ross  
2321 Humbolt Ave So  
Minneapolis, MN 55405

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 25, 2018, at 1:42 PM, Jody Ross <jodyrosswrites@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Mr. Gause,

>

> I am writing on behalf of Lily and her mother, Kristin Ostrom, one of your families. I believe the school should be allowed to transform the building to suit the needs of the students and not be considered a protected historic status. Most charter schools make changes to the structures they rent to accommodate new learning practices. This is standard. I request that the school's plans be honored.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Jody Ross



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Linde Althaus <linde.althaus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:48 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Opposition to historic designation of the former St Andrews

To whom it may concern:

Twin Cities German Immersion is a public charter school providing a high quality education to my children at reduced funding compared to traditional public schools. We are trying to replace the former church building with a high quality space that will best meet the needs of our students. The school has investigated options for years, and based on the budget and needs, this decision had been voted on by our elected school board as the best option. As the owners of this property, we have the legal right to make decisions that ensure the success of the school.

The request for historic designation is hurting our school. It is financially draining and time consuming. The former church building is beautiful from the outside, but not what is best for the school from the inside. The historic designation is an opportunity for neighbors to look at the outside of an old building, while my two children that are current students of the school have overcrowded spaces, work in the halls, too hard floors for PE or even PE in the cafeteria due to lack of space, poor acoustics, too few toilets, and unsafe nooks. It is appalling to consider prioritizing bricks over children and I hope that the city of St. Paul would agree.

I've been told by members of the group trying to save the former church building that my children should fly kites out of the bell tower and learn to play a pipe organ in the former sanctuary. Our children's education is not a priority for this group and for the sake of the future of our society, I hope the city has a different stance.

We cannot afford to maintain the exterior of this building for the neighbors. We need more space and a building designed for students. Since this building is no longer a church and has few redeeming interior features, it's time has come to be replaced.

The HPC needs to do the right thing and put the needs of children before demands of a few loud and aggressive neighbors. This building has a history as a church that covered sexual abuse of children by former priest Wadja. It's time as a society to do the right thing and always put children first.

Sincerely,  
Linde Althaus, MA, LPC and Chris Kotila, RN

4941 30th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Sent from my iPhone

> On Oct 25, 2018, at 1:37 PM, Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

>

> Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

>  
>  
>  
> George Gause  
> Heritage 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  
> Equity. Innovation. Resilience  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Linde Althaus <linde.althaus@gmail.com>  
> Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:19 PM  
> To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
> Subject: Opposition to historic designation of the former St Andrews  
>  
> To whom it may concern:  
> Twin Cities German Immersion is a public charter school providing a high quality education to my children at reduced funding compared to traditional public schools. We are trying to replace the former church building with a high quality space that will best meet the needs of our students. The school has investigated options for years, and based on the budget and needs, this decision had been voted on by our elected school board as the best option. As the owners of this property, we have the legal right to make decisions that ensure the success of the school.  
>  
> The request for historic designation is hurting our school. It is financially draining and time consuming. The former church building is beautiful from the outside, but not what is best for the school from the inside. The historic designation is an opportunity for neighbors to look at the outside of an old building, while my two children that are current students of the school have overcrowded spaces, work in the halls, too hard floors for PE or even PE in the cafeteria due to lack of space, poor acoustics, too few toilets, and unsafe nooks. It is appalling to consider prioritizing bricks over children and I hope that the city of St. Paul would agree.  
>  
> I've been told by members of the group trying to save the former church building that my children should fly kites out of the bell tower and learn to play a pipe organ in the former sanctuary. Our children's education is not a priority for this group and for the sake of the future of our society, I hope the city has a different stance.  
>  
> We cannot afford to maintain the exterior of this building for the neighbors. We need more space and a building designed for students. Since this building is no longer a church and has few redeeming interior features, it's time has come to be replaced.  
>  
> The HPC needs to do the right thing and put the needs of children before demands of a few loud and aggressive neighbors. This building has a history as a church that covered sexual abuse of children by former priest Wadja. It's time as a society to do the right thing and always put children first.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Linde Althaus, MA, LPC and Chris Kotila, RN  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Sent from my iPhone



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Krista Wentzel Johnson <monk2miles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:20 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation of Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 4th St. W #1400  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

I am a parent and part-time teacher at Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). Our school has been working for a solution to a wonderful problem: how and where to add space for an increasing school population.

The 2014 addition to the school should have been all that was needed. In the initial calculations, attrition at the school should have made that structure perfectly accommodating. What has happened is that students have not left at the rate they had been when the first addition was built. We now are very short on classrooms and special education space. We rent rooms at a church across the street. It works, but is far from ideal. Valuable class time is lost in having to walk across the street to class. I see this especially in my band lessons, as they are only a half period; lose so much time having to go and fetch students.

In addition, I believe the old church building, what we call the Aula, needs way more work than what the school can financially take on. We are a school on a very limited budget. The building heating is awful, as I know very well from teaching in what is the old cry room of the church. The bathrooms smell, especially in the lower level, from mold or mildew. I've been told that the building needs a new roof, and I can't imagine what the cost would be to replace the existing slate tiles.

The church is beautiful. I have made the remark numerous times about how "we have the coolest gym in any school ever!" But I am also realistic. If TCGIS is required to keep the Aula, we may be forced to move, so the rumors go. Who would buy it then? Who would pay the upkeep? My guess is that it would crumble and have to be razed anyway. Or a developer would come in and put in apartments.

It is a very small, but highly vocal group that is opposing the tearing down of the Aula. I realize how much they enjoy the structure in the neighborhood. But what right do they have to keep a school from functioning at it's peak? And where were they when it WAS a church? Why weren't they attending and giving money if they loved it so much?

I have also read a number of their flyers, and quite often they are not telling the whole truth or telling flat out lies, even though they have been corrected numerous times. I personally was kicked off their Facebook page for answering someone's question. I gave my opinion and was censored. I was not rude in any way.

TCGIS has delayed the start of this project FOR "Save Historic St. Andrews" but has been continuously told that we are being unfair, that we aren't looking at all the possibilities. All of the possibilities HAVE been looked at. The best solution, for TCGIS, just isn't the solution that SHSA wants, so they continuously call us unfair.

Please, do not grant historic status to the old St. Andrews Church building. It would be detrimental to many, and only make a few happy.

Krista Johnson, Parent of an 8th grade student, and TCGIS Band Teacher

<http://www.kristajohnsonmusicteacher.com>

612 209 3396 cell/text

5805 19th Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55417

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Rich Johnson <johnsonr17@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:12 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation for former St. Andrew's church

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

While in general I find value in preserving attractive old architecture, each case must be considered individually.

In this case, the Catholic Church came to its own decision several years ago that it was not in its own best interests to maintain this structure. While many people have fond memories of when it used to be such, it is no longer a parish. For example, distinctive architectural elements such as stained glass windows were removed at the time of its deconsecration. It served the church well for many years as a house of religious worship. It now stands as a substandard educational facility.

I truly wish there could be a compromise where those who enjoy looking at the exterior of this structure could continue to do so, and at the same time the needs of the hundreds of current TCGIS students (and thousands of future TCGIS students) could be met. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Not only would retaining the structure restrict any chance for growth (constrained footprint, no place for additional classrooms or standard gym, etc.), the current structure is *already* an inadequate space--bad heating/cooling, a sub floor that doesn't make for a safe gym (falling on it is like falling on concrete), etc.

If the school is forced to maintain this structure as a historic site, not only do the maintenance costs increase, they also cannot meet their goals of providing the best educational environment for their students. Meanwhile, those who want to see the building remain get 100% of their goals (seeing the former church remain) while shouldering zero costs and having no negative repercussions to deal with. This is not a "win-win" scenario (as some are claiming).

Where it makes sense, I support preservation of significant older buildings to which people have (understandable) emotional attachment. In this case it does not make sense. Examples of similar architecture exist. Other designs from the architect still exist. They will continue to exist even after this site includes a fully-functional modern school building in the place of the Aula.

While I regret that we have to make the choice, the choice nonetheless exists: educating the future or reminiscing about the past. While you are tasked with honoring the past, please consider very carefully the impact historic designation would have on the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Johnson, TCGIS parent  
5244 40th Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN  
55417

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I do have 2 boys that attend TCGIS school and a 3rd that will start next year. I know there is a contentious debate going on between the school and a vocal group of neighbors over proposed expansion plans. I implore you to be on the side of the school, the children, and the future when considering the needs of TCGIS throughout the expansion process.

My wife and I had our first two sons while living and working abroad in Vienna, Austria. It was this experience that impressed upon us the benefits of educating our kids about the wide world, and an integral part of that education is giving them language skills to compete in a globalized economy. What a gift to grow up speaking multiple languages fluently without the struggle that comes with trying to learn a new language as an adult

By all accounts, TCGIS is a resounding success story. Besides the language immersion, TCGIS staff deliver a world-class education even though they only receive a fraction of the funding received by public school districts. This is why there is an ever growing wait list of would-be kindergartners, and families are staying with the school longer than they have in the past. On top of this, the school's location brings families from all over the city into the beautiful Como neighborhood. When hunting for our first house, my wife and I considered the Como neighborhood specifically because of the school when we would not have otherwise.

Now, a misinformed small group of neighbors are making the school community feel unwelcome and the children are noticing. One child remarked "the neighbors hate our school," and another that lives in the neighborhood is afraid to put a sign in the front yard that supports the school. While the general tenor of the debate is beside the point, I know you will be hearing from these same neighbors as they try to slow the school's construction plans.

The fact is that the current space is untenable for the staff and students (i.e. some special "pull-out" classes having to be conducted in the hallways), the school has gone out of their way to involve the neighborhood every step of the way and, at the end of the day, the property belongs to the school. They should be able to do what needs to be done in order to most effectively deliver the quality education they have come to be known for.

Please help this wonderful institution continue to prepare our children for the future, and not get bogged down in the business of preserving a relic from the past. Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation.

Thank you,  
Anthony Radecki  
5904 Park Ave. S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Nancy Bjorn Nordeen <nancy.bjorn.nordeen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 8:55 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** board@tcgis.org  
**Subject:** Re: Opposition to the petition for historic designation of the former Church of St. Andrews of St. Paul

Please accept this letter revised to include my address.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bjorn Nordeen

10/25/2018

Dear HPC Commissioners,

I write to you to ask you to reject the petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul. I am a parent of a student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School. I have attended many performances in the former church building, a space the school calls the Aula. The experience has been disappointing. The acoustics are poor and there is not enough room for all families to sit comfortably to view performances, even when performances are staggered to accommodate as many families as possible. I leave feeling frustrated each time, wishing that we could do better for our kids. I have also spent time in the lower level of the Aula which is used for a lunchroom. It is hot and uncomfortable and not a place I would enjoy eating lunch everyday.

The school expects to expand to full enrollment of 630 students. That number is greater than originally planned when it was relocated in 2013 and that number of students cannot be accommodated within the existing school building. The school needs more space. It is not reasonable to do an expansion that keeps the existing building. Two independent estimates overlap at a cost of \$500,000 just to replace the roof. That is not a responsible use of school funds.

The children deserve the best teaching and learning space that we can provide. The Aula is standing in the way and needs to be replaced. The TCGIS Board has listened carefully to concerns of those who would like to see the building stay. It has done an arguably thorough job considering options, including moving, splitting campuses, and utilizing the existing space in other ways. Keeping the existing building is simply not a viable option. It's not affordable to maintain and it does not meet the needs of our students.

I urge you to reject the petition for historical designation.

Sincerely,

Nancy Bjorn Nordeen  
2544 Brighton Ave NE  
Minneapolis MN 55418





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** peter huxmann <huxmann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Please decline the historic designation of the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I'll make this brief. I know the neighborhood around the Twin Cities German Immersion School loves the former Church of St. Andrew, that it's one of many landmarks in the neighborhood & that many families in the area have fond memories tied to the church.

I get that & appreciate that.

The Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) is a really good school, with really good kids & really involved families. We love that the school relocated to this neighborhood a few years ago — finally! A school in a neighborhood instead of a former industrial space! The nature & parks that surround the neighborhood are idyllic, the homes are well-kept and the vibe is just right. This is a great neighborhood to have a school in.

But the school is inadequate in a couple ways. I'm embarrassed that my kids have lunch every day in a church basement. I'm jealous of other schools where there's an actual gym, with actual basketball hoops and tape marks on the floor for different sports. I think it's crazy that a 4-story-tall building barely has 2 useable floors.

I like the look of the former church. I think TCGIS did a great job maintaining it & tying it into the new construction that was done before the school moved in. Families are moving into the neighborhood to send their kids to the school.

The time for historic designation has passed. The church & school were vacant for many years before TCGIS moved in – the neighborhood couldn't fill it, couldn't maintain it & didn't think it worthy of historic designation until now – why? The school simply wants to improve their facilities to fit the students projected to enroll & the current configuration won't work for that.

Okay, I said I'd be brief. I'd hope the neighborhood would want the school to succeed. I'd hope the neighborhood would consider a school full of students to be a benefit & a draw for others to the area. If this building is designated as historic, I'd hope the neighborhood would figure out a way to fund the reconstruction & maintenance necessary, & help the school find other ways to expand beyond their property lines to accommodate the growth that is likely to happen.

A new building on the site of the former St. Andrew's church would do more to maintain and improve the neighborhood than a historic designation would preserve. Please decline the historic designation status for the former St. Andrew's church. For the good of the neighborhood.

(Also, isn't it on the property owner to seek historic designation for their own property? Can third parties legally seek historic designation for a property they don't own? I can't think of any famous St. Paulites with any connection to St. Andrew's — what would even prompt historic designation other than certain neighbors not wanting the neighborhood to change?)

-Peter Huxmann, Minneapolis (but my kids go to/went to the German Immersion School in St. Paul)

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing regarding the petition to designate the building at 1031 Como Avenue West in St. Paul as an historic structure.

The petition was not submitted by the owners of the structure, and it was done without the support of the owners, a situation which I find questionable. I am not sure what relationship the petitioners have with the building, nor do I understand how they will help care for the building, with or without an historic designation.

I have a child attending the school that occupies the building, the Twin Cities German Immersion School. I am concerned over the time and resources that this petition, and possible future action, is taking from the core mission of the school and its administrators.

The purpose of a public school is to educate students, and a public charter school has an especially limited budget to work with. Historic designation will stretch those funds too far, and I foresee it impacting the ability of the school to fulfill its mission.

Please deny any historic designation of the building (known by the school community as the Aula) located at 1031 Como Avenue West in St. Paul.

Thank you and best regards,

Jennifer Roos  
2436 30th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406



Brenda van Dyck

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3133 36th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406 | bavandyck@gmail.com

**October 25, 2018**

Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**Dear Heritage Preservation Commission:**

I am writing in regard to the Twin Cities German Immersion School and its plans to construct a school building in the place of the sanctuary building of the former St. Andrew Catholic Church. I understand that a neighbor group has submitted a petition to designate the building for historic preservation. My hope is that the school will be allowed to continue with its plans to develop a functional school space at the site.

My daughter has attended the school for the last five years. We feel fortunate that we can be a part of the unique educational experience that the German immersion school offers. I am of German heritage, and my daughter has a wonderful opportunity to learn a foreign language at the school and what it means to be a global citizen. My own father immigrated to St. Paul many years ago, and St. Paul has been home to many from various countries. It seems fitting that St. Paul would be home to a school like TCGIS. There truly is nothing like this school in the Twin Cities or all of Minnesota.

I understand why the neighbors are upset about plans to tear down the aula and build a school building in its place. The church is a beautiful structure and I know that it has significance for many in the neighborhood. But the reality is that it hasn't been a functioning church building for quite a while and it simply isn't financially feasible to maintain the building as a church, when the building no longer meets the growing needs of the school. I have seen school leaders work hard at finding a workable solution that doesn't involve tearing down the aula, including looking for alternative sites for the school, or operating split campuses. To date, these efforts have not led to a solution that makes sense for a publicly funded school with limited resources and growing space needs. I also know that the school is trying to do its best with very limited resources. I have volunteered at the school in a number of different capacities and have seen teachers, staff, and others work hard to create a vital and unique educational experience in the face of funding challenges.

I was disappointed to hear of recent protests outside of the school as students were being released for the day. My daughter has noted the signs in the neighborhood about preserving the church building and has interpreted this as neighbors not liking the school or the students who go there. At this point, I don't believe that there is anything short of moving out of the neighborhood that would please the neighborhood group.

I do hope the commission recognized the burden to the school and the negative consequences of granting historic preservation to the former church. Thank you.

**Sincerely,**

*Brenda van Dyck*

**Brenda van Dyck**



Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re. Hearing on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 St. Andrew Church

Dear Members of the Preservation Commission,

Although my residence is in Minneapolis, I consider myself a citizen of the Twin Cities. Not only are both my children at a school physically located in St. Paul (TCGIS), but I am also connected to St. Paul through my work at the University of Minnesota, where I am an adjunct faculty member at Family Social science located on the St. Paul campus.

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to a local designation of the old St. Andrew's Church at 1031 Como Ave. W. for three main reasons.

First, there are other examples of Romanesque-revivalist churches designed by C. Hausler that are better preserved examples in the twin cities, such as St. Boniface in Mpls and other, more architecturally significant buildings by him, such as the Minnesota Bldg., are already designated. Consequently, the loss of St Andrew's church would not significantly degrade the legacy of C. Hausler in the twin cities.

Second, there is no clear evidence presented in the petition that the church was even designed by C. Hausler. Given the completeness of the records regarding his activity as an architect due to his position and standing in St. Paul, the absence of such evidence strongly suggest that he was not the architect of the church. If he were, why would his name not be mentioned when the church was dedicated or why would he not associate himself in his papers with the building? Given that a lot of the reason the petitioners make for the significance of the building rests on the alleged association with Hausler, the absence of clear evidence to support this claim significantly weakens the claim for historic significance.

Third, even assuming that there is historic significance to the building, it is not appropriate to burden a local school with the financial obligations to maintain the building. TCGIS is a public charter school. As such, TCGIS is funded at levels significantly lower than other public schools and already at a financial disadvantage. Any burden placed on it to maintain a historical building will directly affect its ability to serve its main purpose, which is to educate its students. As the school has demonstrated, the church building is not very functional and in comparison to the proposed new building much more expensive to maintain. As a result, a designation of the church building would have a direct negative impact on the education of the children and in direct violation of the mission and purpose of the school. In addition, it would significantly reduce the resale value of the building and in essence then represent a taking of resources from the school that in no way are appropriate to the already questionable value (see points 1&2 above) that the designation would provide to the public.



Ascan F Koerner, 100 Seymour Av e SE., Mpls, MN 55414





10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am very proud of my son, Niklaus Nordeen, who has worked very hard to learn a second language and excel in this great school, TCGIS. It would be a shame for his education to be interrupted if the school is forced into moving or closing, especially since he and the rest of the students and staff have been such good stewards of the neighborhood and brought new life into a property that had been vacant for years. It would certainly not be fair, in my opinion, to ask a school not to modify a property after they've already purchased and moved into it. Lastly, even if there were no children affected by an historic designation, I don't think that the building is worth preserving because there are other buildings like it in St. Paul.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Matthew Nordeen  
2544 Brighton Avenue NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Brad Wilkinson <sabngo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:25 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Aula

Dear Mr. Gause,

I would like to convey my concern for establishing the Aula at TCGIS as a St. Paul historic site. However first I would like to give my recognition to the fine job the Heritage preservation Commission has done over the years. I appreciate good architecture and historic structures. St. Paul has managed to preserve a lot of its history and as a result has a more old town feel as compared to Minneapolis. So I certainly enjoy seeing the beautiful historic architecture when I come to visit St. Paul. That said when it comes to the Aula I acknowledge that there is a historic nature to the building. However, one has to be realistic as to the cost of maintaining such an old building. Schools in general do not have the financial means to pay for good education. They most certainly do not have money to spend on major capital improvements to a near centuries old building. Just the anticipated cost of repairing the roof or boilers could be a devastating blow to the owner of the building. Forcing this responsibility on a small organization without great financial means could lead to significant problems for the school. Ultimately, if worse came to worse, the school would be forced to vacate the building at which point it would most likely fall further into disrepair. This of course would negatively affect the selling value of the school and the surrounding community further worsening the situation. On the other hand if the city of St. Paul and the immediate surrounding community want to preserve the building, why not issue a special property tax levy on the surrounding properties, excluding the school of course, such that the city could help contribute toward the majority of the restoration cost. In this way the community can participate in the historic preservation. Therefore, without direct city funding in whole for the restoration of the TCGIS Aula, I can not support the establishment of the Aula as a historic structure.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and I appreciate your attention and effort regarding this matter.

