

Letters of Testimony

HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors and Concerned Parties
Pioneer Era Limestone Houses Heritage Preservation Sites Nomination

Prepared by HPC Staff for:

Public Hearing of the Saint Paul City Council

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

City Hall Council Chambers

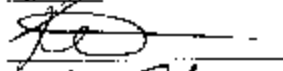



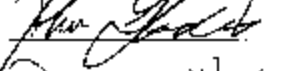
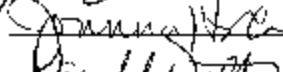
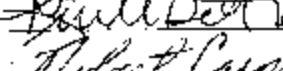
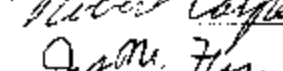
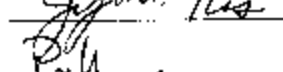

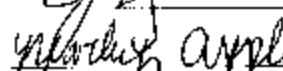
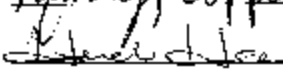
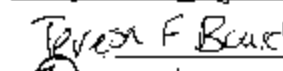
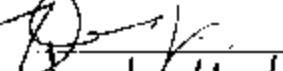
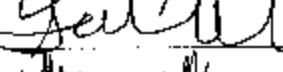
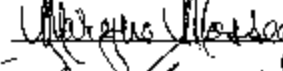
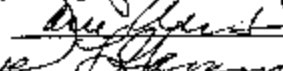
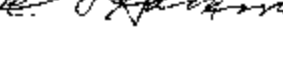

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 10, 2015

I support Tom Schroeder's restoration and (re)opening of the Stone Saloon at 445 Smith as a pre-Civil War German "lager beer saloon"— i.e., a beer-only tap room and micro-brewery.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Street address</u>	<u>Signature</u>
Katie Swanson	201 McBeal St.	
Shawn Schmitzer	192 McBeal St.	
Marianne Schmitzer	192 McBeal St.	
Ben Pressgrove	83 Leech St.	
John Gladis	170 McBeal	
Jouanna Hivela	199 McBeal St	
Knut Dettmer	20 1/2 McBeal St	
Robert Casper	212 McBeal	
Jay M. Hunt	72 Leech St	
Peter Houf	81 Leech St.	
JAMES LINDBERGAIA	95 LEECH ST	
Melody Appleton	97 Leech St	
Waldemar Hansen	93 LEECH ST.	
Teresa F Ben	105 Leech St	
Karl Soring	90 Leech St	
Sarah Miller	186 McBeal St	
Maryann Massey	190 Leech St ¹¹⁰	
Jane Hunt	112 Leech St	
Laurel Spina Laurel Gannon	157 Goodrich Ave.	

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors



Address | 383 Michigan Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota, 55102 | Phone | (651) 290-0542 | Website | www.sokolmn.org

August 8, 2015

Amy Spong, Executive Director
Heritage Preservation Committee
25 West Fourth Street, Suite 1400
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Spong,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota to offer our strong support for the Stone Saloon historic designation, along with the four other stone houses, and the granting of a "historic use variance." The historic designation and variance would allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically themed neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

As you may know, Sokol MN is an ethnic organization founded in 1882 and housed in the state and nationally historically-designated 1887 C. S. P. S. Hall, where the oldest theater in MN is located. Our group understands the importance of historic designations. Sokol MN is a member of the West Seventh Street Federation and supports enhancing the cultural and commercial growth of the neighborhood.

Tom Schroeder is a member of our organization and his family has been involved with our gymnastics program for many years. His daughter is currently a Sokol MN gymnastics instructor and also recently taught gymnastics to campers at the summer Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, of which I am a co-director.

The Board of Directors at Sokol Minnesota strongly encourages the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission to recommend to the Saint Paul City Council the plan for the Stone Saloon to be given historic designation and that the historic use variance be granted.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support for the Stone Saloon.

Sincerely yours,

Judith H. Aubrecht
President
tjaubrecht@comcast.net
651-699-5148



Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 8, 2015



To: Amy Spong , Heritage Preservation Commission
From: West 7th Business Association

We admire the extensive research that supports the rehabilitation of the Stone Saloon at 445 N. Smith Ave. as a vital historic building as well as its use as a lager establishment. The quality of the workmanship on the rehabilitation through the craftsmen and contractors who worked on the project is a model for the rehabilitation of other historic structures in our community.

Through the efforts of our Enhancement Committee, the W7BA annually presents local businesses with a Certificate of Recognition award, recognizing those who have made significant contributions to our neighborhoods and commercial strip. At our general membership meeting February 2015, we presented this award to Tom Schroeder and the Stone Saloon, exemplifying the purpose of the award.

We further recognize the application of the Historic Use Variance to this project. The project is a neighbor of our newest brewery in the community, Bad Weather Brewery, and these two businesses complement one another and the historic roots of brewing in West 7th.

We therefore request that the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) support:

- 1) The historic designation of the Stone Saloon with our four limestone historic properties in the West End;
- 2) The historic use variance for the Stone Saloon at 445 N. Smith Ave.

Kent Petterson

West 7th Enhancement Coalition

651-222-5536

Joe Landsberger

President, W7BA

651 297 9000

president@w7ba.org

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors



August 12, 2015

Amy Spong, Executive Director
Heritage Preservation Commission
25 W. Fourth Street, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

VIA EMAIL

Re: Stone Saloon

Dear Ms. Spong:

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce writes to express its strong support for granting a historic use variance to allow the Stone Saloon to be reopened as a tap room and micro-brewery. We also support the local designation of the Stone Saloon as a Heritage Preservation Site to ensure that it will be preserved for many generations.

We believe that the restoration of the Stone Saloon has added much to the West 7th neighborhood and the city as a prominent local historical landmark. Preserving and restoring historic buildings is good for Saint Paul. The Chamber strongly supports local entrepreneurs who are willing to invest in their neighborhoods, preserve and restore our historic buildings, and contribute to a thriving small business community in Saint Paul. The Stone Saloon will make a great gathering spot for neighbors, friends, and community leaders.

In closing, we believe this project is good for Saint Paul. We encourage the Heritage Preservation Commission to approve this important project.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. Thank you.

With Kind Regards,

Matt Kramer
President

cc: Dave Thune, Councilmember, City of Saint Paul

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Dear Amy Spong

I am writing this note to you in support of the approvals and variance requested by Mr. Tom Schroeder for the proposed Stone Saloon on Smith.

This project is crucial to the future of the neighborhood and the stability of it's historic character. There should be no doubt in terms of the trajectory of the West End neighborhood. It is positive for growth in so many ways. It's proximity to the river and all the historic connections along Fort Road are important. The neighborhood could go the way of developers, or it could retain it's working class character and charm that the scattered stone buildings exemplify. It is clear, the pressure to develop and tear down not only historically important but also much of this working class neighborhood will not respect this history. It has already begun. The unsettled prospect of Light Rail through the corridor will double down on this trend if approved in the corridor.

The technical specifics of the historic designation needs to be balanced with the needs of a viable business in this building. My opinion is that Smith Ave. is not a long term desired location for a home while, this idea hits the sweet spot. Saving the building should be our primary concern and in the hands of Tom Schroeder, you will get the best that is possible here. In the end, it is best to save this building with the vision of the folks working this project. Their vision and the scattered designations will solidify the future of the entire neighborhood. It will put developers on notice that the history of the neighborhood is important too. There is a symbolic importance of this structure, however it gets constructed, which is more important than complying with all technical details of restoration. I have no doubt that this will be done in tune with, but even better than it's historic character.

Thank you for helping to move this project forward, Kent Petterson West 7th Enhancement Coalition a sub committee of the West 7th Business Association

other signatories

Ruth Ann Smith

Margaret Heinrichs

Cindy Silkett

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Ms Spong:

I wish to offer my support for Tom Schroeder and his Stone Saloon.

I support his request for historic designation request for the Saloon and other stone houses in the area.

And the historic use variance so he can eventually operate the Saloon as what it was originally built – a beer only, family friendly tap house and brewery.

I have meet Tom and his commitment, knowledge and hard, hard work are evident when he talks. I have toured the Saloon and been very impressed with what the craftspeople have accomplished in returning the building to its original purpose.

He is passionate about this project and I believe his passion will translate into good for our community.

This Stone Saloon will be unique and reflective of our neighborhood being one of the first settled areas in St Paul.

We have so many lovely old homes and I am greatly appreciate of the hard work and dedication the owners put in to restoring and maintaining them.

These homes and businesses mark our area as unique.

I am excited to have such a one of the kind business/historic building in our neighborhood.

It is just down the street from where I work. It is a handsome building – a true asset to the area.

Tom and his wife and all the crew making this happen have my unconditional support.

I would have attended the meeting on Thursday but I will be hosting relatives from out of town that night.

Julene Maruska

Manager

St Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

461 West 7th Street

Saint Paul MN 55102

651.227.1332

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Hi Fred,

I am forwarding the below to you as instructed by the out of office from Amy Spong.

I wanted to reach out and express my support for the Stone Saloon. I moved to the neighborhood in May and am renting an apartment on McBoal Street. One of the big draws to the neighborhood for me was how the historic value of so many of the homes are preserved. A mix of new and old in this neighborhood makes it a great place to live. The work being done to put the Stone Saloon to its original form, brings a bit of the history of the neighborhood to us.

From my perspective, only good things can come to having this establishment in our neighborhood. The plans take the people in the neighborhood into consideration by having offsite parking that does not interfere with ours. Because of the passion for history as well as the consideration for the neighborhood, I am confident this will be a great addition to the neighborhood and be a place that brings us together.

Thank you for taking my letter into consideration, and feel free to reach out if you should have any questions.

Vanessa Trobec

[612-735-9472](tel:612-735-9472)

208 McBoal St. Unit #1

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

Please accept this letter in support of the HPC recommending to the City Council:

1. Historic designation of the Stone Saloon
2. Granting of a “historic use variance” to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

I live just down the street and watch in awe as this once rough structure is being painstakingly transformed into a neighborhood showplace. One of the things that drew me to move to the Uppertown part of the West 7th neighborhood is the great collection of old buildings and deep history. Mr, Schroeder has a unique vision for this building that is helping bring renewed pride to the neighborhood. One of the challenges of preserving our structural history is how to make old places viable for the present and future. This project is a great way to bring history to life and add vitality to the neighborhood.

I urge the HPC to support the Stone Saloon project.