Best Regards  
Brad Wilkinson  
4905 10th Ave South  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Parent of students at TCGIS

Sent from my iPhone



Brian Avery  
4322 Blaisdell Ave S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
USA  
e-mail: bzwrxbz@yahoo.com

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MBN 55102

Minneapolis, Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

As a big fan of the Lost Twin Cities PBS series and the books by Larry Millett, I can also see the beauty of the former St. Andrews church building. Being an ex-pat from California, to here, Minnesota, I can very much appreciate what people see in the older architectures, for they give you a sense of continuance. That being said, I am not convinced that this is exclusively what the debate is about.

I have seen the evidence of grand structures being built, only to be torn down 20 – 50 or 100 years later. It is a shame when this happens to homes and commercial buildings. These structures certainly can be put to good use serving the same functions they were originally intended for. But, the church is a bit different. The structure is uniquely suited to the purpose it was built for. Any other use of it is really not fitting. It was not deemed important enough to keep its use as church (by the neighbors) when it was sold to TCGIS a few years ago. TCGIS did its best to re-purpose it for as long as it did.

Having seen the inside of this church (as well as the outside), I can say with good certainty that the only thing that might be special is the front facade. The interior architecture is quite ordinary for a church, and not awe inspiring at all.

So, it seems like this argument might be about the facade/structure in the front. Yes it is beautiful... but it is a very small but very expensive portion to upkeep (windows included). I think most people are trying to hold onto memories of their church past.

Unfortunately, it will never be a church again. There is no demand for this. If there were, it would have been snapped up quickly, years ago for this purpose.

TCGIS has tried to be open minded and pull in everyone's opinions for many many months now, but, I believe the ultimate goal from neighbors might be to see the school go away. Many are trying to use this topic as a starting point to make it happen. I do not believe there is any real effort to help offset costs, only complaining and scaring children with organized protests. The only GoFundMe or "kickstart" type of page seen is to help raise money for the protests, not to raise money to offset costs for the school as it relates to this issue.

The school purchased the property, let it continue being one of the most highly rated schools in Minnesota, do not cripple it. I would like to see my children continuing their education there. We have twins in Kindergarten, and one in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Thank You,  
Brian Avery



**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Amy Lenburg <alenburg@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:13 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the K-4 art teacher at the Twin Cities German Immersion School and a parent of two Twin Cities German Immersion School students, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather force the educating of kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits. As one of the teachers most affected by the space shortage at the moment, I can attest to the need for more and more appropriate space and know the lengths that the school has gone to in looking for other viable solutions.

Please do the right thing and deny any historic designation.

Thank you.

Amy Lenburg  
3316 40th Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

--  
Amy Lenburg  
Art Teacher  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106  
alenburg@tcgis.org

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**GEHEIMHALTUNGSPFLICHT:**

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## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Catherine Radecki <catherineradecki25@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:40 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Importance of TCGIS Remodel

October 25, 2018  
Saint Paul Heritage Commission c/o George Gause

Dear St. Paul Heritage Commission,

I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school into a historic location. We have two children attending Twin Cities German Immersion School and it is utmost important that our staff and students have room to learn and teach.

Just last week, I was in the front office and an English teacher came wandering in, saying " I am just looking for a place to do some paperwork during my prep. " You see, all of the small conference rooms were in use and her own classroom was being made available for other teachers to use during her prep. This is happening to our teachers every day. Furthermore, our children have felt intimidated by neighbors who strongly oppose the remodel. I have felt uncertain about our children's safety due to the neighbors on at least one account.

There is nothing historic about the building, and there wasn't years ago when the school purchased it. It's primary purpose currently is to hold our staff and students and create a warm and comfortable learning environment for all.

Many thanks for your consideration,

--

**Catherine Radecki**  
5904 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Rich Iwen <richiwen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Request to reject the St. Andrews Petition

Oct 25 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing to encourage you to reject the petition regarding historic designation on St. Andrews Church in the Como neighborhood owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (known as the Aula at TCGIS.) There are several sound reasons to reject this petition.

- 1) TCGIS is a public school and a non-profit entity and did not request and does not want the historic designation. The Aula is old and decrepit, and TCGIS cannot afford the upkeep of the building. Additionally and more importantly, after making do for several years, the Aula is no longer an adequate educational space for the students. It is falling apart, a hazard, and not a good school building.
- 2) TCGIS spent 2 years examining options to improve the campus, including renovating and continuing to reuse the Aula. It also looked to purchase other property. After 2 years, there are no other options. This is not the first choice for TCGIS's space needs, it is - after years of examination- the only choice.
- 3) TCGIS does not want and has not requested this historic designation.
- 4) Opponents of TCGIS have been unable to any viable properties for TCGIS to buy, have been unable to present any viable options for TCGIS to build on the current site while retaining the Aula, have been unable to present any viable way that the Aula could meet the school's space needs, and have ben unable to present any viable way for TCGIS, a public school, to raise the money to maintain the Aula and manage historic structure.
- 5) Opponents of TCGIS have placed considerable emphasis on Charles Hausler, the architect of St. Andrews as a reason to preserve the building. However, his work is already well represented with historical designations, and he will not be overlooked or forgotten by anyone researching the history of St. Paul in the early 1900s. There's no reason to force a public school to maintain a decrepit building to maintain his memory.
- 6) Historic designation could well destroy the school since the work required to maintain a historic building is outside of the scope of a public school. And I'd like to present some information regarding what a unique and valuable entity TCGIS is in St. Paul:
  - TCGIS is the only german-immersion school in Minnesota.
  - TCGIS is one of the very few german-immersion schools in the country.
  - TCGIS brings 15-30 intern teachers from Germany to St. Paul every year for a semester or the entire year. TCGIS literally is raising the profile of St. Paul and Minnesota internationally, and creating long-lasting relationships around the world.

- TCGIS hires internationally and people move from Germany to live and work in St. Paul at this school
- TCGIS hosts 30-40 8th-grade students from Germany every September. The first impression these kids have of the United States is that of St. Paul Minnesota.

In summary, TCGIS does not want, has not requested, and can not afford this historic designation; the memory of the architect is well established in the historical record without this designation; and this designation may well imperil a significant and unique school and cultural institution. Please reject this petition for designation.

Respectfully,

Rich Iwen  
TCGIS parent  
2436 30th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

24 October 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The Twin Cities German Immersion School represents a positive change in the Como Neighborhood locally and the Twin Cities in general by providing excellent education to a growing number of students; including my children Audrey Tuite (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and John Tuite (7<sup>th</sup> grade). My children have been indirectly threatened by protests from a few neighbors who have protesting in masks for a former church; now school that has been decommissioned for many years.

Despite the lapse of time, only now some neighbors have sought historic designation for a building that has long past seen its use as a church and does not appear to represent a building worthy of historical preservation – especially since it already represents a hybrid of architectural styles: Aulia (old) and the new addition. I would be hard pressed to find such a building meeting historical classification that is a mish-mash of styles.

Furthermore, our school is being placed at unrealistic financial burden to handle such a historical designation and additionally this will prevent sale of the school if we had opted to sell as any other future buyer would have to address the same concerns.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Tuite  
405 Thomas Avenue South  
Minneapolis MN 55405



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jenia Strom <jeniastrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 10:26 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Letter for St. Paul Heritage Preservation Committee re: TCGIS/old St. Andrew's building

Here it is with address:

On Fri, Oct 26, 2018 at 8:53 AM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

25 October 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I was surprised, sad, and frustrated when I first heard of TCGIS's plan to take down the former sanctuary of St. Andrew's Catholic Church. I love the look and feel of the building, love the blend with the new school building, love that there's a story and history to it.

But, as the school continued to look at options and to press forward with plans, it began to make sense to me. And, quite truthfully, when the Save Historic St. Andrew's movement began in earnest: I found myself in full support of the school's plan to move forward.

Why the change? In listening to both sides of the argument and reflecting on our family's experience in this space, it quickly seemed clear: the desire to save St. Andrew's - while a beautiful, old building - was not financially responsible, and was certainly not in the best interest for the current or future students of TCGIS, which includes our children, Annie Strom (6th grade) and Siri Strom (4th grade).

While I entirely appreciate the nostalgia for what happened in this building when it served as the faith home for a parish, this argument seems out of touch with the reality that it is no longer, and will never be, St. Andrew's Catholic Church. Beautiful weddings and confirmations and baptisms were held here. And, I know

that this makes it a beloved space for many. But, the church was closed. The chapter of this space serving this purpose has closed.

I do consider the space beautiful: the arches and big, white, airy space in the interior are inspiring. But, I know that I have sat in numerous performances in this building and been frustrated that we couldn't even hear what was happening - the acoustics are horrible. I know that on days when my youngest daughter has Sport, she comes home with headaches from the sound in that space. The *current* chapter of this space - the Aula - requires it to serve function it is simply not suited for.

I trust the TCGIS board and leaders, and I know they have worked tirelessly to ensure that the best options have come forward. I appreciate their diligence, and their commitment to using resources wisely and to serving students well. Despite my early reticence about this plan, I have come to fully support it.

I urge this committee to trust this diligence as well, and to reject the designation of St. Andrew's as a historic building. Yes, it's a beautiful building with a rich history that many feel a deep connection to. But, TCGIS is a beautiful community with an incredible commitment to children and to creating new connections and a future with hope. I ask you to help us in embracing this future.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jenia Strom  
Parent of TCGIS Students  
3308 33rd Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Carmen Dahlberg <carmen@valleyhilldesign.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:13 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** TCGIS Office; Thaddaeus Dahlberg  
**Subject:** TCGIS letter to Commissioners  
**Attachments:** TCGIS Letter to Commissioners.docx

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. While this petition is being presented by neighbors seeking to preserve a neighborhood landmark, their efforts are focused more on the exterior that affects them (visually and minimally) rather than on the interior that is affecting the students (physically and academically).

The building is badly need of repair, and if residents would tour the inside they would see that much has already been changed; as is, the building has passed a point of no return and will never return to the past level of grandeur that they envision. The buildings walls, rooms, and features have been gutted and need to be remodeled in a way that will provide a safe and comfortable space to accommodate our students to enhance their learning.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, facilitate teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

I urge you to deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

*Carmen Dahlberg*

Carmen Dahlberg  
1927 Benjamin St, Minneapolis, MN



10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

I am writing as a TCGIS parent of 3 children, ages 12 to 4; our family has been with the school since 2011 and will be with the school until 2028. I am also the Vice Chair of the TCGIS Board and am well informed regarding this issue after having spent countless hours considering our options and making the difficult decision to replace the aging former church structure with a new facility that meets our needs.

I have reviewed the historic designation application of our public charter school building that a small group of disgruntled neighbors put before you for consideration. I am not convinced that the application was written with legitimate concern of the former church building. Rather, the group is abusing the Heritage Preservation Commission application process as a tool to selfishly prevent any change in the neighborhood, with the ultimate and hurtful goal of our school moving away. The group's application does not meet the spirit or intent of the HPC laws that exist for good reason. Will this group next petition for the historic designation of Como Elementary and Randolph Heights Elementary? These are both St. Paul public schools attributed to architect Hausler.

Regarding the application itself, the evidence supporting historic designation is lacking. As experts in historic architecture, I'm sure you all agree. The applicants provided no proof of who the actual architect was; in fact, they referenced sources that attributed the building to others. The section about the architect is simply a biography of his career. The prominence of the former church in the Como neighborhood is exaggerated. The structure is only visible from a few blocks away and simply does not draw people into the neighborhood to appreciate the architecture. The significance to Hungarian immigrants is not supported by an endorsement from the American Hungarian Coalition, one group that should be spearheading the effort, if the former church is indeed significant to them. The applicants tout the Romanesque Revival style of the former church, something I would argue can be found elsewhere and without using public education dollars to preserve it.

Please know, we have actively solicited feedback from the neighborhood and other stakeholders through surveys, listening sessions, and open facilities meetings. We incorporated dedicated areas for public art on the Como facade of the new building design, specifically to commemorate the property's past. These efforts to ease the pain for our neighbors has only been met with criticism and false accusations of malicious intent.

We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand. Indeed, the group's spiteful behavior puts our school's future at stake. Please do not move forward with the designation process.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Julie Alkatout  
2335 McKinley St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418



**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** MarileeTuite <marileetuite@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:16 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Letter for inclusion in the 11/5 HPC packet hearing on the Petition Requesting historic designation of Twin Cities German Immersion School

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal minority of neighbors who did nothing to act on the building's behalf when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

There are far more deserving structures that deserve preservation. This is not one of them. Please deny any historic designation for the Twin Cities German Immersion School property.

Thank you.

Marilee Tuite  
405 Thomas Ave. South  
Minneapolis, MN 55405



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Angela Haeg <amaddy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:13 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul); Peter  
**Subject:** Letter regarding the Historical Preservation of building owned by TCGIS

Please include this letter in your public hearing documents for the hearing on Monday, November 5th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. regarding TCGIS:

October 25th, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am the parent of two children (Evelyn and Theo Haeg) who attend the Twin Cities German Immersion school. I have been and continue to be an active volunteer and participant in school activities. My children are thriving at TCGIS and I am excited for their future there.

However, there are significant structural issues that my children confront every day. There is not enough room for the number of students at the school given the unexpected growth which has daily consequences for my little ones. They have headaches from the echoing space of their "gym", classmates have become injured in the "gym" from the unsafe corners, my children have been crammed into classrooms too small for their number, the staff is stressed from too little space and what space they have is inadequate in many instances. Lunch times start way too early to accommodate the number of students at the school and then they are hungry later on, the lunch room is too loud, the kitchen is inadequate for proper, good food preparation, etc The reasons could go on and on.

I was raised in a Catholic school in Roseville that all my siblings went too and we have strong memories from our time there. I think about how I would feel if the church were to be torn down and really stronger believe that if the reason was to make a school better for children and their devoted staff, then tear that building down and build one where they can grow and thrive.

I also worked for over a decade for Senator Dick Cohen of St. Paul and via that position was involved in numerous community meetings and issues that came up in the district for which I worked. I have also served on boards in various positions and I am astounded at the time, energy, and care that our current board commits to this school and to the community. From those experiences I have had practice in weighing pros and cons and everyone's thoughts and feelings. I truly know and believe that our board at TCGIS has acted in good faith for both the school and the community. I know that the new building is absolutely necessary for our children's health and education.

It is discouraging that the community organization against the school's plan to better their structure for the sake of students and staff have often misstated, misled, offered "fake news" and distorted events on their social media pages, their letters, and at their meetings.

Please look at the needs of our children first when you deliberate on the historic designation. Please do not give them this designation to enshrine a now useless building over the needs of our children and their tireless staff.

Thank you for all you do for the city of St. Paul and for our community overall,

Angela Haeg  
2428 33rd Avenue South  
Minneapolis, 55406



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Engelmayer, Reinhard S <reinhard.engelmayer@usbank.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:58 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a parent of a second-grade student at Twin Cities German Immersion School. I also have two future students, so I will have children attending this school until roughly 2032. I want to urge you to please reject the petition to turn our school into a historic location. I appreciate that the Aula is a beautiful structure as it stands today, but at the end of the day, it simply isn't meeting the needs of the children learning there and the cost of maintaining a historic building could ruin a very successful charter school.

My son Oliver has come home from school telling me how he kicked a lunch table during a game in gym class, and knocked over silverware. This is because the younger grades have to have gym in the basement of the Aula, which also serves as the lunchroom. When he receives help with a reading specialist it has to happen in the hallway because there is not another space to work with him. I can only imagine how challenging it is for the teachers to keep students on task when there are so many distractions in a school hallway. This construction project would create appropriate spaces for our children to learn.

I am eager for this matter to be put to rest as it is becoming confusing and a little frightening for the students when they see a small group of adults protesting outside their school and signs around the school implying that their school is bad for wanted to improve the building. Our school board has gone out of their way to include the entire community in the decision process and has explored many other options, this is what is best for the students and that has to be more important than a pretty building that people have fond memories of.

Thanks for taking the time to read my email.

Reinhard (Steve) Engelmayer  
885 96th Ave NE  
Blaine, MN 55434

**R. Steve Engelmayer**  
Business Ops Analyst | GTM Account Analysis & Billing  
p. 612.313.5275 | [reinhard.engelmayer@usbank.com](mailto:reinhard.engelmayer@usbank.com)

**U.S. Bank**  
U.S. Bank Plaza  
200 S 6th St, Minneapolis, MN 55402 | EP-MN-L18B | [www.usbank.com](http://www.usbank.com)

U.S. BANCORP made the following annotations

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Elizabeth Tobias <etobias@germanschool-mn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:47 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Heritage designation of Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear Mr. Gause and Heritage Preservation Committee,

I am a parent at Twin Cities German Immersion School, and my children have been students at TCGIS for 10 years so far.

The designation of a building as an historically significant location must consider two factors: the uniqueness of the building's history and how its projected use fits with its traditional/original intended use. The TCGIS aula, while a lovely building, is not unique. The architectural style is not unique in either Minnesota or elsewhere. Its former function as a Catholic parish church is not unique either; it will not be used for anything relating to that.

How will the designation of the building as an historic site be implemented?

The current condition *is already not the original structure*. Will TCGIS be required to return the *interior* of the building to its original state? What will we be allowed to do with the building if it becomes an historic site? E.g. Will we be required to keep the organ and refurbish it? Its function as a public school automatically precludes the retention of any religious structural components.

If we are allowed to change the interior, then ***the only thing the petitioners care about is the part that effects them*** - what they see. They do not see the part that effects *the students*, which is actually what is driving the school's actions. Designating something as an 'historically significant site' - and then only protecting the exterior of the building is quite frankly ridiculous. Either it's critically important to the history of St. Paul, in which case the entire building should be preserved, or it is not that critical, in which case it should not be protected at all.

The anti-school concerns have not volunteered to help the school. Where are their financial analyses? Where are their grant writing campaigns? Where are their fundraising efforts? Where is their neighborliness?

How will a public school be able to afford the millions of dollars necessary to maintain the structure in its current condition? I think this is the most urgent concern of parents. As an historical preservation organization, you surely must understand that money for historical preservation does not grow on trees. Which gets paid first - historically appropriate repairs or teachers' salaries?

The neighbors recognize this as a landmark identifying their neighborhood. TCGIS has the opportunity to be a new landmark for the neighborhood. Let us be that new landmark.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Tobias  
parent

3604 16th Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55407



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Peter Haeg <pmhaeg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:40 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** RE: TCGIS campus

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

As a parent of two children at the TCGIS school, I'm writing to urge you to reject the consideration that the Aula building on the TCGIS campus be given historical status.

I understand the community interest in preserving the building and their connection with the history of the structure.

However, this facility is an aging component of the campus that does not serve the school, nor its children well - and therefore I'd therefore argue it neither serves the local community well, too.

If the neighborhood is sufficiently motivated to maintain the building as it is, I'd ask they purchase it from the school so they can do with it as they wish. The school had identified another campus to relocate to, but out of fear of being left with a campus that had a building that would be difficult to sell because of potential renovation restrictions, was unable to make that change.

Until that time, I'd kindly ask you allow the school to serve its students well by leaving this issue alone.

Many thanks for your consideration.  
Respectfully,

Peter Haeg  
2428 33rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation  
Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, we urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.

This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling part than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project-- monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Please do the right thing and deny any historic designation.

There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

We thank you for your consideration on this.



Ben and Elizabeth Zehnpfennig

4047 Washburn Ave N., Minneapolis, MN 55412

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Marcy Conrad Nutt <mncnstudio@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 12:57 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Letter for HPC meeting-TCGIS/St Andrews

Hello George. Please include this letter in the packet for the review of the project at Twin Cities German Immersion School. Thank you.

---  
Greetings HPC Board,

I am a parent of a child that attends TCGIS, and I also work as an architect in St Paul. I am concerned by the request to designate part of the school's property as a historic structure. The maintenance costs of the Aula building, along with the heating and cooling of the non-insulated structure, and difficult accessibility and safety issues of this building should be acknowledged. The building is also no longer a church. The interior and key pieces were stripped out when the diocese made the decision to decommission and sell the property.

While I am quite sympathetic to the desire to save the exterior of the old structure - I wish it made sense as well - will the neighborhood assist in its upkeep? Will the State start sending schools more money? Why didn't the neighbors fight for the church when it was still a church? The church was decommissioned and sold, as were other churches all over the country. Is this to be the new precedent, that property owners who purchase abandoned church property will now be forced to maintain and upkeep a building as a memory of the church? And what happens to the school's future to save that memory? The building just isn't St Andrews anymore.