Thank you,
Brian

Brian Harvey
201 Goodrich Ave #4
St Paul, MN 55102
briancpharvey@gmail.com

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hello Ms. Spong and Councilmember Thune,

Will Wilson from 254 Goodrich Ave. I support the historic use variance for the Stone Saloon. Honestly, it feels a little weird that the owner needs such a variance when the restoration currently underway is bringing the structure back to its historic purpose, but whatever the process involved, the project is worthy.

Personally, I believe historic preservation works best when a proposed change starts with sound research, seeks input, balances the multiple desires of the neighborhood, leverages the good intent of the owner, and acknowledges the necessity for a neighborhood's culture to evolve, albeit incrementally. The Stone Saloon meets all those criteria.

I sat on the Fort Road Federation board for three years and heard a lot of requests for variances and heads-up on projects. I cannot say that any project was as well researched, as thoughtfully considered, or as neighborhood-focused as the Stone Saloon. Early on, Tom Schroeder and John Yust actually prepared a presentation to the board detailing their historical research on the building. My last vote on the Federation board was to grant the variance so the Stone Saloon can have its front steps. I continue to support the project.

Tom has been very inclusive in his plans. Along with the fact that the Stone Saloon simply a great idea, his inclusiveness has built significant support in the neighborhood. That support includes neighbors who will be immediately impacted such as myself, and neighbors a few blocks away who are also excited about this welcome addition to the culture of the city.

Two other topics that may not be related to the historic use variance, but that I'd like to bring up: first, apparently parking is a concern.

Tom has already arranged to provide sufficient spots along the alley.

As a neighbor, I can attest that this alone would be a significant improvement. Yes, it's parking, but parking for patrons coming to visit our neighborhood is better than the current eyesore of used cars, delivery trucks and even couches for sale. Seriously -- drive by and take a look at the graffiti-covered box truck that's currently on that lot. It has been there for months, just like the one before that and the one before that.

And second, I want to say that having two breweries is likely better than one. If you look at the magnetic effect of Urban Growler and Bang Brewing sharing a parking lot, the same opportunity exists for Bad Weather and the Stone Saloon. Beer fans like yours truly enjoy sampling different styles. Having both nearby will make it a destination.

Tellingly, these potential competitors are both in support of each other. So are the majority of neighbors I talk to.

Thoughtfulness, history, and reasonable input have been a part this process from day one. There's no reason to think that will change. I am comfortable that the Stone Saloon has been researched and planned well, and that with the continued spirit of inclusiveness, the project will be a success on all levels. It's an exciting time in the neighborhood.

Thanks!

Will Wilson
254 Goodrich Ave

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 10, 2015

Hi Amy,

We live in the Little Bohemia area of St Paul off of West 7th Street, fairly close to downtown. We like what Tom Schroeder has done with the Stone Saloon and other historic limestone houses. We would definitely like to see historic preservation such as this continue to take place in downtown St Paul [rather than tear down all the old buildings and build huge hotels such as is taking place with the old hardware store].

We cannot attend the meeting in support of the Stone Saloon and other buildings to be preserved but hope that you will attend to this matter and support Schroeder's work to create an environment that is historic and continues to serve the community.

Sincerely,
Beth, Maryellen, Burke and Jay Murphy
387 Goodrich Ave
St Paul MN 55102

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 13, 2015

Heritage Preservation Commission

c/o Amy Spong, Executive Director

25 W. Fourth Street, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Re: The historic Stone Saloon Project

I am a neighbor of the Stone Saloon. Since 1976, I have personally witnessed and participated in the revival and renaissance of the historic neighborhood in which the Stone Saloon stands. The once decayed and downtrodden district has bloomed with the preservation of hundreds of historic structures and the efforts of sincere and committed residents. The Stone Saloon is an exciting possibility in the continuation of this process.

You have a unique opportunity to send this project forward. We charge you with the task of helping to find viable reuses for our historic structures so that they may continue and have a life in our future. I heartily encourage you to support this venture.

Sincerely,

David J. Christofferson at 267 Goodhue, an 1872 home, condemned in 1976, was scheduled to be demolished, but now restored.

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

Hi Amy,

I'm writing to you about the Stone Saloon, that amazing preservation project that is blocks from both of our houses (59 Irvine Park & 311 Walnut). I mention proximity because the restoration has enhanced the neighborhood and the proposed use as an eating & drinking establishment fits that location. I believe that Tom Schroeder has been an exceptional property owner and will continue with the thoughtful and exquisite restoration.

I am so pleased to have the Stone Saloon in the neighborhood and welcome the Schroeder's tap-house and small brewery. I believe that Tom will be attentive to neighbor's concerns and seems to make smart and grand progress on all aspects of this project. I have toured the Stone Saloon and have taken friends and family on a walking tour to that destination.

I support the recommendation of historic designation and a historic use variance by the HPC.

Ruth Dantuma
59 Irvine Park
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651 290-9664

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

Hi Amy,

I wanted to reach out and show my support for the Stone Saloon. I moved to the neighborhood in May and am renting an apartment on McBoal Street. One of the big draws to the neighborhood for me was how the historic value of so many of the homes are preserved. A mix of new and old in this neighborhood makes it a great place to live. The work being done to put the Stone Saloon to its original form, brings a bit of the history of the neighborhood to us.

From my perspective, I feel only good things can come to having this establishment in our neighborhood. The plans take the people in the neighborhood into consideration by having offsite parking that does not interfere with ours. Because of the passion for history as well as the consideration for the neighborhood, I am confident this will be a great addition to the neighborhood and be a place that brings us together.

Thank you for taking my letter into consideration, and feel free to reach out if you should have any questions.

Vanessa Trobec
612-735-9472
208 McBoal St. Unit #1

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

TO: St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Becky Love Yust, 256 Goodrich Avenue
RE: File #15-037 445 Smith Avenue North

I enthusiastically support the application of Tom and Ann Schroeder for an Historic Use Variance to allow the use of their property at 445 Smith Avenue North as a commercial, beer-only tap room/microbrewery.

My husband and I have lived at 256 Goodrich Avenue, near the Schroeder property, for more than 40 years (see map). Since moving into the neighborhood, I have been active in the West 7th/Fort Road Federation, serving in a number of board positions, including President, and more recently as chairperson of our District 9 Comprehensive Area Plan Committee.

Additionally, during these 40 years, I have been a faculty member in housing studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and, since 1977, at the University of Minnesota where I am currently serving as Interim Dean of the College of Design. I am not speaking on behalf of the University of Minnesota, but the synergy of my personal and professional life has afforded me a unique perspective on our community.

West 7th has fought hard to improve our housing, commercial activity, schools, and transportation. We have always understood that the relationships of each of these domains need to be in balance as we work to create a vibrant, thriving community. And, as an inner city neighborhood, the tension among these domains has challenged us as we work to meet community and city goals.

One of the first neighborhood issues in which I participated was to save Irvine Park. We successfully did so, including getting it registered as a National Historic District. However, as the homes were sold to private individuals to rehabilitate, a proposal came in from the Naegele Corporation to purchase the Forepaugh mansion and turn it into a restaurant. I can recall many difficult community conversations about letting a commercial activity encroach in a residential district. It was more than a block from West 7th and there were concerns about parking, noise, and garbage associated with the proposed restaurant. Ultimately, the proposal was accepted. Forepaugh's also partnered with the Minnesota State Historical Society to share parking at the Ramsey House and has been responsive to neighbors when any issues arose. Today, those struggles are long forgotten and Forepaugh's continues to enhance the experience of Irvine Park for thousands of people each year. (See "A" on the map.)

In the 1980s, we fought to ensure that the rebuilding of the Smith Avenue High Bridge would not destroy the neighborhood. Because it is a State Highway (#149), MNDOT was adamant that it be 4-lanes wide. We knew that that would have a devastating impact on those living on and near Smith Avenue. Ultimately, we persevered and it was built as 2-lanes serving the neighborhood and city well. (See "B" on the map.)

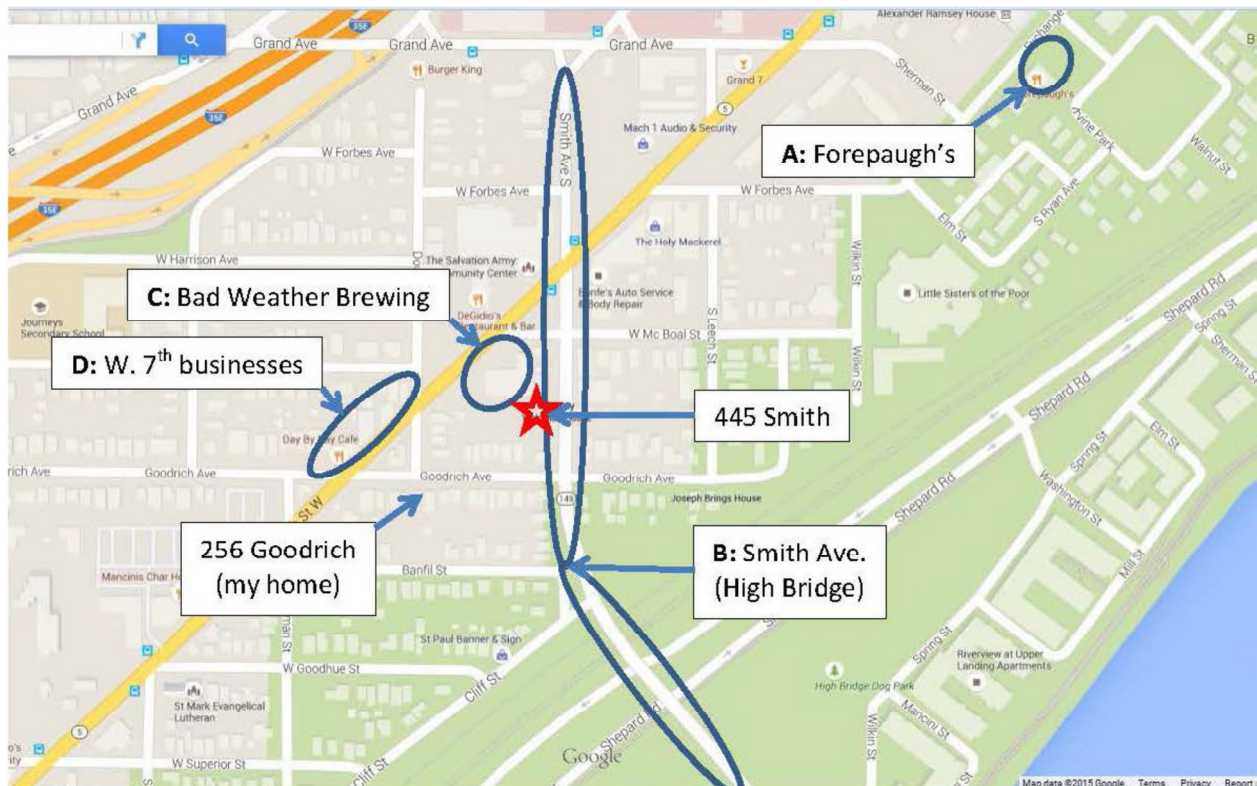
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Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