I believe the designation will place an undue burden on the school and, ultimately, the education of all of our kids. Public schools have a hard enough time maintaining the existing buildings they use to full capacity, paying teachers, and updating facilities for important life safety measures. We just had a fundraiser to get the right kind of locks on our doors in this age of mass shootings - where are we to find the money to maintain a church the diocese couldn't afford?

I ask that you not impose historical designation on this building.

Thank you,  
Marcy Conrad Nutt  
Minneapolis 55418



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Mary Zellmer-Bruhn <zellm002@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 12:07 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School Building

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As parents of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors.

The building in question is a public school building. Though it was once a church, it ceased to be so when the parish closed it in 2011. It seems that cries for preservation should have occurred at that point. **Where were the neighbors when this congregation faltered?** It seems neighbors did not care enough about this building to participate in the life of the congregation to keep the church alive. Neighbors showed no willingness to organize or financially support the parish or structure when the practical decisions of closing the church occurred.

**Where are the neighbors when presented with the immense cost of maintaining and upgrading a building with taxpayer dollars intended for education?** The mission of TCGIS is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing building now sits. **What efforts are any making to remedy the harm this designation would generate?**

**Where will the neighbors find themselves if their actions place the school in financial jeopardy?** There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues. If TCGIS is unable to survive the costs leveled and the restrictions to programming created by this designation, **these same neighbors may be faced with an empty property that no other school or organization will want or be able to afford to maintain.**

**Neighbors may well find themselves with a large unoccupied structural albatross that would create far more harm to the neighborhood than would replacing an old building, however charming they find it, with a new one.**

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Mary Zellmer-Bruhn  
Peter Bruhn  
2439 35th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

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Monika Avery  
4322 Blaisdell Ave S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55409  
USA  
e-mail: mhaering@gmx.net

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MBN 55102

Minneapolis, Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

I am parent of 3 students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School. I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location since it will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school.

As much as I can see the reason for the wish, the old church building is falling apart and the parish closed it down in 2011. When the church was decommissioned the neighborhood wasn't interested. The school makes every effort to be a good neighbor and the school's board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites to move and to design a building within the deteriorating church structure that works.

The aggressive campaign against the schools building plans has gotten out of hand. The protests during dismissal are scary and intimidate the students.

The financial burden would be unreasonable for a successful public school with the mission to provide excellent education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area (and the ratings prove it). Please deny any historic designation.

Thank you,

Monika Avery



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you,

Mr. Peter E. Grotans  
1063 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
grot0010@umn.edu  
peter.grotans@CLAconnect.com





10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of three students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small minority of neighbors struggling to face the fact that the old building no longer serves as a church. The time to act was when the Catholic Church was forced to sell this building because of the declining interest in the Church, the building, and its congregation.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Putting the school at risk of operating within a school building that meets the needs of its staff and students, will endanger growth and eventually result in yet another missed opportunity to improve education in for our children and leave the neighborhood with an unoccupied historic building at the hands of the city.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation.

Thank you.

Matthias Frasch  
3741 48<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55406



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jennifer Pope <popejenniferann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Twin Cities German Immersion School

I have attached my address to the email below.  
Thanks

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 12:33 PM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.



**George Gause**  
*Heritage Preservation Supervisor*  
Planning & Economic Development  
25 4th Street West, ste 1400  
Saint Paul, MN [55102](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us)

P: 651-266-6714

The Most Livable  
City in America [george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Jennifer Pope <popejenniferann@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:23 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

- 

Thank You for Your Consideration,  
Jennifer Pope  
4036 43rd Ave s  
Minneapolis Mn 55406

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parents of a child who attends the Twin Cities German Immersion School, we have several significant concerns regarding the petition requesting historic designation of the School's Aula.

- The Aula does not meet the School's needs. The structure is functionally obsolescent and deteriorating. The costs to preserve the structure are not feasible for a public charter school, and if the Aula were preserved, it would still not meet the space needs of the children and teachers.
- After a long and exhaustive consideration of all options, including evaluation of multiple alternative sites and a transparent and lengthy dialogue with community members and neighbors, the School Board determined that the redevelopment of the Aula would best meet the needs of the children and the mission of the School.
- The School purchased the property as a negotiated fair market value transaction with no historic preservation restrictions on its use. A historic preservation designation would restrict the School's use of the site and add a significant cost burden. We question whether applying a historic designation without the property owner's consent would be a governmental taking, and whether the City of Saint Paul would ultimately be legally liable for significant monetary damages.
- Our child has expressed unease by the numerous yard signs surrounding the school and the presence of protesters at dismissal. It appears that the strategy of some neighbors is to intimidate the children and make them uncomfortable in their school environment, thereby frightening families away from the neighborhood and harming the school. We find these strategies absolutely reprehensible. For the sake of the children, we ask for the petition to be denied at the earliest possible date to return normalcy to the school environment.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our concerns. We urge you to deny the petition requesting historic designation on November 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill and Joerg Hutmacher  
4537 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Cc: School Board, Twin Cities German Immersion School



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Tone, Eva <Eva.Tone@allina.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:49 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Heritage Preservation Commission: 11/5 Hearing  
**Attachments:** TCGIS letter to Heritage Preservation Commission.docx

George -  
Please see attached letter regards the upcoming hearing on 11/5/18.  
Thank you,  
Eva

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church and historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought a compromise. But this group is really not interested in a compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Eva Tone  
(parent of a TCGIS 6<sup>th</sup> grader & 2019 incoming kindergartener)  
1063 17<sup>th</sup> Ave SE  
Minneapolis, MN

## Eva Tone

Finance Manager - United Hospital, part of Allina Health  
333 North Smith Ave – St.Paul, MN 55102  
Ph. 651-241-8414 – [eva.tone@allina.com](mailto:eva.tone@allina.com)



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10/26/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Niklas Ehrentreich, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Jennifer Nylander  
4146 Sheridan Ave N  
Minneapolis, MN 55412



**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

---

**From:** Tanya <tanyaandburkhard@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Fynn Tiessen, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any

number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Tanya Novak

3225 Holmes Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55408

## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** burkhard tiessen <burkhard.tiessen1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:29 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic designation of the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

October 25th 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Annika and Fynn Tiessen, I have watched my children ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I like old buildings, but this building is a not worth preserving.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Burkhard Tiessen  
3225 Holmes Ave  
Minneapolis, MN 55408



10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

As a parent of two children at TCGIS (and an incoming Kindergartener in 2020), they are confused by the reaction by a small but vocal group of neighbors. My 6<sup>th</sup> grader is excited with the new plans and to have a "real" gymnasium, even if he can only enjoy it for one year. My 2<sup>nd</sup> grader is anxious when there are protestors outside her classroom window. I'm all for peaceful protests, but the behavior of some of those who oppose the building coming down has been questionable at times. In our culture of gun violence, some actually came to the protest in masks and black trench coats. How is this behavior appropriate? This should be my kids' safe zone. This group has taken it too far.

Throughout all of this, the TCGIS community has been kind, open to feedback/ideas, and been more than accommodating to those who oppose the demolition. This same group has been running an aggressive and mean-spirited campaign to do whatever it takes to keep the school from moving forward. Too many resources and the time of both staff and parents have been spent on this when it could be better spent on the kids instead.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until TCGIS brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea. There are many historic buildings worth saving but this isn't one of them.

Thank you.

Heather Cooper  
Minneapolis, MN 55409



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** amber streed <amberstreed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:03 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Hpc petition - response from family of TCGIS students

October 25, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of more than one child at TCGIS, I have watched my children, TCGIS students, ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting “our school” expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My children expressed concern about the “scary” protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. My son and daughter have had neighbors yell at them while playing outside on the playground during recess. I have personally seen the neighbors videotaping the children playing, parents during pickup – and the license plates of our cars. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul. I find this highly concerning, and very threatening towards the children, and families, of TCGIS.

The school’s Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is a historic

building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Amber Derks

4921 Queen Ave N

Minneapolis, MN 55430

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Malik Alkatout/Zayd Alkatout/Rania Alkatout, I have watched my children ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area. Seems as if we are bending over at every opportunity because we care about the neighborhood and want to be good neighbors. We have been part of the school community for 7 years and will continue to be for another 9.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Tarek Alkatout  
2335 McKinley Street NE  
MPLS MN, 55418



10/24/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

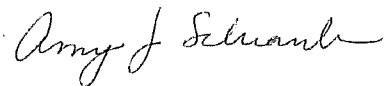
The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. It will risk shutting down a lively and thriving school educating our next generation of global citizens and leaders.

As parents of a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at TCGIS, we have had to try to explain to our son why neighbors would refuse to allow the school to expand in ways that are good for students in favor of an inanimate building that these neighbors don't even enter or use. My son is accustomed to feeling that adults care about him and to have many adults care more about bricks and building materials than children and education is incomprehensible to him (and frankly, to us as well). Upon arriving for the first day of school this year in late August and seeing the signs in the neighborhood opposing the school, my son remarked, "Oh, I forgot that the neighborhood hates us." My husband and I have been saddened that he experiences this perceived "hate" daily. This has lately only been exacerbated by neighbors demonstrating outside the school during the brief period of time when students are dismissed. My son rides the bus so the only outcome of this demonstration was to scare children and increase the feeling of intolerance they perceive in the neighborhood. We were horrified by these events and that neighbors would use our children in this way. This intimidating behavior threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul and has reinforced the horrifying idea that children and education are less important in our society than buildings and objects.

The TCGIS School Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to use, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending significant time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

The neighborhood made no move to purchase, fundraise for, or restore this building when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until the school revitalized the abandoned space. Whether or not this building can be labeled as "historic," the truth is that what is now inside of this building, essentially, the future of our society in the faces and education of our children, is what counts. I urge you to **reject the idea of naming this building an historic site** because the financial burden imposed by this designation threatens to close our school. Instead, please focus on the children for whom this building is now a home away from home, as well as a source of education, play, inspiration, and the future.

With sincere thanks for your consideration,



Amy Schrank and Joseph Bump  
2095 Carroll Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55014



10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As parents of Isla Duncanson and Sofia Rice, We have watched our students ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting “our school” expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. Additionally, our children expressed concern about the strange and somewhat “scary” protests neighbors have held, including wearing all black what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school’s Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

We’d like to know where the opposing neighborhood people were when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its

time has definitely come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area. We strongly feel there are better options.

We hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. We ask you to please consider the children's future, and how that will be affected. We urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Noah Duncanson And Karin Rice-Duncanson  
1598 Chelsea street  
Saint Paul MN 55108



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** bdsands2 <bdsands2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:51 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Regarding the petition to have the TCGIS building designated an historic building

Date: October 25, 2018

To: Commissioners, St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As you know, recently a handful of neighbors submitted a request that the deteriorating former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, be given an historic designation. I'm a resident of St. Paul and four of my children attend the Twin Cities German Immersion School or have in the past. The historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on the school. Ultimately it puts the school at risk of shutting down which isn't fair to the kids who are being educated there and their families.

When the school moved to the current site and purchased the buildings, there wasn't any indication that we wouldn't be allowed to use it to further the education of the kids. To set these expectations now, long after the purchase, is unjust. The school's Board has taken a great deal of time and effort to look for alternative sites but there just isn't anywhere else for our kids to go.

I would encourage the commission to consider the \$1.7 million that will be required to just maintain and make the building safe for kids. Then, add to that the amount that would be needed to make the space functional for the school. Finally, consider whether the city of St. Paul would be willing to give that money to the school to refurbish the building. As I believe this would be very unlikely, I urge you to reject the request. If you decide to rule in favor of the request, then it must be accompanied by full financial support to refurbish and maintain the structure.

Thank you.  
Harriet Sands

1295 Blair Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 555104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jennifer Giles <jen.giles83@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:46 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission: TCGIS

10/25/2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Tavian, I have watched my son ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area. I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Jennifer Giles

1343 Conservatory Court

Saint Paul, MN 55117

Sent from my iPhone



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Martin Schmutterer <schmutterer@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:44 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Regarding the Petition for Historic Designation of the Aula at TCGIS

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Thomas and Gabriel, we've anxiously discussed why a few neighbors are opposed to letting our school expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the protests neighbors have held. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is a historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone, and it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Martin Schmutterer  
134 Victoria St S, Unit 1  
Saint Paul

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Martin Schmutterer  
[Schmutterer@gmail.com](mailto:Schmutterer@gmail.com)  
[Schmutterer@comcast.net](mailto:Schmutterer@comcast.net)

## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** beate simon <mrs.beatesimon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:20 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation Request TCGIS - Please reject

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible. As a teacher at TCGIS I fully understand and support this decision.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Beate Simon  
1071 Montana Ave W  
Saint Paul  
MN 55117





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jonathan Frost <jonathan.d.frost@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:03 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: HPC Petition for Aula at TCGIS  
**Attachments:** image002.png

[Address included in signature - does that work? Thanks George!]

HPC Commissioners:

A small group of people in the Como neighborhood petitioned HPC for historical designation of the old St. Andrew's church building in the Como neighborhood for what seem like valid reasons. It's certainly an (externally) beautiful building that has been in the neighborhood for some time. This adds to the 'culture & atmosphere' of the area. That is important, yes.

However, this must be balanced by practical considerations. The building is no longer a privately-held house of worship, but a public charter school, with the primary purpose to educate young minds for future success. (Disclaimer: my son is in kindergarten at TCGIS). Our responsibility is to the kids, not to the the personal feelings of what the 'neighborhood spirit' that a small group of people hold. The money that would preserve the Aula would result in a cultural building that has historical value that would make (frankly) a poor school. Alternatively, that same amount of money would build an expansion that would wonderfully fit the needs of children. Imagine trying to house a zoo in an historic museum (I'm using the setting of a zoo intentionally. Remember, I have a kindergartner? A zoo is fitting in this analogy). It may be a beautiful museum, but it's not built for the same purpose.

Frankly, I don't live in the neighborhood and so I don't have anything to lose 'atmospherically' by the replacement of St. Andrews. But I can tell you that the existing TCGIS building looks GREAT. It is such a cool (externally, in this context) building. I would love if the schools in my neighborhood took such aesthetic care to construct a building that looks as good. Looking at the potential plans for the TCGIS expansion only furthers this point. TCGIS (existing or expansion) does not detract from the atmosphere of the community.

I would also argue that a well-functioning school benefits the community to a greater degree than a school who struggles to fit into the beautiful building to which they are confined. Neighborhood atmosphere must have a holistic approach, not just a visually-aesthetic, emotional-connection considerations.

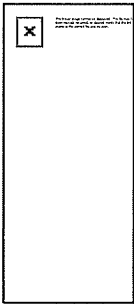
In an ideal world, we would keep everything beautiful or that has emotional-attachments around forever. However, at times, you need to turn over a new leaf, make changes for what's practically relevant, and create a new atmosphere/culture.

Respectfully,

Jon Frost  
1223 Van Buren Ave  
St Paul

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 12:49 PM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.



**George Gause**  
*Heritage 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](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Jonathan Frost <[jonathan.d.frost@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.d.frost@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:45 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** HPC Petition for Aula at TCGIS

HPC Commissioners:

A small group of people in the Como neighborhood petitioned HPC for historical designation of the old St. Andrew's church building in the Como neighborhood for what seem like valid reasons. It's certainly an (externally) beautiful building that has been in the neighborhood for some time. This adds to the 'culture & atmosphere' of the area. That is important, yes.

However, this must be balanced by practical considerations. The building is no longer a privately-held house of worship, but a public charter school, with the primary purpose to educate young minds for future success. (Disclaimer: my son is in kindergarten at TCGIS). Our responsibility is to the kids, not to the the personal feelings of what the 'neighborhood spirit' that a small group of people hold. The money that would preserve the Aula would result in a cultural building that has historical value that would make (frankly) a poor school. Alternatively, that same amount of money would build a expansion that would wonderfully fit the needs of children. Imagine trying to house a zoo in an historic museum (I'm using the setting of a zoo intentionally. Remember, I have a kindergartner? A zoo is fitting in this analogy). It may be a beautiful museum, but it's not built for the same purpose.

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Daniel Wheeler <wheel027@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:37 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS charter school property

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a select few neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historic designation will put an undue financial burden on this public charter school. It also risks shutting down a thriving Twin Cities charter school that is educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers across our entire world.

As a parent of Netta Wheeler - Kindergartner, my child has asked questions about why neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" flourish in ways that will make it more learning-friendly, energy efficient and workable as a K-8 school campus. The opportunity to "save" this property was present prior to TCGIS purchasing these buildings and making massive improvements to a vacant property/buildings.

The school's Board has made substantial efforts looking for alternative sites for us, and at designing a building within the outmoded church structure that works. But after spending much time and money it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible or the best alternative for our school community.

I have a friend in the neighborhood that loves seeing the property being utilized by so many. He has mentioned the increased revitalization of properties and increased property values due to TCGIS moving into this neighborhood.

Historic designation will place an unnecessary financial and educational burden on this successful public charter school. I urge you to fully reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration!

Dan Wheeler

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Dan Wheeler  
1672 Hubbard Ave.  
Saint Paul, MN 55104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Mike Gerlach <mikegerlach@nualumni.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 9:15 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Twin Cities German Immersion School Historic Preservation

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements.

As a parent of two children at TCGIS, I ask the commission to please take into consideration that historically, the site was not only a church, but also a school. TCGIS has been able to leverage the original school and continue the legacy of having a strong, vibrant school community in the neighborhood. As a charter school, TCGIS is a public school, it is tuition, free, and the school accepts all students, without entrance requirements, based on a lottery. Yet, TCGIS may not levy property taxes, may not receive funding from local property taxes, and it receives less funding per pupil than traditional public schools. For this reason, TCGIS, or any charter school that would be able to carry on the legacy of having a vibrant school within the neighborhood will need a sustainable, affordable, and well-built facility designed with education in mind. Historic preservation would place this purpose of land use at risk.

While TCGIS is a charter school, and not part of the St. Paul Public School system, the building requests TCGIS are making are in-line with that of the St. Paul Public Schools Facility Master Plan. TCGIS is seeking a space that supports athletics. We are seeking a building that offers specialized learning spaces for individual learning and special needs services. We are seeking a building that is conducive to a learning environment. Our requests are not out of line with the basic services we expect public schools to provide our children, and our ability to do so will be significantly compromised by an historic designation.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thanks,

Michael Gerlach  
1822 Fairmount Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 5:47 PM Mike Gerlach <mikegerlach@nualumni.com> wrote:  
Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements.

As a parent of two children at TCGIS, I ask the commission to please take into consideration that historically, the site was not only a church, but also a school. TCGIS has been able to leverage the original school and continue the legacy of having a strong, vibrant school community in the neighborhood. As a charter school,

TCGIS is a public school, it is tuition, free, and the school accepts all students, without entrance requirements, based on a lottery. Yet, TCGIS may not levy property taxes, may not receive funding from local property taxes, and it receives less funding per pupil than traditional public schools. For this reason, TCGIS, or any charter school that would be able to carry on the legacy of having a vibrant school within the neighborhood will need a sustainable, affordable, and well-built facility designed with education in mind. Historic preservation would place this purpose of land use at risk.

While TCGIS is a charter school, and not part of the St. Paul Public School system, the building requests TCGIS are making are in-line with that of the St. Paul Public Schools Facility Master Plan. TCGIS is seeking a space that supports athletics. We are seeking a building that offers specialized learning spaces for individual learning and special needs services. We are seeking a building that is conducive to a learning environment. Our requests are not out of line with the basic services we expect public schools to provide our children, and our ability to do so will be significantly compromised by an historic designation.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thanks,

Mike Gerlach

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** M Wabaunsee <mwabaunsee@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:27 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** Ted Anderson  
**Subject:** Save TCGIS

Thursday, October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request to give a crumbling and moldy de-sanctified former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (hereafter referred to as TCGIS), a historic designation will put an unsustainable financial burden on this public charter school. It will risk shutting down this thriving and fiscally responsible public school. TCGIS has the additional distinction of being the only German Immersion school in Minnesota and the largest German Immersion school in the U.S.A. according to Herbert Quelle, the German Consul General, Chicago, Illinois.