More recently, there was concern about Bad Weather Brewing at W. 7th and McBoal opening an outdoor patio. After discussing the project, the neighborhood supported the petition to approve the patio, in large part because we recognize that we do live in a community—not in isolation in our homes. We know the necessity of creating enjoyable spaces for business patrons in the neighborhood as much as we do for residents. (See “C” on the map.)

Regarding businesses, Goodrich Avenue west of Smith, does not have permit parking for which I am grateful. I am pleased to share the street on which I live with the parking needs of the businesses on West 7th. Patrons of Day by Day Café, Claddagh Coffee, St. Vincent de Paul, River Garden Yoga Center, and Sophie Joes park on Goodrich because those businesses have no off-street parking. (See “D” on the map.) I want people from other parts of the city to know they are welcome to park on my street. It is my small contribution to keeping our local businesses viable so we can also enjoy them. I knew when we bought our home in 1974 how close it was to West 7th, downtown, United and Children’s Hospitals, and Xcel Energy Center (then the Civic Center). The tradeoff of living in an urban center and the occasional parking stress is a level of tension with which I am happy to live.

I believe that 445 Smith Avenue North, aka the Stone Saloon, can have the same positive effect for our neighborhood as the many other assets of our neighborhood. There have been far too many 19th Century structures lost in West 7th because of the cost of bringing them up to code and/or the lack of a viable market to make the rehabilitation feasible. The rehabilitation of 445 Smith has been exemplary. The proposal to bring it back to its original use not only is consistent with our District 9 Area Plan but I believe it also meets the HUV Criteria #5—*The proposed use is consistent with the comprehensive plan*. The historic use of 445 Smith will provide a living history experience in our own backyard that is based on the roots of our earliest settlers.



Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

I am writing in support of Thomas Schroeder and the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and the four other small limestone houses). As a 13+ year resident of St. Paul I would be thrilled if the Stone Saloon was allowed to open as a neighborhood tap house.

We have so much wonderful history in St. Paul and to be able to immerse ourselves in that history is one of the reasons I love this city. I appreciate the hard work that Mr. Schroeder has done to the property. It is wonderful that he is willing to share this wonderful building with all of us.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Stacy Oelerking
380 Ramsey Street
St. Paul, MN

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 13, 2015

Heritage Preservation Commission,

As a history buff and longtime resident (61 Cambridge St) I believe Thomas Schroeder is the kind of gentleman who makes our city a better place.

Your recommendation to the City Council for historic designation of his Stone Saloon and for a historic use variance will enable him to make history come alive in an authentic and inspiring setting.

I'd like you to know that Tom was very generous with his time earlier this spring when he shared the story of his 445 Smith Ave structure with the cast of the Fitzgerald Theater's Civil War Homecoming show ([broadcast by MPR on April 14 & 15](#)). It served to ground us in a sense of place and connect us to the past.

I regret not being able to attend your meeting today but I am making final arrangements as hundreds of Civil War reenactors, from around the country, are in town to enable thousands of Minnesotans to retrace the 1865 return of the 2nd Minnesota Regiment as part Civil War Weekend (Aug 15 & 16) at Historic Fort Snelling. Again, Tom has extended every courtesy.

I believe St Paul needs the Stone Saloon that Tom Schroeder envisions and encourage you to approve his reasonable request.

Respectfully,

Randal Dietrich

Civil War Program Specialist
Minnesota Historical Society
345 Kellogg Blvd W. 55102
(651) 259-3113

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

As a new resident of Saint Paul, and as someone who is also undergoing a major restoration project in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood, I so appreciate all the work and extreme attention to detail that Mr. Schroeder is putting into his vision for the Stone Saloon near Saint Paul's burgeoning West 7th commercial district.

Upon reviewing the extensive research that has been conducted, I believe that the building itself and surrounding structures do indeed warrant historic designation. I also support (and applaud) the granting of a "historic use variance" to allow the Stone Saloon to reopen as a beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery for the following reasons:

- A return to the original use of the building makes it the highest and best use for the structure.
- The attention to detail, restoration of the building, and unique business model will make this a destination-worthy amenity for the neighborhood.
- Sets an example of adaptive reuse of our historic structures.

I am so thrilled to be a small part of the continued renaissance of Saint Paul. The Stone Saloon and Mr. Schroeder's vision for the property are precisely one of the many reasons I'm so proud to call Saint Paul home.

Sincerely,

Montana Scheff
785 Dayton Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Chief Creative Officer, Whittier Advertising
400 S 4th Street, Suite 401
Minneapolis, MN 55415

PS. An official letter version is also attached to this message.



Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hello. I live in the West 7th neighborhood and have been watching, with interest, the work Tom has done on the future Stone Saloon. The amount of work and effort that he has put in is a reflection of his respect of our whole city. I love that his intention is to (hopefully) pave the way for more historic renovation. Our city has such a cool past, and the more businesses and buildings like the Stone Saloon we have, the more that history is preserved, recognized, and appreciated. The building is a gem, and the owner seems to be so innovative and creative in his process. I can't wait for it to become a place that also fosters community, just as it always has. I love the idea of another space that creates connections between neighbors ... and creates a destination for the metro and tourism.

Lori Karis
514 View Street
Saint Paul MN 55102
612-516-1525
Home Away From Home

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Dear Amy Spong & Members of the Heritage Preservation Commission,

Please accept this email expressing my support for the Stone Saloon Project. I regret that I can't attend your August 13 meeting in person, because I am truly excited about this endeavor - and its potential to spark interest in bringing to new life other historical structures in our city. Please vote to designate the Stone Saloon as a Saint Paul heritage preservation site.

Tom Schroeder has a gift for seeing how Saint Paul's history can be reclaimed to enrich its future. Restoring the Anthony Waldman House to a functioning lager saloon creates a wonderfully unique attraction. Unlike a museum, where you can look but not touch, the Stone Saloon will be a fully operational re-creation that the public can tangibly experience. It will draw people and accolades from around the country; it's consistent with the vision of reinventing the Schmidt Brewery and surrounding neighborhood; and it will inspire others to undertake adaptive reuse projects in their own neighborhoods.

I am originally from Cleveland, Ohio, where in recent years passionate residents have breathed new life into the city's image and economy by reclaiming and restoring buildings in the Tremont, Ohio City, and Gordon Square neighborhoods, all of which are adjacent to downtown. The difference is incredible. Midwestern cities need to fully support people like Tom, who are joyfully willing to put years of sweat and hard work into lasting legacies that add value to our communities.

This is a fantastic project. Please give it your full support!

With thanks from a proud West 7th resident,

Kris Kautzman

408 Erie Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

651.338.6076

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Dear Amy,

I am writing to express my support for the granting of a historic use variance to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

St. Paul is in a unique position to allow for a unique experience of a location and space that has been meticulously restored.

The approval of this variance will do several things: It will provide a one of a kind experience only available in St. Paul. It will add to the livability of the neighborhood and city by providing a gathering place for neighbors and residents. The Stone Tap will attract visitors to a unique and historic neighborhood in the city while helping provide much needed tax revenues. It will also help spur further investment in historic structures elsewhere in the city by showing that there are valid uses of such a costly renovation.

I urge the Heritage Preservation Commission to approve the granting of a historic use variance for the Stone Saloon.

Sincerely,

Jeff Zaayer
1750 Saunders Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

Greetings,

I am writing to express my support for the Stone Saloon project on Smith Avenue near the High Bridge. I cannot make it to the public meeting on August 13th, but I would like to express how excited I am to see the restoration of the building, and to urge the HPC to recommend the historic designation and use variance so the building can be opened as a tap house.

I grew up on the West End of St Paul, living twice in different residences within three blocks of the Stone Saloon. The quirky buildings of the neighborhood have always been part of my image of home. This building in particular stood out because it was so noticeably older, different, and interesting. I was delighted to see the work being done on it recently, and even more so when I heard it was being renovated to serve as a craft beer location. I have gotten to tour inside the building, which was really exciting after wondering about it for so many years. I admire the dedication that the restoration team has put into it. As a former resident of the neighborhood, an area which has gone thru some hard times, it is good to see that sort of care for our history, and hope for revival.

I currently live on the West Side of St Paul, not far off of Smith Avenue. I am really looking forward to being able to walk down the High Bridge on summer evenings to get a craft beer, and then walking home after having two. I am looking forward to bringing my friends and saying "this is where I grew up". I look forward to sitting in this particular building that I have been seeing for nearly four decades and relaxing and appreciating the hard work of dedicated craftspeople. Please recommend to the City Council the historic preservation and use variance.

Sincerely

Jen Crea

229 Baker St W

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hi Amy,

In case I cant make it to the meeting on the 15th I wanted to make sure that you know that I completely support this effort of opening the Stone Saloon! It is such a great idea and will benefit the neighborhood. I live up the bluff and it has been so great to watch the building transform and I can't wait to celebrate my German heritage and enjoy it.

Best,

Brenda Danner

791 Ottawa Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55107

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hello Ms. Spong,

Although I cannot attend in person, I wanted to express my support for Tom Schroeder's request for granting a historic variance to allow the Stone Saloon to be designated as a historic site and to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

As a citizen of St Paul, I am proud of this city's respect for and recognition of its heritage and also its closely knit communities and neighborhoods. I believe the Stone Saloon will serve both of these traditions, and I strongly encourage you to grant a historic variance on August 13th.

Thank you for your time and your work serving our city.

Sincerely,
Maya Missaghi

Maya Missaghi
J.D.
952.237.9602

Thank you Maya,
Can you please provide your address.

Amy

Hi Amy,
2122 Randolph Avenue
55105
Thanks,
Maya

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

I support the Stone Saloon project. Thank you,

Sincerely,
Lawrence Lawyer
370 Marshall Av #104

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

To Heritage Preservation Commission --

Please expedite the approvals needed for the Stone Saloon to open.