As a middle school parent, I have watched my child, a student at TCGIS, worriedly ask why a few people, are trying to prevent our school from improving to be a safer, more learning friendly environment. My child has also expressed concern about the public protests, which, while lawful, have been timed to occur at pick up time

for these elementary and middle school age children. This is bullying and irresponsible behavior in light of active shooter incidents in American schools and adds further to the stress of children who must participate in mandatory lockdown drills.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move and at designing a building within the deteriorating brick structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – public funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the existing tile-roofed school building are financially possible. The building in question, while beautiful on the outside, is a disaster on the inside. We literally just want to build a new building with the much needed classroom space, a larger gymnasium, and a cafeteria to satisfy the needs of our public school children and be fiscally responsible with public funds.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden that would be placed on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building a historic site.

I urge you to reject the idea.

I urge you to prioritize children, and their public education over a crumbling and moldy structure that has been de-sanctified and as such is no longer a church, but a school building.

Prioritize people.

I plan to be in attendance at the hearing on November 5.

Thank you.

Margaret Wabaunsee  
658 Sherwood Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55106



DATE  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

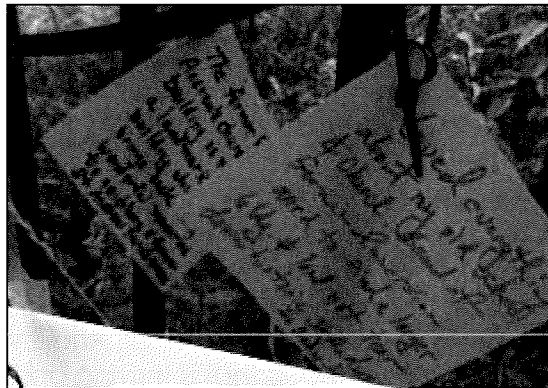
The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

By designating the building a preservation site, the commission would be asking for a secular, non-profit educational organization to keep and maintain crucifixes and statuettes of Catholic saints that build the facade. **As a parent and a taxpayer, I would be very offended to know that a building the Catholic church desanctified and sold with no reservations was being forcibly maintained by funding meant for educating children of all religious backgrounds.** The Catholic church has not endorsed, to my knowledge, the preservation efforts regarding TCGIS property. It is much more likely to be antithetical to the interests of the church. Requiring the preservation of this site would establish a precedent that all former church property would be seen as protected and less flexible. That would lower the property value of ALL current and former church property with one stroke.

The site was originally built as a church and is being nominated for historic designation because of its church-related attributes. The site is not one of the oldest Catholic churches in the city (it is, in fact, one of the newest). It was abandoned by the church and sold due to relatively low attendance compared to bordering church communities. It served the community for less than a century and the possible connection to German-speaking hungarian immigrant communities was only rediscovered as part of the research surrounding the historic designation, while **the school builds connections to German-speaking communities everyday. It is a hub for those communities to rally around and to focus their support of German language learning. To prioritize the tenuous connections to the past over the active efforts of the present seems ill-advised.** To date, no member of the former church community has asked to be a part of the school or help with any community building on behalf of the German speaking community or ANY community.

As with the connection to the Hungarian immigrant community, the connection to the architect, Charles Hausler, has only now been found and celebrated. The entire church community that has rallied around the preservation of the building didn't know who the architect was. Only with help of researchers and experts was that connection made known. Put another way: it was not the impetus for the application, but a justification. The group that has assembled to preserve this property has made clear in their outward

facing communications that they are prioritizing their desires for this property over the needs of students because they have a personal connection to the building.



Corey Plath  
2 months ago

For those that blindly celebrate the virtue(s) of culturally-mandated diversity, multi-culture-ism, & globalist activism; demolishing St. Andrews is what you're actually celebrating. (The demise of any symbolism of that w/ which you deem un-important) Such vision TCGIS: :-)

Example messages from the SHSA community.

**The fact that a building brings back fond personal memories for a few people is not justification for its preservation in perpetuity against the wishes of the owner.**

Many arguments for the benefits of historic preservation include that property value will go up. In this case, the property value would surely go down, since the petitioners have not joined the school as a historic neighborhood. Saint Paul's only other secularly-owned former church property to be designated a historic site was part of a neighborhood designation. **In fact, the school will get none of the benefits and the neighborhood will get none of the burden or responsibility.**

Thank you.

Matt Schneider  
978 Barrett Street, St. Paul MN 55103  
(651) 252-4656

25th of October 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a 2nd grade teacher at TCGIS,, I have watched my students ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My kids expressed concerns about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Stephanie Mekacher  
1619 Hubbard Ave  
St.Paul, MN 55104



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of a student, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul. I believe it has been inappropriate that protesters have been on site at dismissal times as this has caused my child to ask "why are those people mad at me?"

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible. Those who wish to designate this decommissioned church as a historic site are showing what a low value they place on the public education of students.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? If the archdiocese did not feel it was important to maintain the church, I fail to see how a public school is now supposed to pay for the upkeep that a historic designation would require. A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Meaghan Mammenga 380 County Rd B E St. Paul MN 55117



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Katherine Krantz <kat\_turtle@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 8:46 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Letter to the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission regarding TCGIS/former St. Andrew's church

25 October 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent petition by a handful of my neighbors to have the former church building, now owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School has been a very contentious issue in our neighborhood and also in my church community. I would like to share my perspective both as a 13 year Como Park resident, and as a parent. My two children attend TCGIS and I am immensely grateful that my children have language instruction as an extension of our cultural heritage. Neither my father nor I had that opportunity. Language is essential to cultural. While my father is fluent in German, I am not. As the grandchildren of immigrants with little access to academic language instruction, my siblings and I speak conversationally, and try to hold on to our heritage as best we can through songs and history. It is important to me that my children know the German language and hear our stories in their original language. Many of my neighbors understand that as a public school, TCGIS's responsibility is to educate children and that all other concerns are distant second. Even responding to this petition has taken valuable time and resources that would otherwise be spend helping children. Historic designation jeopardizes our school's financial viability. These children need a safe and appropriate educational space, not a crumbling sanctuary. Children have been injured using a gym space that was designed for rows of seats. The well-being of these children needs to be the only priority in decisions made at the school.

Secondly, let me say I am a supporter of historic conservation. I am glad that we have the historic streetcar station near my home to use as community gathering place. I am equally glad that not every station was preserved. Saving history in a city is very much like pruning a growing bush; some old branches must be cut off to allow for new growth to keep the plant healthy. The former church is crumbling. The stain glass windows Steeple peaks were removed years ago. The style of architecture is not unique to this building: Our Lady of Victory Chapel at Cretin-Derham Hall, Pilgrim Baptist Church, St. Thomas Chapel at the University of St. Thomas, St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church, and The Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church are all much better examples of the architectural style, and, unlike this building, they are intact. The future generation do not

require every old building to be saved, but rather a few that are well preserved. This building is not worth preserving.

Additionally, I am appalled at the behavior of the group supporting this petition. My children do not feel safe playing at the playground if there is not an adult in sight. My 4<sup>th</sup> grader has seen neighbors come up to the fence and yell swear words at her class on the playground. When I asked her what she thought about the signs, she simply answered that all the neighbors hate us. I did my best to reassure her that is not true, specifically by listing people were not putting out signs or disrupting student pick-up. I know that it is only a small group and that the majority of my neighbors have read the two years' worth of research that went into the decision to tear down the former church and understand that it is the best option for the children. What bothers me most about this group is the emphasis on material items over the welfare of people. The school needs to be free to provide an appropriate education to every child in attendance. These children are more important than the building.

In conclusion, I request that you reject historic designation for this site because the structure is not intact or rare, the importance of this unique program, and the needs of the children attending the school.

Sincerely,

Katherine Krantz

1362 Snelling Ave N

Saint Paul MN 55108



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Melanie <melanie-a@gmx.de>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 8:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Opposition to the Petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

10-25-2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission,

the recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name this building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.  
Melanie Goelden  
2353 Youngman Ave  
55116 Saint Paul



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jamie Quamme <jamiequamme@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:22 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Please advise on Petition

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Isla Duncanson, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul. They choose to do their demonstrations while school lets out, and our children are trying to find their us/parents at carpool pick up.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Jamie Quamme  
2285 University Ave W, 165  
St. Paul, MN 55114



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Susan Kocher <skocher99@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:41 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation in the Como Neighborhood

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of three students that have graduated from TCGIS and a resident of the Como neighborhood for over 20 years, I urge you to reject the petition to turn the school property into a historic location.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for the school to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

The school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put the Immersion program at risk. TCGIS's limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project - - monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until TCGIS brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. Again, I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you,  
Susan Kocher  
1065 Hatch Ave.  
St Paul, MN 55103



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Gretchen Barsch <gbarsch934@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:35 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS building

10/25/2018

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Katrina Holbrook, I have watched my student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Gretchen Barsch  
934 Randolph Ave  
Saint Paul MN 55102





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Ralph Krantz <ralph.a.krantz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:37 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** ralph.a.krantz@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school.

I personally cannot believe there are people who want to make a building more important than the education of children. Especially when there are other old buildings with same architecture already with designation around. Those structures are around already. We do not need another one that serves no direct purpose and hinders the purpose of the current building use. The economic burden will take away dollars from educating children.

And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

I have two children in Twin City German Immersion and I am a Como resident. As a parent of a kindergartner and a fourth grader. I have watched my (older) student ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My children expressed concern about the "scary" protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

Where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Ralph Krantz

1362 Snelling Ave North, Saint Paul, MN 55108

**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Baum, Juergen <Juergen.Baum@ecolab.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:37 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion Scholl

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them. In addition, **what happens to the building if historic designation is assigned and the German Immersion School is forced to move on?**

Thank you.

**Jürgen Baum**  
SUPPLY CHAIN DIRECTOR - CATALYST PMO

**ECOLAB** 1 Ecolab Place, ST. PAUL, MN 55102-1390  
**M** 651 278 5557 **E** [juergen.baum@ecolab.com](mailto:juergen.baum@ecolab.com)

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## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Ahmisa Cuadros <ahmisa.rae@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:24 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Historic Designation of TCGIS

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give a crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. Putting it at risk of shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

As a parent of Veda, grade 5, I have watched my daughter ask anxious questions about why select neighbors are opposed to letting "our school" expand in ways that will make it safer and more learning-friendly. My child expressed concern about the protests neighbors have held, including what looked like a couple people in masks. This is intimidating and immature behavior that threatens to polarize a once peaceful community of St. Paul.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I ask you now, where was the neighborhood when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this vacant property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. It is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building a historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you,  
Ahmisa Cuadros

2700 University Ave W  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55114



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to you about the recent request by a small group of people who call themselves "Save Historic Saint Andrew's" (SHSA) to designate (without the property owner's consent, and clearly against the owner's wishes) the former St. Andrew's church building as historic.

As a parent of a sixth grade student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a vibrant, thriving, public school, I have been at a loss to explain to her why this group, who choose to protest at student pickup time, "hate" her school. Protesting to students, photographing our children, yelling at our kids while they play on the playground, and making online threats specifically referencing our children in public forums, are just a few of the tactics this group of bullies has used. Their opinion does not represent the majority of the residents of the Como/Warrendale neighborhood, and, in fact, many neighbors are extremely supportive of TCGIS. (Several of the most vocal opponents do not live in the neighborhood, and seem to have an agenda against charter schools in general.)

The TCGIS school board has made substantial investments and spent a great deal of time looking for alternative sites for TCGIS to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating, moldy church structure that works. Neither of these options are things that we want, but time and resources were given to exploring both, at the request of SHSA. After spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building is financially possible.

Where was SHSA when the church was closed and the building was sold? They have offered nothing in terms of financial support, but rather wish to simply dictate how TCGIS uses its own property, at the expense of our students.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put the school at risk. TCGIS is a public charter school, with a limited budget that is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

There is a good chance that any historic designation will affect the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building, while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure, are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will likely result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.

There is also a good chance that historic designation will affect TCGIS' ability to sell this property if it is unusable, as I'm sure a buyer would not want to deal with an historic building and the requirements and restrictions that go along with it, nor would they want to deal with a very vocal and obnoxious group of people who will oppose any changes they wish to make to it.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you,

*Krista J. Ostrom*

Krista J. Ostrom  
141 4<sup>th</sup> St E  
Apt 322  
St Paul, MN 55101



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Pia Sektnan <4ugipsy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:40 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

Oktober 25, 2018

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of 2 students and a Como resident I have been following the controversy over the planned building project closely.

I know how much time and effort the school put into looking at all kind of possible alternatives. Then they held hearings, they informed the neighborhood. And they did not come to this final conclusion lightly. After careful consideration building new on the footprint of the former church ended being the only feasible solution.

We have to keep in mind that TCGIS is a Charter School. Their job is to provide quality education, inspiration and guidance to children, take care of their teachers, create a healthy work environment for everybody involved. TCGIS works very hard to accomplish this. It is no secret that a Charter School is not blessed with an abundance of money, they have to fund raise and stretch the dollar to do well for the children. TCGIS cannot sustain an old building that requires a lot of money for upkeep. The Catholic Church wasn't even capable or willing to do that, so they divested of that building years ago. And now a Charter School is expected to take that on? That seems very unreasonable.

I can understand that some people, especially former members of St. Andrew, have a hard time saying good bye to the building that was once their church. The first painful step must have been when the ceremony was held that stated that this building is not a church anymore. Now also the building is about to disappear. Sad, yet not to be avoided.

While there are some very vocal opponents to this building project, I want to mention that several neighbors who know that my kids attend the school, have approached me and said "i want you to know that I am not against your school. Even though my kids/grandkids were baptized there, we hold no grudge. Life goes on. It is now a school, not a church anymore. And a school needs to take care of their community. From what a hear, TCGIS does a wonderful job". The quieter voices are often overheard, but they do exist.

I want the school to focus on doing well for the kids again.

In order to do so, please put a stop to the idea of turning the building into a historic site. It would cause unreasonable hardship for the school - and who gets hurt in the end? Our children.

Instead of dividing the neighborhood, we could be an example for the children of how to turn something seemingly unfortunate into a good thing. Combine our resources and build something beautiful that is here to stay.

Thank you for your consideration

Pia Sektnan

999 Nebraska Ave W

St. Paul, MN 55117

(i do not wish for my name and address to be made public)

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Rob Hennelly <rjhkmm@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 10:16 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

With Address below:

HPC Commissioners,

I am a parent of two TCGIS students, one in 6th grade and one recently graduated and attending St. Paul Central High School. I have also been active in the school over the past 9 years as a leader of the facilities committee that brought the school to its current site, a school board member and currently as a board member for the TCGIS building corporation that owns the property. I work in the field of corporate finance and have a solid understanding of the financial constraints of the school and the funding mechanisms that support the building and school operations.

I am writing to strongly urge you not to support the petition for historic status to the former St. Andrews church building. Had the property been historically designated prior to our purchase, it would have been a deal breaker. The impact of the cost of renovating the space into the marginally useful Gym/Auditorium/Cafeteria configuration and bringing it into compliance with ADA and other codes would have made the property financially unviable. The renovation of the structure has effectively obliterated the original interior design and architectural elements of the property. The projected maintenance costs of the facility are not financially sustainable and historical designation would only increase the burden.

The building's configuration and limitations render it no longer sufficient to meet the school's needs. I have continued to work with the facility committee as it has explored countless opportunities and options to preserve the structure with good faith. A good faith approach to finding the best solution for the children while attempting to meet the desire from some in the neighborhood to preserve the structure. Unfortunately, none of the options that involved retaining the structure and meeting school needs were financially viable. I would also note that the protests and threat of historical designation actually worked against some of these options as it reduced the value we could obtain for our current site should we attempt to sell and relocate.

I would also note that delays to the current proposal also put the school at risk as interest rates impact the amount of money that can be raised for the proposed project. Delays also hurt the program. Delayed construction could cut more deeply into the school year limiting and disrupting instruction or create a situation in which another school year is conducted in an increasingly crowded environment.

I am not an expert on architecture or what constitutes a historical structure. However, I would point out that the German immigrants and their culture were an important part of the history and development of St. Paul and Minnesota. Today in St. Paul, the public schools operate French, Spanish and Chinese language immersion grade schools. In addition, there are other immersion schools for these languages in the greater Twin Cities area. The study of German in high school programs has been severely reduced in recent years (St. Paul Central being the exception thanks in large part to the founder of the TCGIS program and the students from TCGIS). TCGIS is the only German grade and middle school language program in the state of Minnesota. As such it plays an important role in preserving German culture in the State. It also serves a vital current role in developing fluent German speakers that are able to work with and in the largest economy in Europe. This in turn could provide future economic opportunity to the City and State.

The school's mission itself contributes to the preservation of history in a much more meaningful and relevant way than the former church by preserving the language and culture of so many of our citizen's ancestors. In addition, the school

is creating new opportunities that could bring tangible dividends to the city in the future. While the exterior of the church is pleasant and comforting to for a passerby to gaze upon, it is not the only pleasant church from its era that exists in this city or even in the Como Park area.

TCGIS, unlike the former church, is utterly unique. It is a vibrant and growing asset to the city and the state. In my opinion, historical designation is unwarranted but, if granted, will risk destroying this great gift to St. Paul and Minnesota that was created through the hard work and vision of so many educators, parents and supporters.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Hennelly  
1726 Portland Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

On Oct 26, 2018, at 8:41 AM, Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.



**George Gause**  
*Heritage 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](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Rob Hennelly <[rjhkmm@mac.com](mailto:rjhkmm@mac.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 8:07 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Petition to historically designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

HPC Commissioners,

I am a parent of two TCGIS students, one in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and one recently graduated and attending St. Paul Central High School. I have also been active in the school over the past 9 years as a leader of the facilities committee that brought the school to its current site, a school board member and currently as a board member for the TCGIS building corporation that owns the property. I work in the field of corporate finance and have a solid understanding of the financial constraints of the school and the funding mechanisms that support the building and school operations.

I am writing to strongly urge you not to support the petition for historic status to the former St. Andrews church building. Had the property been historically designated prior to our purchase, it would have been a deal breaker. The impact of the cost of renovating the space into the marginally useful Gym/Auditorium/Cafeteria configuration and bringing it into compliance with ADA and other codes would

Saint Paul, MN 55102

cc: Jalali Nelson, Ward 4 City Council Member

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I have been a member of the parent community at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) for eight years. My three sons currently attend as members of the seventh, fifth, and second grades. Next year, my youngest child will enter Kindergarten. I am also a long time resident and home owner (twelve years!) in the Hamline Midway neighborhood. I am writing to you today to ***strongly urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.***

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for TCGIS to move as well as alternative design options for a usable space within the deteriorating church structure. However, after spending serious time and money, it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you,

Erin Sutton

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Erin Sutton <erincarlson22@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 10:12 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: Twin Cities German Immersion School

1529 Van Buren Ave  
St Paul, MN 55104

On Friday, October 26, 2018, 8:44:28 AM CDT, Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.



**George Gause**  
*Heritage Preservation Supervisor*  
Planning & Economic Development  
25 4th Street West, ste 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

P: 651-266-6714

The Most Livable  
City in America

[george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** Erin Sutton <erincarlson22@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 7:17 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4 <Ward4@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Ethan Sutton <ethan.c.sutton@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Catie Jacobs <cjacobs@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:14 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Regarding the current TCGIS Aula building

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

As someone who teaches history, and who even works at a historic site over the summer, I can appreciate the desire to save the building. However, the building is just not viable for our school anymore. I believe what it really comes down to is this, the wants of a handful of neighbors and community members or the needs of 500+ staff and students of the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

Thank You for Your Consideration,  
Catie Jacobs

7-8 English Humanities  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106  
[cjacobs@tcgis.org](mailto:cjacobs@tcgis.org)

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## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Bethany Hansen <bethanyjhansen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:54 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission - Twin Cities German Immersion School building

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing to ask you to reject the petition to give a historic designation to the building owned by Twin Cities German Immersion School. I believe this designation would put an impossible financial burden on the school—a non-profit, public charter school that derives nearly all of its budget from the state of Minnesota, but is given only 70% of the funding of a traditional public school from the state; thereby already operating at a level of excellence on a much smaller, tighter budget than most other public schools. If the school is forced to use its already stretched-thin budget to fund not only the costs of historic designation, but also the costs associated with responding to the petition and the demands it requires, there is a very real possibility that the school would be forced to close. In any event it would become nearly impossible for it to continue to provide the rigorous, caring, excellent education it currently provides for so many children from the Twin Cities. Indeed, the stellar reputation and unique educational model offered by Twin Cities German School was a not-insignificant consideration in my family's choice to move to St. Paul, and we have been thrilled with the education and care our daughter has received there. We only hope that the school will be able to continue operating long enough that our two younger sons will also be able to benefit from the amazing, rare opportunity to learn in such an engaging German immersion environment.