The building is a treasure, and returning it to commercial use would be wonderful.

And would help us preserve and enjoy all the historic buildings in the area.

Karen Cole
Attorney at Law

651/222-6938

Premium Legal Writing
www.premiumlegalwriting.com

644 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hello Amy Spong,

I am writing in full support of the Stone Saloon!

I heartily urge the HPC to recommend to the City Council:

- the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses); and
- the granting of a “historic use variance” to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

I have a conflict for the hearing date, but would attend otherwise to show my support.

AS Executive Director of the Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild, **I would love to see this become a reality.** And it's only 2.5 miles from home.

Cheers,

Phil

Phil Platt

Executive Director

Minnesota Craft Brewers Guild

Hello Phil,

Can you please provide your address for the testimony? And copy to me.

Thanks,

Amy,

My personal address is 1334 Osceola Avenue 55104

Phil Platt

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Hello Amy,

I live in the West End neighborhood. I have been a proud resident of the Schmidt Artist Lofts for two years now. I love how this neighborhood takes pride in its history and fights to preserve that history. Community members, the Fort Road Federation, and Councilman Dave Thune have all been instrumental in the restoration and redevelopment of the former Schmidt Brewery site, where my husband and I call home. I hope the City neighborhood continues that tradition of historic preservation, redevelopment, and investment in the cultural landscape of the area by granting the Stone Saloon an historic use variance.

I fully support the work Tom has been doing and hope the HPC votes yes on:

-the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses); and

-the granting of a "historic use variance" to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Best,

Alanna Morris-Van Tassel

West End Resident

Professional Dancer, Teaching Artist, Choreographer, Artist Organizer

www.victoriatheater.org

www.tudance.org

917-583-3567

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

I am writing to the Historic Preservations Commission in support of the effort by Tom Schroeder and others to designate the Stone Saloon and four other small limestone house as historic, and to grant the "historic use variance" they request.

As a long-time resident of a historically designated building, I appreciate the commitment by current and future owners that enables and maintains that designation, and I've also seen and heard the impact such buildings have on a community.

As I sat in a unit here at Lauer during the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Home Tour, or acted as one of several hosts during the West End Garden Tour, or simply when I am out sweeping my sidewalk - I've heard the comments from visitors and neighbors. They appreciate and value the commitment it takes, they are impressed with the appearance and the effect of the historic building on the neighborhood, and they are curious about the history of the building. It provides an opportunity for conversation, and increases the overall impression that our community is friendly, outgoing and cares!

I understand that not every building can be or should be designated as historic, but I have also watched as Tom and his colleagues have worked with great care and attention to the Stone Saloon and other stone houses. These have value both in their structure and in their history and need to be designated to maintain that structure and history. You and the HPC monitor and maintain that status and do it with care and thoroughness - to that I can cheerfully attest!

A final point - historic designation and the granting of a "historic use variance" to the Stone Saloon will have, already has had, a positive impact on attitude and activity - the business activity along West 7th and on Smith and West 7th is remarkable - it has increased significantly with positive businesses **and** positive activity - coffee houses, medical services, restaurants, exercise studios, galleries, hair salons, and ,yes, another brewery! Now I know that this increased business activity has come about because of a lot of hard work by others, but the obvious effort put into the Stone Saloon and other limestone structures broadens and deepens the impact that I described earlier, reflecting once more a community that pays attention and cares about itself! Prospective businesses pay attention to that kind of effort and its impact.

Thank you for your attention, and for conveying my message to the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

Kind regards,
Kathleen

Kathleen H. Corley
The Lauer Flats
234 Western Avenue South
Saint Paul, MN 55102
khorley@iphouse.com
651.295.1825

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Amy,

As a High Bridge neighbor, I support the Stone Saloon and what they are doing for the neighborhood.

Thank you
Bill Nosan
829 Ottawa Ave
St. Paul, MN 55107

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Hi Amy,

Because of my work schedule I cannot attend the hearing for the Stone Saloon, but I want you to know that I support it.

I am asking that the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission recommend to the City Council:

- historic designation of the Stone Saloon.
- granting a “historic use variance” to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

I believe the Stone Saloon will help to bring our city's history to life in an engaging way, increasing interest in preserving historic buildings.

Thanks!

Renee Valois
2014 Cleveland Avenue North
Saint Paul, MN
651-631-0499

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Dear Mr. Dana,

As the chair of the Heritage Preservation Commission for the City of Saint Paul, I most strongly urge you to approve the historic designation of the "Stone Saloon" (445 Smith Avenue) along with 4 other limestone structures. I also strongly urge you to then grant an historic use variance to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as an historic, neighborhood taproom, micro-brewery, and "intellectual salon."

I am a life long resident of the Twin Cities, and a ~23 year resident of St. Paul. For the last 15 years, I have lived on the West Side, just over the High Bridge from the Stone Saloon. Not only am I a resident, I am an amateur historian, and a local booster of the region. A house is nothing without it's foundation, and a city is nothing without it's history. I have passed the Stone Saloon a couple of times a day for 15 years, and have been intrigued by it's story. It stands out from it's neighbors not just because of the size and architecture, but also because of the medium with which it was built. To say that it has captivated me would be an understatement.