The school has operated in good faith with the community, seeking their input and suggestions, exploring every option at their disposal. The small but vocal minority of neighbors who oppose the school's decision to build a functional, community-building space to education children, in contrast, have been aggressive and selfish in their aims. The former St. Andrews parish was forced to close its doors due to lack of attendance—where were these neighbors who can't envision their neighborhood without the building then? Did they rally together to preserve the building then, or were they content to let others shoulder the cost of bringing the building back to life, as long as they got to enjoy the view? I'm left to conclude that they want to be able to look out their windows and enjoy the edifices of institutions, but are not willing to themselves invest their resources in maintaining or supporting those institutions. They would rather place an enormous financial burden on a non-profit tasked educating children, while taking none of the cost upon themselves.

I urge you to please reject the petition for historic designation. And if the designation goes forward, please stipulate that the costs associated must be funded by an assessment on the neighboring property owners, who would be the ones desiring and deriving benefit from such a designation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bethany Hansen  
Saint Paul, MN



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Lyn and Michael Throckmorton Leggs <throckleggs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:47 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Expansion Plan

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

As a resident of Como Park since 1995 and the proud parent of two children at Twin Cities German Immersion School I feel compelled to request your consideration in rejecting the historical designation for this building.

This petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation simply does not take into account the needs of the current building owners or the children who use it every day. The group proposing this designation is using hate and fear mongering to intimidate the school and our children, which I find reprehensible. I can't tell you the number of times my boys have asked "why do they hate us so much?" Since my children are non-white, this group's death costumes and scary masks take on a whole new meaning at our house.

I was a HUGE proponent of taking over the Central Lutheran site but the finances simply didn't work out for the school. And at the end of the day, we need to remember this is a SCHOOL, not a museum. It's a place of learning, and a highly successful one at that. Unfortunately part of the campus includes the former church sanctuary that the neighborhood didn't care enough to "save" 11 years ago when the Catholic church sold it. And not enough to "save" it when it was for sale and TCGIS bought it. But now it is worth "saving"? Not at my children's expense.

There is a vocal minority in the neighborhood who simply don't want the school there and they are willing to do whatever it takes to make it fail. This is unconscionable and something that a public school (yes, TCGIS is a public charter school) should not have to tolerate. Our kids deserve a safe and adequate learning environment. One of my children currently receives his special education reading sessions on the stairs. Or in the hall. Or outside the bathroom. We need more space and the new addition will give us that.

The school has done a great job trying to reach out to the community, looking for options (including moving) and considering how to retain aspects of the old building in the new design. The fact is, those proposing this historic designation have zero interest in the kids and the function of the building, only in getting their way. The building is crumbling. It is mold infested. It is inefficient. It is unsafe.

**Our kids deserve better.**

I fear that historic designation of the building would be the death knell for a highly successful school that has brought many new families to the neighborhood and enhanced livability in the area. While I think the Aula is aesthetically pleasing on the outside, I don't think our children should suffer because of a few neighbors.

Lastly, I fear that historical designation will drain school finances (as well as tax payer dollars) and jeopardize the excellent programming they offer my children. This is a highly successful school that has brought new families and new life to the neighborhood. I sincerely wish we weren't at this point, but rebuilding the Aula footprint is the best path forward.

I urge you to decline the historical designation of the building.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lyn Throckmorton  
1378 Albert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

25 October 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission,

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the efforts to historically designate the Twin Cities German Immersion School's (TCGIS) property at 1031 Como Avenue West in St. Paul. My daughter is in second grade at TCGIS, my son will start kindergarten in 2020, and my family lives .6 mile from the school.

My appreciation for the preservation and reuse of old buildings runs deep. On a personal level I had the pleasure of growing up in a house designed by Percy Bentley. On a professional level I have had the privilege of working on historic buildings in Boston, St. Paul and Minneapolis by architects such as Edwin Lundie, Long and Kees, Liebenberg and Kaplan, and Ralph Rapson. And as a volunteer member of the Facilities Committee at TCGIS I have had ample opportunity to become acquainted with a building that was in all likelihood designed by Charles A Hausler.

I have long felt that there is historic value to the former church at 1031 Como: it is not only beautiful but also has meaning and significance independent of its beauty. Under normal circumstances I would heartily support its designation and preservation - but these are not normal circumstances.

As both a civic movement and a professional discipline, I believe Historic Preservation fails when it is used as a tactic to exclude or limit owners from their right to utilize or modify property in a manner congruent with similar properties not deemed worthy of preservation. This is especially true in our case: historic designation is being sought against our wishes, long after our purchase of the building and in a manner that would have dire financial consequences for ANY public school. Historic designation is quite simply an existential threat to TCGIS.

Beyond that: if the Commission chooses to support the effort to designate 1031 Como it does so in contradiction to the very first sentence of Chapter 73 of the City's Code of Ordinances:

"The council of the City of Saint Paul hereby declares as a matter of public policy that the preservation, protection, perpetuation and use of areas, places, buildings, structures and other objects having a special historical, community or aesthetic interest or value is a public necessity and is required in the interest of the health, prosperity, safety and welfare of the people."

It is impossible to argue that forced preservation of a historic building is in the interest and welfare of the people when that very preservation will have a deep and negative impact on the prosperity, safety and welfare of the people who learn, study and work within said building.

I implore the Commission to make the difficult yet correct decision: deny historic designation to 1031 Como Avenue.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Steingraeber  
1307 Grotto Street North  
Saint Paul MN 55117



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Anna Grau <anna6grau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:19 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** TCGIS Office  
**Subject:** Petition for historical preservation designation of TCGIS building

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I was born and raised in St. Paul, as were both of my parents; and now I am bringing my two children up to love this city as much as I do. I spent a great deal of time looking for the right school for them, as there are very limited tuition-free programs now that offer grades K-8 where siblings are able to be in the same building together over their elementary years. That combined with the excellent scores TCGIS achieved and the opportunity for my children to become fluent in another language compelled me to do everything I could to have my children attend there. I feel very fortunate to have found Twin Cities German Immersion School.

I personally went to St. Paul parochial schools, many of which have since closed down in the past 10-20 years, though several of their empty campuses still sit vacant all around our neighborhoods. TCGIS comes along and repurposed one of these empty campuses and turned it into a thriving educational program for Saint Paul's children, purchasing the property after it sat vacant for two years. We feel our children are entitled to an indoor gymnasium and decent cafeteria space- and someone has a problem?? Our kids- roughly 600 children- deserve a safe place to have gym class and eat their lunches, a space free of mildew and mold from a leaking roof, free of safety hazards due to outdated electrical and building codes. Speaking of maintenance: when the roof needs to be replaced, whom would it be from the historical preservation commission that is going to oversee and pay for that? When the pipes need asbestos abatement, will that be covered by this same group as well? This is a great irony to me- so many vacant parochial school campuses of yesterday (and many with accompanying churches) riddle St. Paul nowadays- same age of building, same historical sentiments stirred in folks, same out-dated safety issues- and yet this building is now of such particular interest? To choose ours, which has an owner and a whole community of people who care about it and need it with purposeful plans, leads me to believe this is more about a very small group of narrow-minded individuals who thrive on fighting and having a "cause" or possibly are fighting so that their "neighborhood" (not ours it seems) won't be changed or possibly disrupted by construction issues.

My assessment of this group of persons is evidenced by the fact that they have chosen to come and scare kindergarteners during dismissal hours. In a world of school shootings; lock-down drills; violence and fear, our five and six year-olds should not have been made to witness adults shouting, jeering, and wearing masks on their school corner as they are forced to walk from their school doors to pick-up areas. My seven year old son was upset over this for days; it was very unsettling to him that these were adult "neighbors"- people he should see as potentially trustworthy and kind- now pose a threat to his feeling of safety. He wouldn't sleep in his own bed for weeks following this most recent "peaceful demonstration" of theirs.

I have personally- literally with my own two hands and elbow grease- rehabilitated a 120 year old St. Paul home over on the west side, brought it back to its "former glory", and am one whom greatly appreciates and admires a home's history and the value in that. However, because of this I am also able to appreciate the amount of energy, money, unforeseen

complications, and expenses associated with refurbishing an old building. Our school board looked into doing things this way, quite generously of them I believe, and it is not possible to update it safely. It incenses me that our community of 800+ people, and whom have ownership, are having to use our precious funding and time to respond to the scare-tactics and absurd ambitions of a tiny fraction of over-zealous people that don't care about our children's health, well-being, and futures.

For a small group of neighbors (and their friends and families that they have gotten to rally around their "cause") to dictate the future of one of the best grade schools in Saint Paul is wrong and unjust. Please do not allow them to do so.

Sincerely,  
Anna C. Grau  
1289 Edmund Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Kyle Johnson <kyle@sitzkrieg.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:02 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS School

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

My children attend the Twin Cities German Immersion School. We live within walking distance to the school. When they are old enough, I hope, they can walk to school. A few "neighbors" want to designate the school as historic. The building is in rough shape. My kids and their school mates need a safe and efficient school for their education. Those few "neighbors" want to deny that to the kids. Much money and planning has been done to provide a good school for my and future children. Such a designation may cause the school to close. Denning children a quality education at the school. The "neighbors" have already taken resources from the school by making them look at alternatives. That's money that could have gone for books or teachers.

The parish closed the church years ago. The parish sold it. Now it is now a thriving public school. A few "neighbors" want to "save the building" at the expense of the children. I want a safe and good school for my kids. Please deny the request for historic designation. My kids want to walk to their neighborhood school.

Thanks you.

Kyle Johnson  
1291 Engelwood Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55104

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October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

My name is John Schatz and I am a resident of St. Paul. I have closely followed, from both sides, the situation around the former church building and the Twin Cities German Immersion School.

I believe the Twin Cities German Immersion School has worked in good faith and explored all potential possibilities with precision and thoughtfulness before arriving at their current solution. Having said that, I have been continually disappointed by the group opposing TCGIS through their continual misrepresentation of basically the entire situation. They have engaged in a public campaign full of misrepresentation, misstatement of clear facts and demonization of those associated with TCGIS. I realize that is strong language, but their attempt, at no matter what the costs, to create a public misconception of what is going on speaks clear volumes about the true situation. If those opposing TCGIS plans had more solid footing to stand on, they wouldn't have to resort to such reprehensible tactics.

I studied Urban Planning and worked in it for several years, including around historic areas, and have been involved in numerous complicated community discussions and planning scenarios in St. Paul. This situation is not complicated. TCGIS plans fulfill the highest possible use of this property with the most public good being achieved, and it does so after exhaustive work and care to come up with the best solution.

Please deny this request at historic designation.

Sincerely,

John K. Schatz  
535 Glendale Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Sandor Gallo <sandorbgallo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:09 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** In support of TCGIS re: frmr St.. Andrew's site

October 25,2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing regarding the request for historic designation of the former Saint Andrew's church, now part of the Twin Cities German Immersion School. My daughter attends the school, I am familiar with the building, it's current use, the shortcomings related to that use, and the immediate needs of the school. I am also somebody who loves architecture, who formerly worked in architectural preservation at a prominent National Historic Landmark, and am actively involved in the preservation of cultural heritage, currently serving as the Vice President of the Minnesota Hungarians. I mention these things not to claim any authority in this matter, only to suggest that I've tried to be thoughtful in taking a position regarding this building - a position, I should add, that is my own and does not represent the official position of any group or organization I am associated with.

Churches, by design, are inspirational, monumental, attractive buildings that often carry sentimental attachments for those connected to them. They are also very difficult to repurpose, difficult to use efficiently, and increasingly difficult to use as originally intended due to declining participation. And, I should add, there are a lot of them in our city.

I was excited to see John Rupp's proposal for the reuse of the old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church-on-the-Hill building. My daughter attended preschool in that building, so I'm familiar with it as well: it is a very beautiful building, designed by an architect of national stature with significant local importance, and it would be a shame to lose it. And that architectural significance translates to the backing it the project has received, both financially and in the letters of support from a great number of arts organizations in Minnesota.

The former St. Andrew's building has not received that same level of broad-based support. And while TCGIS has made attempts to repurpose the building, I think that everybody involved has recognized that this is akin to fitting a square peg into a round hole. The building does little to elevate the school or the people who directly interact with the space, while requiring funds that would be better spent on the school's primary mission of educating children. Some of the people in the neighborhood may like the way it looks as they drive past, but to my knowledge none of them have been inspired to contribute financially to its maintenance.

We have a wealth of beautiful and historically significant churches in our city; we also have many, many more churches, like the former Saint Andrew's building, that have sentimental attachments associated with them. If we were to apply an historic designation to them all, not only will we be limiting the future potential for our city to grow and evolve, we will also be diluting the significance of the designation and increasing the possibility that truly significant and worthy buildings will be overlooked. Therefore, I ask that you do not grant any historic designation to the former Saint Andrew's building.

Sincerely,

Sandor Gallo  
2136 Lincoln Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jake Holdreith <jake.holdreith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Petition to designate former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul

25 October 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I write to oppose the petition to designate the former Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul on Como Avenue. The building is not practical for use in the Twin Cities German Immersion School. The Twin Cities German Immersion School provides a substantial benefit to the City of St. Paul and its residents by providing high quality education without burdening the city or county budgets. I am a parent of a fourth-grader at TCGIS. We parents help to make up funding for the school. The burden of financing repair of the former church is substantial, and would not serve the students well as the building is not functional for the uses the students need to make of it.

Forcing the school to maintain the former church would threaten the substantial benefits of having a first rate primary educational organization in the Como neighborhood. The school is and should be a source of great pride to the City and its residents. It brings in a number of visitors to the City every year from Germany, Switzerland and Austria who come to teach as interns at the school and thus fosters long-term connections between our City and residents of those countries.

The former Church no longer matches the design and use of the school property. The school made a good faith effort to re-purpose the building, which the neighborhood had abandoned and decommissioned. There is no surrounding architecture that harmonizes with the former church. The former church is not emblematic of the style of the neighborhood or any surrounding structures.

Please do not designate the former church.

Thank you,  
s/ Jake Holdreith

Jake Holdreith  
2199 Saint Clair Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105  
612 349 8483





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Janelle Hennessey <janellehennessey@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:46 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider to my concerns. I am writing to you regarding the Twin Cities German Immersion School. First let me state my connections to this issue:

- 1) I am a resident of district 10. I love my Como neighborhood!
- 2) My two kids attend school at TCGIS
- 3) I am a supporter of history. My family is part of a group that created a non-profit organization to purchase a decommissioned church from the Catholic diocese. It is now a historical heritage park with a State of Wisconsin historical marker.

As a resident, I urge you to reject the petition to turn the Aula portion of the school's property into a historic location. While the building has nice aesthetics, outside of a small group of vocal neighbors it is not broadly considered a historic building.

I fear the historic designation would have long term implications that will make the building undesirable for TCGIS or other schools to occupy the space. The worst outcome for our neighborhood would be for the building to end up empty. I have always believed it is of utmost importance to keep our neighborhood buildings in use to ensure we have an active and vibrant neighborhood.

As a parent, I am proud that my kids attend a public school located here in St Paul that provides an amazing education where they are also taught compassion and appreciation of others. TCGIS has been both fiscally responsible and considerate of the neighborhood. Historic designation will stress the school's finances. It will reduce the school's ability to provide the level of education that we should all be proud to have provided by a public school.

Please decline the request for historic designation. Allow the school and the vibrant neighborhood to thrive.

Thank you,

Janelle Hennessey, parent of Mabel (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and Graham (1<sup>st</sup> grade)

781 Cottage Ave W

St Paul, MN 55117

(952) 270-4662

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing to ask that you consider denial of the request for historic designation of Saint Andrew's Church.

As a Saint Paul resident, I am proud to send my children to the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). Our experience over the five years we have been involved has been truly rewarding; the community and friendships that have evolved from the school has made resolute my family's desire to live and work in Saint Paul.

Please consider the implications designation would have on the TCGIS community and our place in the evolving character of the Lake Como area. This would be consistent with the guidance of Saint Paul's draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan, where we are asked to balance the preservation of a historic resource with new development. Consider the long-term benefit-cost of designation: what benefits accrue from designation and who will be responsible for ensuring those benefits are maintained for the long term? What costs are involved and what does that mean to changes that are already occurring in the neighborhood?

My personal belief is that designation of the building as a historic resource will only retain the structure's current trajectory toward obsolescence and an impediment to productive use of the site. Will a vacant shell of a building provide benefits to the neighborhood? Meanwhile, consider the costs of losing TCGIS as a resource and magnet for productive neighborhood functions, not least of which is that it attracts residents who are motivated to invest in their neighborhood.

The Lake Como area is evolving. TCGIS is an integral part of how the neighborhood will remain vital and meet the needs of Saint Paul residents. While it is a difficult decision, **denial of historic designation** will adhere to Saint Paul's core value of creating opportunity for all residents to achieve their highest potential. I hope you agree.

Sincerely,



Tim Thoreen  
1892 Ashland Avenue



October 25, 2018

HPC Commissioners, c/o George Gause:

My name is Mike Mitchelson. My wife (Susan) and I enrolled our daughter, Mina, into Kindergarten at the Twin Cities German Immersion School this year. My wife and I were both motivated to enroll Mina in a language immersion school—Mina was also accepted to the L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion school. While L'Etoile du Nord is a great school, and those in my family, originally from Quebec, speak French, what put TCGIS over the top for us was its K-8 duration (L'Etoile is K-5), its one-campus design (L'Etoile has two campuses) and its proximity to our house. We live on the east side of Como Lake, within walking distance of the school.

I mention our proximity because, while we have lived in our house for ten years and walk the lake and surrounding park and neighborhoods almost daily, the former church now in dispute was never on our radar until we enrolled our child at the school. This point was made at the Save Historic St. Andrews (SHSA) community meeting I attended on October 11, 2018, by one of the architectural historians that spoke, Rolf Anderson. "It's a bit off the radar," he said. "Because it's on a quiet street, (many) don't have an awareness." He added that most on the team of architects and/or historians had not seen the church in person until they were engaged by SHSA.

Because a former church isn't on a busy thoroughfare does not render it insignificant to a neighborhood, of course. That said, there are those who have joined SHSA that are like me: they don't live nearby, and only recently noticed the former church because someone told them about TCGIS. To those folks, the preservation argument is simply this: it looks nice, it's old, therefore it must be preserved. That is not an argument for preservation.

There are those in SHSA that have deep connection to the former church, having lived nearby, attended service for many years, had significant events occur within the building when it was a church, or attended the school itself. These are legitimate and powerful memories, and, for them, no doubt the idea of their neighborhood would change with the former church's removal. Yet memories are also not reasons for preservation.

As a reporter, I covered many preservation-versus-progress debates in the City of Stillwater as it was rebuilding its downtown thoroughfare. The debates were passionate, and understandable on both sides. I appreciate history. I live in a home built in 1923. I owned a condominium near the St. Paul Cathedral in a building constructed in 1896. I live in St. Paul because its history and landmarks appeal to me. But I also appreciate progress, and the idea that neighborhoods—including historic ones—need new landmarks to continue their relevance and attract new generations of residents. The Como Lake area is such a neighborhood. New families are moving in, attracted to the community, and TCGIS has become a big part of that.

I support TCGIS in their efforts be a leading educational institution—a landmark—for the City of St. Paul (and, one can strongly argue, the State of Minnesota). I ask that the HPC deny the historic designation petition for the former St. Andrews Church, also called the Aula.

Thank-you for taking the time to read this.

Mike Mitchelson  
1302 Avon Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55117



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102


Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

It is my understanding that you are in receipt of a petition to designate as a heritage preservation site a building that is currently integrated with and used as a part of the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) campus. The building in question was previously the Church of St. Andrew of St. Paul on Como Avenue until it was closed by its parish and ceased operating as a church in 2011. The location was subsequently purchased by the Twin Cities German Immersion School Building Company for use by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), a tuition-free K-8 charter immersion school. As the parent of a fourth grade student attending TCGIS, I am writing to urge you to reject the petition to designate this part of the school premises as a historic location.

Since 2013, the “church” building has been used to provide the K-8 students with a less-than-ideal gymnasium on the main level, which doubles as an all-school meeting and performance space, and a cafeteria/extra “gym” area in the basement. Since 2014, it has been physically connected to the remainder of the school. The building is in need of repairs, and rather than invest substantial funds into repairing a space that is ill-suited to our children’s needs and expensive to maintain and heat, the school Board has determined – after a lot of legwork and input – that a safe, new and purpose-appropriate building makes the most sense for the long term health and viability of our unique school and for the needs of our students.

It is my understanding that the petition is being presented by a small, vocal minority of individuals. I do hope that the individuals who are petitioning for the designation are motivated by a sincere interest in or nostalgia for the building, rather than any animosity toward the school. A decision to grant a historic location designation to this portion of TCGIS’ existing campus would significantly impair its ability to most effectively and appropriately carry out its core mission of providing our children with a quality public education through German immersion. I urge you to reject the petition.

Thank you,



Laurie Hartman  
2199 St. Clair Ave.  
St. Paul MN 55105





**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Peter Radford <pmradford@mmm.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:55 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS building project

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

I am a St. Paul resident and parent of both an alum and current student of TCGIS. I urge you to decline the petition to make the Aula portion of the TCGIS building complex historic. As the former chair of my church's building committee, our architect made it clear to me that if our church had a historic designation, it would significantly hinder what could be done with the structure.

TCGIS was approved to use a former church building (among other buildings on the purchased real estate) as part of our school a number of years ago, and we made a number of changes so that we could successfully continue our mission to educate children at this site. We have been successful in our mission and the needs created by this success has brought us to the situation you are currently reviewing. In converting a building that once was used for religious purposes into a facility for public school use, its character was changed. The structures serving a religious mission (stained glass, crosses, icons of saints, etc.) were removed so that the new mission as a public charter school could begin. So its history as a church ended as the Aula of TCGIS was created from what remained. I have read the conclusion of the TCGIS board regarding all options and feel that they have done their due diligence on the matter. I again ask that you decline the petition before you so that we can create a facility that will best serve the needs of our children while respecting the reasonable concerns voiced by the neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
Peter Radford  
323 Front Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55117



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Sasa <buffalobill.lotio@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS vs. Historic Designation

On Oct 25, 2018 2:55 PM, Sasa <buffalobill.lotio@yahoo.com> wrote:

Date 10/25/2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

C/o George Cause

25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I sincerely urge against voting for Historic Preservation of the Aula at TCGIS.

I am a parent of one, soon to be two students at the school. As a parent it is very important to me to see that my children receive an education with the best resources available. TCGIS offers a unique learning experience for children in the Saint Paul and surrounding areas. It is reputable and in high demand. The purpose of them buying the property was to meet the demands of the greater community and maximize the learning experiences of the children enrolled. I agree with their mission whole heartedly. They are investing in my childrens' futures and my family is committed to 12 years with them until my kids out grow the school.

I am a member of the Saint Paul Community. I have spent most of my life in Saint Paul. I grew up on the North End, near Como, and I love the area very much. One thing about Saint Paul that has been a concern me for many years is the lack of investment towards our growing/changing community. I see this as a prime example of that resistance to enrich the community for the long haul. If you want to encourage families to stay or move to Saint Paul, there need to be resources that support families to be here.

I believe the push for Historic Preservation to be misguided and (from a few, not all) out of spite. It is sad to know the history involving the Dioceces consolidating Parishes, the effects it has had on the Parishioners and I sympathize for them. I believe their disappointment and anger has been undeservingly directed at the school and extends to the families that are focused on their own futures. I ask you to please consider the long term outcome that the school will have in the community vs. the long term outcome saving this one particular building will have.

If the expectation for historic preservation had been part of the buying agreement of the property, I suspect the school would have purchased an alternate location because the costs of upkeep would have been too much to bare and it is not in the schools mission. It is both unreasonable and unfair to ask the school to take on this burden, as well as the burden of meeting public demand to educate in the existing space.

Thank you,

Sarah Catherine Escherich  
930 Saint Clair Avenue



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Sasa <buffalobill.lotion@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:56 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS vs. Historic Designation

Date 10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
C/o George Cause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I sincerely urge against voting for Historic Preservation of the Aula at TCGIS.

I am a parent of one, soon to be two students at the school. As a parent it is very important to me to see that my children receive an education with the best resources available. TCGIS offers a unique learning experience for children in the Saint Paul and surrounding areas. It is reputable and in high demand. The purpose of them buying the property was to meet the demands of the greater community and maximize the learning experiences of the children enrolled. I agree with their mission whole heartedly. They are investing in my childrens' futures and my family is committed to 12 years with them until my kids out grow the school.

I am a member of the Saint Paul Community. I have spent most of my life in Saint Paul. I grew up on the North End, near Como, and I love the area very much. One thing about Saint Paul that has been a concern me for many years is the lack of investment towards our growing/changing community. I see this as a prime example of that resistance to enrich the community for the long haul. If you want to encourage families to stay or move to Saint Paul, there need to be resources that support families to be here.

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Thank you,

Sarah Catherine Escherich  
930 Saint Clair Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Erica Tesdell <etesdell@germanschool-mn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:31 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Say NO to historic preservation of 1031 Como from a Como Park resident (853 West Como Ave. St Paul) who also works at TCGIS school

DATE

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

NAME/ADDRESS  
Erica Tesdell  
853 West Hoyt Ave  
Saint Paul, Mn. 55117





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** jean craig <jeancraig@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 9:21 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: German Immersion Program

1464 Laurel Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

> On Oct 26, 2018, at 9:20 AM, Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us> wrote:

>

> Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.

>

>

>

> George Gause

> Heritage 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

> Equity. Innovation. Resilience

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: jean craig <jeancraig@mac.com>

> Sent: Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:30 PM

> To: Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

> Subject: German Immersion Program

>

> I am fully in support of the German Immersion program and keeping it where it is. It is a great school and a more important part of keeping the history of the German migration into Minnesota alive and well, then the mere building itself. Please listen to your community and the children in it.



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 8:51 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** FW: Former St. Andrews designation application

**From:** Nic Ludwig <ludwignic21@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:55 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Former St. Andrews designation application

Heritage Preservation Commission

I am writing about the recent application for local designation of the former St. Andrew's church, currently owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). I am opposed to this property being designated without the owners consent.

TCGIS is the owner and objects to designation, seeing it as an existential threat. TCGIS is a public school with 1st amendment rights about being secular and shouldn't be forced to preserve a religious building.

### **Public schools cannot fund religious schools and shouldn't have to maintain religious buildings.**

Designation has a real world impact that threatens TCGIS. Maintaining this part of their building to period specific standards and materials comes at increased costs. Speaking of the building, the former church is no longer a stand alone building. It is part of a much larger single building, so it is no longer historic because of this modification. Also, many items have been removed from the building, crosses, stained glass, windows, etc. The Catholic Church sold the former church, turning its back on its own history and culture that was once part of church. Prior to the former church being built (1926-1927), the Warrendale neighborhood was well established. So much so that many residential houses had to be demolished for it to be built. St. Andrews wasn't the start of a vibrant neighborhood, but a passing use on the property.

Even the reason why the former St. Andrews building was built tells you why it isn't significant. The congregation had a church for 30+years in a different location only a few feet from where this brick building stands. At the time (St. Andrews used to be a white wooden building closer to Chatsworth/Argyle) the old wooden church building was functionally obsolete and too small, just like the former St. Andrews church building is NOW for TCGIS. Also, don't forget, St. Andrews (and the Catholic Church) has an ugly past. Not everyone has a happy memory.

The architect is NOT stated on any archived documents, not with the U of M archive of his work nor on the document filed when the building was constructed, nor in the McGough Bros archive documents. The statement that Hungarian immigrants were part of the community are unsubstantiated. Church history books are NOT peer reviewed publications nor are they scholarly. Other historians state that different architects may have designed the building. Many changes have been made to the building over the years.

Thanks,

Nic Ludwig  
1116 Oxford St N  
St. Paul, MN  
55103

St. Paul resident

October 25th, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a parent of children that attend Twin Cities German Immersion School in the building formally known as Saint Andrew's Church.

I believe the building has historic significance and adds character to the surrounding neighborhood.

It would be a shame to lose such a beautiful building that could never be built again when there are plenty of other feasible options for TCGIS's needs.

When we joined the school in 2013 we were told that school intentionally preserved and repurposed the church. We were happy to find a school that was able to think outside of the box and cared about historic architecture as much as we do. Unfortunately some of the newer parents do not feel the same way.

If Twin Cities German Immersion School intended to tear down a historical landmark, they should have paid more attention to what they were purchasing when they purchased it.

Thank you for time and thoughtful consideration of all the sides.

Best wishes,  
Angel Chandler  
805 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105



Sam Walling  
83 Cambridge St.  
Saint Paul, MN 55105

October 25, 2018

Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
15 Kellogg Boulevard West, 300 City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: Petition to Historically Designate the Former St. Andrew's Church Site at  
1031 Como Avenue West

Esteemed Commissioners,

I am the current Chair of the Twin Cities German Immersion School Board, but I write this letter of opposition in my personal capacity. The opinions expressed here are my own.

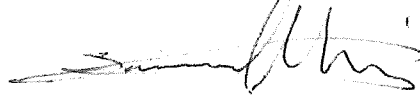
The Heritage Preservation Commission should reject the invitation to consider historic designation for the former St. Andrew's Church site, because the heritage-based arguments lack evidentiary support, and the building has already been substantially modified.

As support for consideration, the petition identifies the site's importance to the Catholic Church, and to the Hungarian immigrants it served. The Catholic Church has already determined that the site is not important to its heritage. It made that determination when, in 2010, it decided to decommission St. Andrew's and sell the property. Presumably, were the site important to the Catholic Church as the petition claims, it would still be in use as a church today. It is not. Notably, one of the factors in the Church's decision is one of the same factors that has prompted the current owner to seek demolition: the aging structure is too expensive to maintain. In addition, I am unaware of any group representing Hungarian immigrants or their descendants that has come forward to state that the site is important to their heritage. Thus, the two groups that the petition links to the site have either affirmatively signaled that the site is *not important* to their heritage or have remained silent. The unsupported assertions of a self-interested few cannot eclipse these realities.

The petition also identifies the site's alleged architectural significance. A few points here. First, the building has already been significantly modified from its original form. It is no longer a stand-alone structure. It is now physically connected to the original school constructed in 1957 by a new school building constructed in 2013. Furthermore, as part of the decommissioning process all stained glass windows and religious iconography were removed, wherever possible. Second, it is unclear why this site, which was purportedly designed by Charles Hausler as a church and is now used as a school, should be historically designated, when two sites designed by Charles Hausler as schools and *still used as schools* (Randolph Heights and Como Park) are not historically designated. And third, it is not evident that all of the sources cited in support of the site's architectural significance are peer-reviewed and worthy of reliance.

The petition is a means to an end. It relies on manufactured arguments about cultural importance and architectural significance in order to preserve a building that, at bottom, the petitioners value for purely personal reasons. But at what cost? The school's formal letter to the Commission sets those out well: none to the petitioners and many to the school and its students. For those reasons and those set out here, I urge you to reject the petition before the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Walling', written over a horizontal line.

Sam Walling



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of 2 students (Isla, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Severin, Kindergarten) attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal, and self-centered minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. The Aula has a beautiful façade, I agree, but when faced with the reality that this building sat idle for so long, was long ago gutted from the inside, and is a financial and energy drain on our school, a school that adds value to the neighborhood and community, I disagree that it deserves historical designation. This appears to be a last minute effort to cause trouble. I've seen some protests and they are comprised of a few people, dressed in black, protesting in front of students and parents at dismissal, generally making a small effort to be a nuisance. If this were truly such an important issue to the community as a whole, I would expect to see many more people – neighbors – at these protests.

Our school's mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. I chose this school for my children because I believe they can do this. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits. I fear the integrity and high standards that our school has will be compromised without the expansion and many parents will choose to bring send their children to different schools that have more to offer. What place will the neighborhood be in then?

I emphatically urge you to deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is absolutely not one of them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jennifer H Lorenz  
769 Holly Ave  
St Paul, MN 55104



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Brittany Kubricky <brittanykubricky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:37 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Regarding Twin Cities German Immersion new building

c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Brittany Kubricky  
1016 Minnehaha Ave E  
St Paul MN 55106

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Brittany Kubricky  
LCCE, CPST, CBD(CBI), FACCE  
612-412-3008



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

We are writing today to ask you that the recent request by the TCGIS neighbors to give a former church building a historic designation be denied. This request will put an unrealistic financial burden on both our school and our parents as we seek additional funding to preserve this aging property. I have personally worked in the basement kitchen for two years and felt its cold drafts in the winter, sweltering heat in the fall and spring, and the cramped space we have for serving meals and teaching gym classes simultaneously.

As a parent of a third grade student, I have been so very proud to have the chance to have our child enrolled in one of the best German-Immersion schools in the entire nation. I have always thought how special it was to be located in such a quaint neighborhood with special access to one of the Twin Cities most beautiful parks and zoos. It is very saddening to think that as much as I love this school, the neighborhood and the surrounding community, that they would not understand the predicament that we are in. I have loved the beauty of the Aula—who wouldn't? But it is unrealistic to make our school keep it only because it has been there for a long time.

Our school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope that my letter will help provide you with a parent's story that you can share with the committee—we love our school, and wish the neighbors would share the joy in bearing witness to one of the best German institutions in the US. We love their neighborhood as much as they do, and as a parent I will make sure to be respectful of their needs going forward when it comes to parking and traffic during congested times. But we need to be realistic going forward. Who will take care of this property if we have to find a new home for TCGIS? Will the next owners care this much about their neighbors to include them in their building process? This is a real opportunity for the community and the school to come together and make something for the future that will benefit everyone.

I hope you will listen to my message and see that there are parents who do care deeply for the Aula, the community and the school. We have done everything we can do to look at alternative solutions that would satisfy the interests of everyone, and at this time it would be to move forward with replacing the church with a new property that takes into consideration the needs of everyone that would be touched by its creation.

Thank you.

Beth & Peter Fruehling  
12 Island View Lane  
St. Paul, MN 55127



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Lisa Linnell <llinnell70@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 6:36 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul); #CI-StPaul\_Ward5; #CI-StPaul\_Ward4  
**Subject:** Please oppose historic designation for the Aula at TCGIS

We write to strongly oppose the petition for historic designation for the former St Andrew's Church, now the Aula at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS).

TCGIS is a publicly-funded charter school and, as such, already receives a lower level of per-pupil funding than traditional public schools, roughly 70% of what traditional public schools receive per pupil. The school's finite resources must be maximized and dedicated to providing a high-quality education for students like our daughter; anything less is a disservice to TCGIS students and families. TCGIS staff and financial resources are for educating students, not for digging around for historic preservative grants or finding "creative" ways for a nonprofit school to qualify for tax credits.

This is our daughter's sixth year at TCGIS. We are extremely happy with the education she is receiving, but we have also seen how the Aula has become increasingly inadequate for the needs of students. It is not hyperbole to say the building is functionally obsolete. To continue serving the needs of current and future students, it is time for TCGIS to invest a building that better meets its needs. The school board and its Facilities Committee did not reach this decision lightly, and we concur with the board that replacement of the Aula is the right decision.

The TCGIS Building Company owns the building and opposes the petition for historic designation. Designation will prevent the school from using the property in ways that best meet the needs of current and future students. The school should not be required to put the needs of the building first and the needs of its students second. In addition, saddling a nonprofit organization with historic preservation requirements against its wishes would be a terrible precedent for St Paul to set and send an unmistakably negative message to both for-profit and nonprofit organizations seeking to locate in St Paul.

Directing TCGIS to devote staff and financial resources to meet historic preservation requirements and expensive building upkeep simply would be placing the needs of a building before the needs to children entrusted to the school.

Again, we ask that you reject the petition for historic designation for the former St Andrew's Church. The building must serve the needs of the school, not the other way around.

Lisa Linnell & Charles Nielson

1472 Holton Street

Saint Paul, MN 55108





October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a Ward 4 (Hamline-Midway) resident and parent of 2 children who attend Twin Cities German Immersion School. I'm writing today to urge you to reject the petition to designate our school's property as a historic location.

There is a vocal minority of neighbors working hard to save a building that they see from the outside and that holds happy memories for them. I agree that the facade of the building is beautiful. I can understand the hurt these neighbors feel about losing a building they once held dear. And I believe they are still grieving the loss of their parish, St. Andrews.

While a picture has been painted of TCGIS being secretive and having malicious intent since purchasing the property, I think that is an unfair interpretation of history. TCGIS bought a vacant property in hopes of creating a permanent home for the school. Because of that, more families have become interested in the school and more students have stayed into their middle school years. This is a successful school and a vibrant community asset.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for students and staff – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially feasible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Danielle Nicholson  
1751 Lafond Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Lisa <hager.koenig@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 8:15 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS School petition

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is presented out of spite by the same neighbors who failed to support the building when it was a church, leading to the parish shutting it down.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,  
Lisa Koenig

876 Rose Ave  
St Paul, MN 55106



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Evelyn Stillwell <estillwell@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:18 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

October 25th, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I live in the neighborhood of the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) and I teach at TCGIS as well. I appreciate that the school gymnasium and cafeteria were once a church and that the church was formerly an important part of this community. Now, however, the building is no longer a church, rather it is a crumbling building that does not serve our school's current purpose well. It needs to be replaced.

The recent request by a handful of neighbors to give this crumbling former church building, owned by the Twin Cities German Immersion School, an historic designation will put an unrealistic financial burden on this public charter school. And it will risk shutting down one of the few Twin Cities charter schools that is thriving and educating children for future achievements and ultimately successful careers.

I am personally frustrated that this small, but vocal, group of my neighbors are looking to the past instead of looking at the present and to the future. They seem more concerned with their memories of the church and what it meant to them than what it currently means to the many people who currently use the school. The school has absolutely reinvigorated our neighborhood since it has moved in. I have spoken to many of my neighbors who are frustrated that these "squeaky wheels" are selfishly trying to drive the well-being of our neighborhood in the wrong direction; many are concerned that they may force the school to shut down or leave the neighborhood.

Where were these neighborhood members when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

The school's Board has made substantial investments in looking for alternative sites for us to move, and at designing a building within the deteriorating church structure that works. But after spending serious time and money – funds that could have gone to any number of educational efforts for staff and students – it was determined that neither moving nor re-designing the church building are financially possible.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.  
Evelyn Stillwell  
1099 Chatworth Street N.  
Saint Paul, MN



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** JC Weimholt <weimh002@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:48 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Preservation of the German Immersion Aula

Dear Heritage Preservation Commission,

My children have attended the Twin Cities German Immersion School since 2006. I am grateful for the education my children have received and the community we have been a part of. That said, I support the former St Andrew's church being designated as a historical site. The church is a finely crafted, historically significant landmark for the neighborhood. It should be preserved, not demolished as the school has proposed. The school either needs to stick to the original growth plan of 2 classrooms in the upper grades to fit into the existing footprint or move to a site that is big enough--preferably one with the green space the kids need. The school will never squeeze comfortably into the too small lot sandwiched up against houses, so it is wrong to tear down an almost 100 year old landmark to build an addition that won't solve the school's needs.

I fear that the Aula will be torn down and the school will (again) outgrow the site--only to move out in a few years. Please preserve this historically significant and beautiful building and protect our neighborhoods from overgrowth. Once buildings like the Aula are gone, they are gone. The problems of a too-big-of-a-school in a small quiet neighborhood (parking, traffic, noise) will persist. Please look to the future and help preserve the church structure and the neighborhood.

Thank you,  
Chris Weimholt  
St Paul, MN 55104  
Parent of 3 TCGIS students.

To protect my child who is still at the school, I would rather this email is not made public. Please contact me if this isn't possible so I can withdraw this email. Thank you.





10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am writing to express my full support of the Twin Cities German Immersion School's (TCGIS) decision to renovate the Aula (former St. Andrew's Church) into a functional educational space. I completely oppose the petition put forward to historically designate the Aula.

My wife and I are the proud parents of Charles Ashton, currently a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at the school. We have two other sons that will be matriculating to TCGIS in the future, bringing our total time with children at the school to 15 years. Our decision to support TCGIS is in part to ensure a functional educational space for our children and their classmates, as well as financial stability so that TCGIS can continue to educate children for the foreseeable future.

We live in District 10, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile from school. My wife and I primarily chose this school because of its proximity. We consider TCGIS our neighborhood school. My child regularly walks to school. Our desire is that all of our children are able to look back at their early educational years with memories of walking past Como Lake every day on their way to school.

My family also has history with the school building itself. My father-in-law and wife attended St. Andrew's School. The history we have with the school also motivated us to send our children to TCGIS, specifically at its current location.

In addition to our history with the school, my wife and I were also married at St. Andrew's Church before it merged with Maternity of Mary. Our decision to support the TCGIS building renovation was not done lightly. But we feel the education of our future generation takes precedent over a physical building.

Finally, I would like to stress my concern over neighborhood citizens petitioning to historically designate private property against the property owner's support. It was made clear to me at a District 10 Land Use Committee meeting that the financial burden of maintaining historically designated buildings lay solely on the property owner. I have yet to hear of any financial support from the petitioners to aide in the upkeep of the building they wish to historically designate against the property owner's support.

Thank you for your time.

Andrew and Megan Ashton  
1318 Victoria Street N  
St. Paul, MN 55117



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Paul Kile <pkile@kilefamily.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:47 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School - Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Gause,

I understand you are the point person for the Heritage Preservation Commission and a meeting will be held soon to review a petition to preserve a building used by the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS) that formerly was a church.

My daughter (Elisabeth) is a student at TCGIS, and I can see how the facilities are inadequate for the student body. Further, the building is in need of repairs, and even if the repairs were practical to make, the building would be suboptimal for a school. It is simply true that the form of a worship space is difficult to repurpose for other uses. Building repairs would also be extremely expensive and thus detract away from the educational program.

TCGIS is the academic home to hundreds of students. My older child (Simon) graduated several years ago but still spends more time with friends from the German school than with friends at high school; TCGIS truly built a community of friends for him. The same is true for Elisabeth, nearly all of whose friends consider the school home; every spring she expresses disappointment that the community will be closing for the summer and so she won't see her friends on a daily basis.

The Archdiocese of St. Paul closed the building years ago and desacralized the space. It is inappropriate, according to the practices of the Roman Catholic Church, to call the space a church. Even prior to the German school occupying it, the building was used by a different school; there is a new tradition in this space of non-religious use.

While one can be sympathetic to the memories of neighbors who now wish for the building to be preserved, their wishes neither pay for repairs like a new roof nor bring back the traditions from the past.

It is my wish and recommendation that the Heritage Preservation Commission NOT designate the building as historic in any way, and grant TCGIS permission to repurpose the space--even if that means demolishing the building.

Sincerely,

Paul Kile  
[pkile@kilefamily.net](mailto:pkile@kilefamily.net)  
612-803-6845  
1602 Juno Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55116



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Hotujec, Matt <matt@hotujec.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:53 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** opposition to historic designation of TCGIS property

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of a student at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I am writing to express my opposition to the petition to grant historic designation to the former church currently in use by the school. This petition is being presented by a small, vocal minority of neighbors, as well as non-neighborhood activists. While I sympathize with the residents of the neighborhood who attended the church and are understandably reluctant to see the building replaced, granting historic designation is an existential risk to the school.

The school has spent over two years looking for alternative sites as well as several options for remodeling the existing structure, but none of the many options explored turned out to be financially feasible.

While efforts to maintain, restore, and preserve historic buildings are often laudable, those efforts take time and money from motivated individuals. A non-profit school has neither the time nor money to invest in these efforts.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Signed,  
Matt Hotujec  
141 4th St E Apt 322  
St. Paul, MN 55101



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jackie Bernu <jackiebernu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS), I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.

I feel lucky to be able to send my child to a school such a TCGIS, it is highly ranked on academic testing scores and is a truly unique school. I believe it is one of the more outstanding schools in St. Paul and that the city should be doing everything they can to support TCGIS so that we can keep such an outstanding school running smoothly.

The building in question has not been used as a church for many years. The space is now being used as part of a school and can have no historic significance in that regard.

Historic designation will put the school's program at risk. Their limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Please deny any historic designation. This space now provides more benefit to the community as a school than as a historic building. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Jackie Bernu  
1393 Forest Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Ryan Hennessey <ryanhennessey@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:12 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Support TCGIS and our kids

George Gause and the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in our area that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you

Ryan Hennessey (father to Mabel and Graham)  
781 Cottage Ave W  
St Paul, MN 55117  
(952) 237-6135



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Charles Bublitz <charles.g.bublitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:11 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation Question for TCGIS

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

In addition to being a TCGIS parent, I am also a neighbor, living blocks from the school. TCGIS has brought a new vibrancy to my neighborhood, including two neighboring properties which were in disrepair but have been purchased and renovated by TCGIS parents, adding to the beauty and value of the neighborhood.

Please, do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Charles Bublitz  
982 Como Ave  
St. Paul



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and self-serving minority of neighbors who unfortunately are ignoring the common sense reality that this building is no longer suited for use—by a church (one of the contributing factors to the parish closing in 2011) or by a school.

I find it particularly disheartening that this group of neighbors cannot embrace the positivity associated with a property being transformed from one place of community, a church, to another: a top-tier public school. I would hope that my fellow St. Paul neighbors would be able to see beyond a building that is in disrepair in order to focus on what is important: providing our children with the best educational experience possible. A key component of that experience should be a building that meets their educational and safety needs.

Additionally, I find it quite unfortunate that this neighborhood group has paid little heed—and actively worked to misrepresent—the good faith efforts made by TCGIS to come up with alternative options for preserving the church, relocating the school, or some combination of both. It is clear to me that group lacks both common sense and a sense of community collaboration.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation—designation that the school did not seek—will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project—monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Kersten Reich  
1822 Jefferson Avenue  
St. Paul, MN



10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School and a long time teacher at the school, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that their church ceased to exist as they know it when the parish closed in 2011. I would also strongly encourage you to hear from other neighbors who support TCGIS and agree with our right to do what we want with our property, but may feel intimidated by their aggressive neighbors. We do have support in the neighborhood, but often times these citizens feel like they cannot speak up on our behalf lest they be shunned or worse they those who oppose us. These neighbors who support TCGIS also have the right to be heard and when making a decision as big as this, you must do your due diligence by hearing from all sides- not just the greasiest wheels.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Kristin Lynham  
1884 Chelton Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55104





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** David Jones <djones24@alumni.jh.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:22 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Designation for former St. Andrew's Church

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. The petition for historic designation is the latest attempt by a handful of neighbors to keep this excellent school from continuing to provide a quality education for my daughter and the other TCGIS students in order to serve their own preferences without offering any sacrifice of their own. While TCGIS has patiently tried to work with these neighbors, including considering actually moving the school for the second time in about five years, the school has been met only with opposition, including protests directed at elementary-school children. Never has there been any attempt by these neighbors to offer significant financial support or a constructive solution for what they want: the preservation of a crumbling church that holds memories for some neighbors, but is of questionable architectural significance and costs the school literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep up, while offering no educational benefit. Two things are very unclear to me, and lead me to question the motives of those claiming to care about this church: first, where was this concern before TCGIS took over the building? Why not attempt to get this designation then, if the building is of such clear importance, as they claim? This is especially questionable since these neighbors raised no protest against actually connecting the former church to another building. I would think if this building was as important to them as they claim, they would have had issues with the prior changes. Second, if this building is important, why do they insist on putting the financial burden on a non-profit school that already receives less funding than other public schools? Why not come together and purchase it themselves, or follow some other alternative, rather than try to have their own preferences paid for at the cost of children's education? Their concern for the building is only there when they aren't paying for it.

Placing this financial and educational burden on a very successful school that has done its best to work with this group of neighbors, is unfair, most of all to the children who have been caused undue stress by this situation, and whose education will continue to be undermined by the draining of finances and staff time in dealing with this situation.

I hope you will put an end to this long and unfortunate attempt to save a building that's only significant to the memories of a few neighbors, done at the cost of a better education for hundreds of students in the short term, and thousands in the long.

Thank you.

David Jones (Parent of Lene Jones, TCGIS 6th grade)  
1909 Hillcrest Ave  
St. Paul 55116



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Angela Schneider <angela.l.schneider@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:04 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of a Kindergartener and a preschooler that will eventually attend the Twin Cities German Immersion school, I find the request to designate a building that sat vacant and ignored for years as a historic landmark disgusting. It is only another ploy in a long line of hostile behaviors toward the school. Many of the immediate neighbors clearly do not want to be disturbed by the youngest citizens of our community and would rather live in isolation and in the past.

I am also a resident of the South Como neighborhood, living just thirteen blocks from the school. My family lived here before the school purchased the vacant building. I appreciate having a vibrant school close by, that engages the neighbors positively and respectfully. The neighborhood has definitely benefited from this community. The recent request to save the former church by a handful of neighbors who have always hated change will risk shutting down the school and greatly disrupt my children's education.

Where were these voices of complaint when the church was decommissioned and sat idle until we brought this property back to life? A handful of short-sighted individuals would now have you believe this is an historic building. It has a history, yes, but its time has come and gone. And it is not worth preserving, given the number of other buildings like it in the area.

I hope you will consider the unreasonable financial burden on a successful public school should the Commission choose to name our school building an historic site. I urge you to reject the idea.

Thank you.

Angela Schneider

978 Barrett St



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent with two children at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, and a current resident and taxpayer who was born and raised in Saint Paul, I am writing to strongly encourage you to deny historic preservation status for the building currently owned by the school. To me, this decision comes down to either our community investing in its future, or holding too tightly to the past, to the detriment of current and future students at a thriving school. To quote our Mayor in his budget overview,

*Saint Paul is at a critical moment. We have incredible potential as we continue to grow into a 21st-century global community. To ensure that our city truly works for all of us, we need a city budget that reflects and invests in our values. Investing in our values means building a city that not only meets our needs today, but helps us build a city that our children, and grandchildren, will want to live in. To realize this vision, we need to invest in a future for all of us. That is why our city budget invests in the people and things that matter most to us.*

I strongly believe that allowing Twin Cities German Immersion School to move forward with their development plans invests in our city's future. An historic designation for this building will not help our city grow into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will not help build a city that our children and grandchildren want to live in. It may in fact ultimately lead to the demise of a school that is now, and hopefully will continue well into the future, developing global citizens.

There are a variety of reasons why I believe this designation must be denied, but the most concrete is financial. The school has made it clear that repairing and maintaining the current building will create a significant financial burden on the school, one that likely cannot be maintained into the future. Your own website notes that that financial assistance is *only potentially* available for facilities on the National Register of Historic Places, which is not even part of the discussion at this point. A local historic designation places a high burden on a publicly funded institution with an already tight budget. As your website demonstrates, this designation would not provide any assistance to maintain or improve the facility.

If a local historic designation is granted, there is the distinct chance that the school may not survive financially (Please remember that charters schools are funded at a lower per-student level than traditional public school, nor do they have the taxing authority granted to public school districts). That would likely create a situation where the community once again has an empty building. In essence, the well has been poisoned for this site. If the school leaves, what other organization would be interested in using the facility? Who would want to take on the burden of restoring and maintaining a large building with a very limited potential for re-use with the restrictions the designation would put in place? Other charters schools have looked at the site, as well as at least one developer. No one was interested in purchasing it. Who could blame them? A designation could ultimately be a Pyrrhic victory for the community. As a taxpayer in this city, looking at the potential of a significant levy increase next year, I know I am not interested in money going to maintain an empty building that some individuals in the neighborhood wanted to keep. I do not believe an historic designation is an invest in Saint Paul's future.

In addition to financial issues, the current building does not provide the necessary learning space for students, not can it be remodeled to provide that space. A new building would provide dedicated space for special education students, and provide all students with an actual gymnasium. Additional classrooms would allow the school to maintain current class sizes.

To me this is a decision between the future and the past. Saint Paul and its varied neighborhoods do have a rich history that should be celebrated. However, celebrating that past should not come at significant costs to future generations. To me, this is a clear-cut case where the potential for the future far outweighs holding on to the past. Keeping this building benefits few now and into the future. Allowing the school to move forward with their plans benefits hundreds of children in the near future, and thousands more if the school is allowed to continue thriving in a facility built for education.

Sincerely,

Joshua Carlyle  
644 Asbury St.  
Saint Paul

## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Joyce Albers Tyrrell <joyce\_albers@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:57 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** please reject the historic site petition for the German Immersion School

October 25, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal minority of neighbors. The former parish was not fiscally able to keep the building maintained. If our school needs to leave the site because we cannot afford to maintain this site as a historic location, who will pay to keep the building as they desire?

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that should be preserved.

Thank you.

Joyce Albers Tyrrell

4334 Greenhaven Court

Saint Paul, MN 55127



10/24/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a Saint Paul resident and parent of two children who have attended Twin Cities German Immersion School. When we started, the school rented a small former union hall off highway 280, then moved to share a few floors with Avalon along University Avenue. For years, my children crossed busy streets to access playgrounds, went to the YMCA to have gym, always in temporary settings difficult for biking or walking.

I supported the disruption and financial burden of moving yet again when the school finally found a site in a neighborhood, where the public French immersion school used to be, along public transit and bike routes.

As a parent, I feel the chance at a permanent location significantly contributed to its success and stability of TCGIS, allowing them to invest in the students and surroundings. There are now dedicated school bus routes to reduce traffic, and a playground. It's also a great location for a public school due to city investments, with easy access to Metro Transit and the emerging St. Paul bike plan.

I supported replacing the decommissioned structures on this site originally, and I support the current building project now for the same reasons. This is a public school, and the older buildings are poorly accessible to the disabled, expensive to heat and inefficient to maintain. Many rooms have limited use. Because of space limitations my kids are again crossing the street to have class in nearby buildings. The school is again wasting time and money on facilities distractions.

I ask that you reject the historic designation proposal, so more sustainable facilities can be made available that serve all people.

Daniel Bond  
1556 Jefferson Ave  
Saint Paul



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Steve <vonfange@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Please save the TCGIS!!!

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the uncle of two student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Please do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Steven von Fange  
PO Box 8015  
St. Paul MN 55108



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Sasa <buffalobill.lotion@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:44 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS vs. Historic Designation

On Oct 25, 2018 2:55 PM, Sasa <buffalobill.lotion@yahoo.com> wrote:

Date 10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
C/o George Cause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I sincerely urge against voting for Historic Preservation of the Aula at TCGIS.

I am a parent of one, soon to be two students at the school. As a parent it is very important to me to see that my children receive an education with the best resources available. TCGIS offers a unique learning experience for children in the Saint Paul and surrounding areas. It is reputable and in high demand. The purpose of them buying the property was to meet the demands of the greater community and maximize the learning experiences of the children enrolled. I agree with their mission whole heartedly. They are investing in my childrens' futures and my family is committed to 12 years with them until my kids out grow the school.

I am a member of the Saint Paul Community. I have spent most of my life in Saint Paul. I grew up on the North End, near Como, and I love the area very much. One thing about Saint Paul that has been a concern me for many years is the lack of investment towards our growing/changing community. I see this as a prime example of that resistance to enrich the community for the long haul. If you want to encourage families to stay or move to Saint Paul, there need to be resources that support families to be here.

I believe the push for Historic Preservation to be misguided and (from a few, not all) out of spite. It is sad to know the history involving the Dioceses consolidating Parishes, the effects it has had on the Parishioners and I sympathize for them. I believe their disappointment and anger has been undeservingly directed at the school and extends to the families that are focused on their own futures. I ask you to please consider the long term outcome that the school will have in the community vs. the long term outcome saving this one particular building will have.

If the expectation for historic preservation had been part of the buying agreement of the property, I suspect the school would have purchased an alternate location because the costs of upkeep would have been too much to bare and it is not in the schools mission. It is both unreasonable and unfair to ask the school to take on this burden, as well as the burden of meeting public demand to educate in the existing space.

Thank you,

Sarah Catherine Escherich  
930 Saint Clair Avenue



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School and a student who graduated from TCGIS last spring, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.

I recognize that this is a tough decision and passions run deep on both sides, and I do have empathy for the former members of St. Anthony and long time neighbors who have emotional ties to the building. I hate losing cool, old buildings too. However, the building was a church, and as a church it has outlived its purpose. As beautiful as the Aula (i.e. the former church) is, it is just a building. A building that has a very expensive roof to maintain, has a gym that is not really a gym, so much wasted, unusable space, and, I'm guessing, is an expensive and/or inefficient to heat and cool. This translates to money that could be used for teacher salaries, not being able to host basketball or volleyball games, a teacher's office is a storage room in another teacher's classroom, and again money that could be used elsewhere.

Now it is part of school, a thriving school that gives **children** in the Twin Cities a very unique opportunity, a K-8 immersion school. Last spring, my older daughter and her 8th grade class of over 30 students and 4 teacher chaperons spent three weeks in Germany partly in hostels and partly with host families. My daughter came from that trip so much more confident in herself and in her German skills. It was thrilling as a parent to see. Also, 8th grade students take a German proficiency test, D1D, for reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Our daughter received a B1 (the highest score) in all four sections. Now she is a ninth grader at Central enrolled in the German Immersion program with dreams of attending college in Germany. I think that is all amazing! And, she would not have had these experiences and not be able to look forward more opportunities had it not been being a student at TCGIS.

That is what I want to preserve. Opportunities for children to learn a second language, to become fluent in that language, to think outside of their neighborhood, their city, their country. If you burden the school with this historical designation, you *will* negatively affect the program because every dollar put into maintaining that building could be a dollar teaching a child. A vibrant school in a neighborhood is an asset. It draws new families and brings up property values.

So I ask you to preserve a thriving, German immersion K-8 program because at the end of the day this should be about the **students!**

Thank you.

Kari Swedberg  
456 Ohio St.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Orsi <oszabo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 3:26 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School public hearing

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Orsolya England  
1662 Minnehaha Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55104



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Kirsten Partenheimer <kirsten.partenheimer@googlemail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:28 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Please reject the historic designation request for TCGIS

October 25, 2018

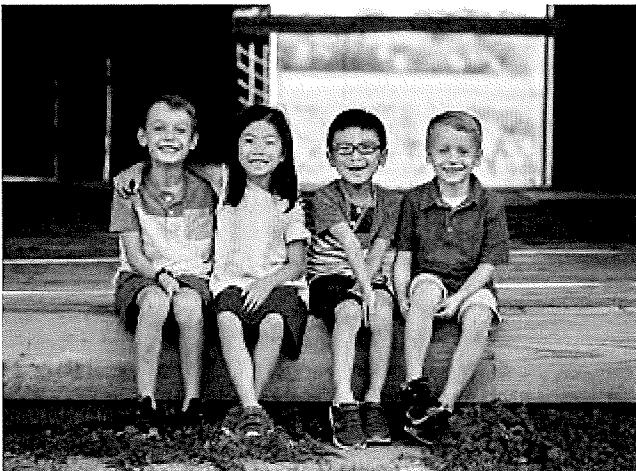
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, Suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of four students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to designate our school buildings as historic property. This petition is being presented by a small and vocal group of neighbors who do not own the property, do not have children who attend the school and will not be financially responsible for maintaining an aging building and balancing an already tight budget.

Historic designation will threaten our school's budget and its primary mission – to educate students. The school's limited budget is already under pressure as we are required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project—money that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building that would better meet the needs of the student body.

My children and I love the Twin Cities German Immersion School and I am thankful they have the opportunity to attend. All four are thriving, including my two who receive special education services.



(Oliver, 3rd grade; Kiera, 1st grade; Matteo, Kindergarten; Soren, 1st grade)

On behalf of my children and the hundreds of other students who attend the Twin Cities German Immersion School, please honor the needs of the school and deny any historic designation.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Partenheimer  
392 Fulton Street  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
612-309-8715

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Frederick Orsted <makofao@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:18 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS - Please DENY Petition requesting historic designation

October 22, 2018

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As parents of students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to strongly consider AGAINST the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. I believe the group fighting for this historic designation is potentially doing it more out of emotional attachment than out of actual historical merits, completely dismissing the viability of the buildings future use. Cost analyses have been done on the feasibility of saving the façade of the structure. This is truly cost prohibitive for a non-profit charter school and saving the façade will fail to provide the space needed to adequately provide for the growing student body.

By granting a historic designation there is a strong possibility that the school will close. There is no guarantee that someone will occupy the space. Especially if covenants are put in place restricting how the structure can be developed because of a historical designation. Leaving the potential for an abandoned building that becomes an eye sore instead of the current thriving school that is providing an outstanding education for children of all background in the Twin Cities area.

We chose this school for three reasons: 1) Language immersion 2) A K-8 school located on a single campus 3) it is close enough for us to walk or bike too. The building is old and unique, but it is not functional as a school. When the archdiocese sold the property, the building ceased being a church and became a school. If a historical designation is given to the building we fear changes at the

school would limit the ability to provide a high quality education, which could lead to the school closing. There is no suitable choice for our children if the school closes.

We attended meetings where protesting neighbors were present and have not been moved by their arguments. We are empathetic to their attachment but hearing someone state "the view from my kitchen window will change" is not a sound reason for moving forward with a historical designation. The aesthetic enjoyment by a small number of people from a building that will never host a mass, baptism, wedding, or funeral does not outweigh the need to give every child at the school the best possible education. We are asking you to truly look at the feasibility of making this a historic site and to reject this petition and deny any historic designation.

Kindly,

Fred and Mary Orsted

748 Hamline Avenue N

St. Paul, MN 55104

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jake Seltz <jakeseltz77@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 7:44 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Support of TCGIS

10/25/18

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission c/o George Gause

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Jake Seltz

1773 Laurel Ave

St Paul, MN 55104

Sent from my iPhone





**Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Ellen Thomson <ellenmthomson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2018 12:46 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS / Historic Preservation of Aula

October 26, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a 5th grader (Henrik Thomson) attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project — monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Please do the right thing and deny any historic designation.

Thank you for your consideration!

Ellen Thomson  
225 Farrington Street  
St. Paul, MN 55102

651-283-7246  
[ellenmthomson@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmthomson@gmail.com)

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Sent from Gmail Mobile



Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

October 25, 2018

Dear members of the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

We are parents of two children who are thriving at the Twin Cities German Immersion School (TCGIS). We are also Saint Paul residents who appreciate the work that this Commission does to preserve truly relevant historical sites. We are writing today in opposition to the petition requesting historical designation of the former church building located at 1031 Como Avenue, as an attempt by a few vocal members of the neighborhood to force this successful school to maintain a building that has outlived its useful life for purely cosmetic purposes, potentially putting our children's educational future at risk in the process.

The former St. Andrew's Church building, beautiful though it is from the outside, is no longer meeting the needs of the students and teachers at the school. Over the past year that our family has been involved with TCGIS, we have observed multiple attempts between the TCGIS administration and the greater Como community to come to a thoughtful solution; however, the only realistic solution for the school at this point is to remove and replace this building, which has considerable maintenance costs in addition to no longer offering the type of space that the school needs.

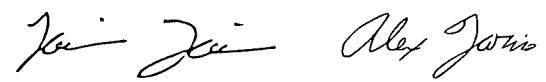
It is unfortunate that the vocal group dedicated to preventing the school from moving forward with their plans did not get involved in 2011, when the building was empty for two years prior to having TCGIS move in; at this point, their requests to designate this building as a historical site without having financial and personal stake in the outcome are an imposition on the current owners, and on all of our children, who deserve the best that their community has to offer them.

The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment, in addition to making the families who call TCGIS a second home feel unwelcome in the neighborhood.

There is a good chance that if this historic designation goes through, it will endanger the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This is money that should be spent on students and staff—in other words, on our future, rather than on the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Larissa and Alex Jarvis. Larissa's signature is on the left, followed by Alex's signature on the right.

Larissa and Alex Jarvis

Parents to Julian and Ariadne, current students at TCGIS, and to Bastet, a future student

1203 Laurel Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Mark Nicholson <h2ogood@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:02 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** comments, re: Historic Preservation of former St. Andrews

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a parent of two children attending the public charter Twin Cities German Immersion School. I also have a unique perspective of being part of Church of the Redeemer (Anglican), who rented the former St. Andrews church building from January through August, 2012.

The congregation of Redeemer, including myself, were excited to meet in such a beautiful building. However, after the first few church services it was obvious most people could not understand a sermon (given in the sanctuary) with minimal amplification due to reverb and echo. To put it simply, the building acoustics are a mess. Through many review meetings, consultations, and even an evaluation of a \$20k speaker system that isolated the projection range, it was determined there was no viable option to solve the acoustic issues. Due to the challenging space of St. Andrews, we ultimately moved to a new building in September of 2012.

When TCGIS moved to the existing location I was curious to see what they would do with the space. I was impressed how they took an existing school and church and adapted it to meet the needs of the school. They did not rush to remove the church at that time, but took a concerted effort to try and make the building work with what they have. I still sigh when we have a school function in the old sanctuary - as it's still a challenge to hear what's going on.

I know the school has evaluated many options and has been especially mindful in attempting to utilize an existing structure, but the building is no longer feasible to maintain and doesn't adequately meet the needs of the students. I urge you to reject the idea of historical designation for the former St. Andrews building.

Thank you.

Mark Nicholson  
1751 Lafond Ave.  
St. Paul, MN



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Brian Doyle <briandoyle007@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 7:56 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Historic Preservation Petition

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School as well as a homeowner in the Warrendale neighborhood (2 houses from the school), I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Brian Doyle  
1048 Van Slyke Ave.  
St. Paul, MN. 55103





October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a teacher at the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, but vocal minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Kevin Eberhard  
1445 W Jessamine Ave, Apt. #301  
Saint Paul, MN 55108



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Emily Phillips <emy.phi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 7:15 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** A TCGIS parent

October 25, 2018  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As a parent of five children (3 are current students and 2 are TCGIS graduates) that have walked the halls and studied at TCGIS, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who have no real stake in the matter. My children, as well as the many other children that attend and will attend TCGIS in the future, are the real stake holders in the matter.

In 2011, when the parish closed for good, it marked the end for the building as a church. The building does not serve the needs of our school nor do I see it as a safe place for our children to engage in school activities. The school has, in good faith, entertained other potential options and has come back to the most prudent financial and practical option of rebuilding on the site where the failing church now sits. I implore you to do the right thing and deny any historic designation for this building. Our flourishing school needs to proceed with plans that will enhance the educational needs of our bright young minds.

Thank you,  
Emily Phillips  
1383 Charles Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Tanya Anderson <tanya.anderson03@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:43 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** For the Heritage Preservation Meeting on 11/5

10 25 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

I am a parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School. For the sake of our children's right to learn in a safe, sustainable environment, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. Has the commission also read the research about this site? It is not only a building with lasting positive memories depicted by this group of supporters, but one that holds negative, lifelong memories for victims that have not been mentioned. I will leave that research to you to discover if you have not learned of it already.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Tanya Anderson  
2103 Doswell Ave  
St Paul, MN 55108



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** John Gillson <johnfgillson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:39 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Hello,


We are parents of Julian Gillson at TCGIS and residents of St. Paul. Our daughter will start attending TCGIS next year. TCGIS has been fantastic for our son Julian and the schooling options in the St. Paul area are a big reason why we plan to live in the city for many years to come. I believe this to be the case for many families we have met in the past two years and it's important to continue supporting these options and supporting their progress. The church that was used was idle and somebody saw the opportunity to make it into something great which they have succeeded in doing. To now view it as a historical landmark would be detrimental to the community and the children's education. St. Paul has many historical landmarks, it is a beautiful city filled with history. There are many churches that have been restored, kept up and have active congregations, there is only one German Immersion School that happens to have found it's home in a church that no longer operates as such. It was decided many years ago that the church was better fit as a school and we believe that we now have to let the administrators operate with the future of the school in mind and most importantly the students. From what we have seen, the administration have been good stewards and we trust their judgement when they say that other options are not financially sound. We're disappointed that many in the surrounding community are valuing the aesthetics of the neighborhood over the value a school like TCGIS provides the greater St. Paul area and the education of children. We ask that you would not do the same as an outside party when you make your final decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

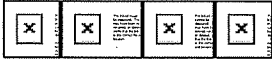
John and Cassie Gillson, parents of Julian Gillson  
126 Kent St. B  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

On Thu, Oct 25, 2018 at 12:37 PM Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)> wrote:

Thanks for your letter. We do require an address to be included in written testimony. Please resend with an address.



**George Gause**  
*Heritage Preservation Supervisor*  
Planning & Economic Development  
25 4th Street West, ste 1400  
Saint Paul, MN [55102](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us)  
  
P: 651-266-6714  
  
[george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:george.gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



*Equity. Innovation. Resilience*

**From:** John Gillson <[johnfgillson@gmail.com](mailto:johnfgillson@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:11 PM

**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul) <[George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:George.Gause@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>; Cassie Gillson <[cassiegillson@gmail.com](mailto:cassiegillson@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** TCGIS

Hello,

We are parents of Julian Gillson at TCGIS and residents of St. Paul. Our daughter will start attending TCGIS next year. TCGIS has been fantastic for our son Julian and the schooling options in the St. Paul area are a big reason why we plan to live in the city for many years to come. I believe this to be the case for many families we have met in the past two years and it's important to continue supporting these options and supporting their progress. The church that was used was idle and somebody saw the opportunity to make it into something great which they have succeeded in doing. To now view it as a historical landmark would be detrimental to the community and the children's education. St. Paul has many historical landmarks, it is a beautiful city filled with history. There are many churches that have been restored, kept up and have active congregations, there is only one German Immersion School that happens to have found it's home in a church that no longer operates as such. It was decided many years ago that the church was better fit as a school and we believe that we now have to let the administrators operate with the future of the school in mind and most importantly the students. From what we have seen, the administration have been good stewards and we trust their judgement when they say that other options are not financially sound. We're disappointed that many in the surrounding community are valuing the aesthetics of the neighborhood over the value a school like TCGIS provides the greater St. Paul area and the education of children. We ask that you would not do the same as an outside party when you make your final decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John and Cassie Gillson, parents of Julian Gillson



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Eric Leishman <eric.leishman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:39 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Matter

October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Eric Leishman  
2247 Sargent Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Natalie French <olson.natalie.m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:36 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Twin Cities German Immersion School Heritage Preservation Application

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you,

Natalie French  
1082 Hague Ave  
St Paul, MN 55104



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Jessica Chastek <rubyrya@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:14 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Historic preservation hearing

Oct. 25 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. The members of the community who now oppose our growth and transformation could have saved this building by remaining members of the church, raising their children in the faith and sending their kids to the parish school; but 40 and 50 years ago when they had the choice to do those things, they chose NOT TO. Now they want to deny us the safe, functional facility that our kids need so they can keep a pretty building. My older son who used to attend this school sometimes had to receive his Special Ed services in the hallway because we lack enough usable space.

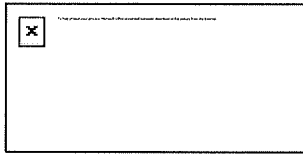
Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area at no cost to the students. As a family of limited financial resources, I am so grateful that my children have been able to benefit from this outstanding academic program. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Jessica M. Chastek  
68 Darlene St.  
St. Paul, MN 55119

Jessica M. Chastek, PhD  
Independent Consultant #618593  
651.726.4455 (txt ok)  
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Shop Online, option 2, Place an Order, then Outlet

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Joe Breuer <jbreuer@new-dimensions.biz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:11 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS Development Plans

10/25/2017

Commissioners

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

As an owner of a house in St. Paul's Cathedral Hill Historic Preservation district, I am myself an ardent supporter for maintaining our rich and diverse historic structures for future generations to enjoy. But even in my neighborhood I have seen buildings razed that were still functional and contained elements of historic significance in the name of necessary progress and neighborhood revitalization. Not all buildings can be preserved and we have to strike a balance between the civic needs of our residents and not blindly keep around all buildings older than a decade.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Joe Breuer  
698 Dayton Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55104





## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

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**From:** Tina Haarhusch <thaarhusch@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:08 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Deny Historic Designation TCGIS Aula - Letter from a staff member, parent and Como resident

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, a staff member and a Como resident, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011. I respect the neighbor's individual histories with the former church building, but the school is currently creating experiences for hundreds of children, families as well as local and international staff members.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Tina N. Haarhusch  
1137 Iowa Ave W  
St Paul, MN 55108



October 25th, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. The petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who maintain a very unreasonable stance on the old church building. It is falling apart, and there has not been a congregation in that church since 2011. There is however a now thriving school in its place, and the church building was never designed for that purpose of course.

Though I can understand the need and passion for maintaining history, I also feel that in America, we make way for the new and better, when it makes sense. This is one of those times. As one of the neighbors reportedly put it: "I have so many memories attached to that church!" That is a nice sentiment, but the memories we all hold dear are after all within us, and not contained in a building. It is time to let go of this structure and make possible a building designed for children to be educated in. They are our future.

The school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. The limited budget of the school is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Ralf Schirg  
837 Deer Park  
St. Paul, MN 55116



October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of a student attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Lynn Hartweck  
1398 Laurel Ave  
Saint Paul, MN



## **Gause, George (CI-StPaul)**

---

**From:** Rachel Kampling <rachel.kampling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 11:50 AM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Regarding The Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

Dear St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission:

As the parent of two students attending the Twin Cities German Immersion School, I urge you to reject the petition to turn our school property into a historic location. This short-sighted petition is being presented by a small, vocal and selfish minority of neighbors who would rather deny educating kids in a building that is falling apart than face the fact that the old church building's time was up when the parish closed it down in 2011.

Our school's simple mission is to provide an outstanding education for children of all backgrounds in the Twin Cities area. Historic designation will complicate that objective financially and put our program at risk. Our limited budget is already under pressure as the school is required to expend scarce funds on responding to this petition and other demands related to the proposed building project--monies that could improve learning, enhance teacher development and help fund a new building where this failing church building now sits.

Do the right thing and deny any historic designation. There are far more deserving structures in both cities that deserve preservation. This is not one of them.

Thank you.

Rachel Kampling  
453 Wheeler St. N  
St. Paul, MN 55104





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Lindsey Smaka <lindsey.smaka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:40 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS

10/25/2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

My two children attend TCGIS and it is an amazing school. It is also an extremely successful school in Minnesota. Currently I am in fear that this is being jeopardized and my children's future is at stake. We should be supporting schools, not trying to break them down. The campaign against our school has not taken the children into account.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Lindsey Smaka  
1477 Hoyt Ave W

## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Christopher Tabisz <ctabisz@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Re: TCGIS Construction

November 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Dr. Christopher Tabisz (TCGIS Teacher and Neighbor)  
1127 Chatsworth Street N, Apt. 6  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

Letter as PDF

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Dr. Christopher Tabisz, Ph.D.  
Middle School Teacher  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

---

**From:** Esther Neu <eneu@tcgis.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 2:54 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** NIMBY School

24th October 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Esther Neu  
655 Grandview Ave W  
Roseville, MN 55113

--

Esther Neu  
Technology Integrationist  
Twin Cities German Immersion School  
1031 Como Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55103  
651-492-7106

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## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Navid PK <npouladian@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 4:55 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** TCGIS - My Children's School

Thursday, October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Navid Pouladian-kari  
1081 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55105





c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

I am neighbor of Twin Cities German Immersion School and parent of two children who attend the school. You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church a historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of intimidation and fear that will put the school's future at stake. This is disrupting a neighborhood, my neighborhood.

The view of the school from my backyard is a beautiful new school addition connected to a crumbling old church building, with missing roofing and cracks in the walls. This small group of people looking to save an old building based on memories shared there is selfish.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Casey Doyle  
1048 Van Slyke Ave  
St. Paul, MN  
55103



October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Maiken Givot  
438 Laurel Ave #3  
St. Paul, MN 55102



## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Erica Tesdell <listtesdell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 9:26 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Say no to historic designation

October 25, 2018  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving the entire school to another location – the school sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- The school has been working in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few individuals.

Sincerely,

David List  
853 West Hoyt Ave  
St Paul MN 55117



October 25, 2018

Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
c/o George Gause  
25 Fourth Street West, suite 1400  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church and historic building in need of preservation.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Please deny any historic designation.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Sarah Robbins  
1209 Palace Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55105





## Gause, George (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Alix Aase <alixaase@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 25, 2018 12:07 PM  
**To:** Gause, George (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** Aase, Ben E.  
**Subject:** In Support of Twin Cities German Immersion School

10/25/18  
Commissioners  
St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission  
ADDRESS

Dear Heritage Preservation Commissioners:

You have before you a petition to declare a public school building that was once a church an historic building in need of preservation. However, this petition is not really that, it is a harmful form of NIMBY-ISM – Not in My Backyard – that will put the school's future at stake. And it is disrupting a neighborhood.

After meeting with neighbors opposed to our plans to build a newer, safer and attractive school building – and looking at other options such as moving our entire school to another location – we sought compromise. But this group is really not interested in compromise, even in light of the facts.

- The Petition to designate the property as an historic structure is selfish – and self-serving – and is taking money away from kids in a successful school environment: Every dollar the school spends on opposing the Petition, or on complying with historic designation requirements, is a dollar that is taken away from the kids the school is entrusted with educating.
- There is a good chance that any historic designation will imperil the school's long-term viability. The reality is that costs associated with maintaining the historic appearance and character of a nearly 100-year-old building while trying to continue operations within a functionally obsolete structure are rising exponentially. This threatens the school's ability to meet the needs of its staff and students, which will result in increased attrition levels, lost enrollment and revenues.
- We have been operating in good faith, but the aggressive and mean-spirited campaign against the school's building plans has simply gotten out of hand, and that's what this petition is really about – it's a ploy to satisfy only a small few in our community.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Alix and Ben Aase/1448 Goodrich Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105





# Historic Sites Survey

Ramsey County Historical Society

Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

1. Street Address/  
Location: 1051 W. Como Avenue
2. District/village: 6
3. Common name: St. Andrew's Church
4. Historic name: St. Andrew's Church
5. Original use: church
6. Present Use: church
7. Access: Yes No  Limited
8. Period of construction: 1927
9. Style: Renaissance/ Mission Revival
10. # of bays: 3
11. # of stories: 1
12. Roof style: Intersecting gable
13. Roof covering: red cermaic tiles
14. Dormer style & #: none
15. Chimney style, material, location & #: not visible
16. Type of fenestration: fixed, 1/1, rounded arched
17. Type of foundation: concrete block
18. Structural system/main exterior wall covering: Wood frame:  clapboard  shingle  aluminum  asbestos  Brick:  stretcher bond  American bond  header bond  Stone:  random rubble  coursed rubble  random ashlar  coursed ashlar  Type of stone/brick or other bonding pattern: red pressed brick  Concrete block  Cast concrete  Stucco  Terra cotta  Curtain wall  Glass/metal  Other: \_\_\_\_\_
19. Other significant details:  
Ornate and asymmetrical composition of wide gable end flanked by tall polygonal towers with smaller octagonal caps, a four story square bell tower topped by octagonal belfry and cross, and several projecting wings. Large rose window in gable end above gabled entrance with polychromatic layers of red brick and concrete. Other ornamentation includes polychromatic use of concrete, brick corbelling, and red tile roof.
20. Integrity of Design:  basically intact & unaltered  altered slightly  
 alterations & additions more apparent than original  original design not apparent
21. Physical condition of building:  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Deteriorated
22. Additions and alterations:
23. If a corner lot, describe:  NW  NE  SE  SW corner of \_\_\_\_\_  
cross street
24. Side of street: west
25. Setting:  agricultural  residential  commercial  industrial  suburban  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
26. Significant site and landscape features:
27. Threats to site: none
28. Additional comments:
29. Date(s) of site visit(s): 8/19/81
30. Negative file number(s): 198/6/38, 198/6/39
31. Map location code(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_
32. Name of fieldworker: Bruce Rainier

Planning district/  
village #: 6  
Address/  
Location: 1051 W. Como Avenue  
Historic  
Name: St. Andrew's Church  
Common  
Name: St. Andrew's Church



33. Architect/engineer: \_\_\_\_\_  
34. Builder/contractor: \_\_\_\_\_  
35. Present Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ 36. Date built: 1927  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 37. Date source: Hoag

38. Legal Description: \_\_\_\_\_

39. Building Permit #: \_\_\_\_\_

40. Location of architect's drawings: \_\_\_\_\_

41. On National Register? Yes  No 42. National Register potential? Yes  No

43. HPC/local historic site? Yes  No 44. Local designation potential? Yes  No

45. In historic district? Yes  No 46. Historic district potential? Yes  No

Which? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, explain rationale: \_\_\_\_\_

47. Historical background: St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church was organized in 1895. The building at 1051 Como is the parish's third church. From 1922-27 services were held in St. Andrew's School, the first building on the church grounds. The present building was dedicated December 4, 1927. It was built at a cost of \$150,000 with Minnesota materials such as Arcadia brick, Bedford stone and local sandstone and walnut.

48. Level of significance:  Local  State  National

49. Statement of significance:

An unusual period revival church that is in excellent condition.

50. Sources of information:

St. Paul Dispatch, April 17, 1927.

Hoag, R.E., Churches of St. Paul: A Directory, Unpublished manuscript, 1976

Photographs