Platteville limestone is as much a part of this region as the Mississippi River itself. Early soldiers and residents of Fort Snelling, and early settlers of Mendota and Pig's Eye used what was available to them to build their homes, churches, and businesses. Most of those were made of wood and are lost to us. A handful of those buildings were built with a stone made from the mud of an ancient sea in the region. Some of these have survived. Then, to know the genealogy of those structures, that is rare indeed. And to have one of these stone buildings brought back to it's original use, well that is just profound.

With the daily traffic over the High Bridge, The Stone Saloon is perfectly poised to capture the attention of the commuting public. Then, with it's prime location next to the river, I feel it will captivate others as it did me. Actually, it already has. Visitors and neighbors have asked me about it. Then, by tying that "eye catch" back into the history of the region by resurrecting it's original function, I am certain that this will generate an intense interest in not only the structure itself, but the history of the neighborhood and the greater city. Yes, I really do think that re-opening this highly visible, highly accessible structure for it's original purpose will benefit historical interest in the region and assist preservation efforts for future projects.

Having a taproom like the Stone Saloon will be a complement to the area. Of course, it's architecture and location make it stand out. However, it's focus on historic German lager will give it a niche unoccupied by other establishments, and directly ties into the immigrants who settled the region. In addition, it's small size helps set it apart. People will be drawn to it for all of these reasons, but I expect it's atmosphere to be more like the salons of the Enlightenment or the coffee houses of Vienna at the turn of the last century or even like "Cheers...[a bar] where everybody knows your name" than like the atmosphere at other taprooms, pubs, or bars. I think this because the space and the history will nudge it's patrons in that direction. They will be inspired by their surroundings to imbibe, yes, but also to contemplate and to connect. Isn't this what architecture and history are supposed to do?! Well, the Stone Saloon easily does both.

I appreciate the task in front of you. Please approve the Stone Saloon, and it's sister limestone structures, for historic designation. Then, please grant an historic use variance so the Stone Saloon can re-open as a tap house and microbrewery. You will be doing St. Paul a great favor. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Most sincerely,

Tony Lewno
220 King Street W.
Saint Paul, MN 55107
651.225.0944

Anthony W. Lewno
Department of Biology
University of Saint Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105
E-mail: awlewno@stthomas.edu
Phone: 651.962.5227

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Hi Amy,

This e-mail simply serves to memorialize my support for the Stone Saloon. I read about Tom Schroeder's work on the StarTribune website. I think this sounds like a neat idea that would benefit a struggling area. The beer brewing community in the Twin Cities is still in the nascent stage and this sounds like a really unique destination.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

All the best,

Ryan Kaatz

Can you please provide your address?

Thanks,

Sure. 1852 Yorkshire Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55116. I'm in Highland, but my friend lives near the planned brew house.

-Ryan

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Laurie Swanson
2186 Pinehurst St. Paul.

I cannot attend the meeting to show my support for the Stone Saloon, But I **fully support** it. This is the kind of thing that is making that part of the city great again. I was going to buy a house in that neighborhood a few years ago but it still seemed a little rough..... what a wonderful transformation is happening thereand oh how I wish I had bought that house!

- the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses); and
- the granting of a “historic use variance” to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 10, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong:

I am writing to support the efforts of Mr. Tom Schroeder to obtain historic designation status and a "historic use variance" for his "Stone Saloon" property at 445 Smith Avenue North in Uppertown. These actions are warranted by the overall historic integrity and significance of the property, the appropriateness of the goal to re-create the building's historic use, and the contribution the project will make to the neighborhood and the city. Mr. Schroeder has made a considerable investment in the project and has been mindful of the need to protect and enhance the integrity of the property. In my opinion, this is a project worth supporting.

Sincerely,

Roger Brooks

Former chair, St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission
Former chair, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota
Former Midwest Chair, Board of Advisors, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Hi Roger, Hope you are well,

Can you please provide your address for the public record?

Thanks,

Hi Amy:

It's 1671 Pinehurst Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116. 651-690-2648.

If you want me to re-send the original email, modified, let me know.

Roger

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

I'm writing to express my support for the Stone Saloon project on Smith Avenue. I sincerely hope that the HPC will recommend:

1. An historic designation for the Stone Saloon; and
2. That the Stone Saloon be granted a variance so that the property may re-open as a historically-themed tap house and microbrewery.

My family and I live just across the Smith bridge from the Stone Saloon and we would be very glad to see the Stone Saloon open as a neighborhood-oriented place within walking distance of our home.

All best,

Bjorn Arneson
587 Ottawa Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55107

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Ms Spong

As I am unable to attend the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission hearing scheduled for August 13, 5:00 p.m, I am sending you an email to express my support of Tom Schroeder's request for historic designation of the pre Civil War era building known as the "Stone Saloon" at 445 Smith Avenue in St Paul as well as his request for the granting of a "historic use variance" to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Sincerely,
Ann Page
82 Manitoba Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55117

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Ms. Spong:

I'd like to add my voice to those encouraging you to recommend that the Stone Saloon in St. Paul be granted historic designation, as well as to grant an historic use variance to allow this historic building to re-open as its restorers intend.

My husband and I went to take a look at the building a couple of years ago when the story about it first appeared in the Pioneer Press. It's a wonderful structure --- a period piece that is part of the fabric of old St. Paul. Its history is well worth keeping alive, especially in an era when things of the past seem to be disappearing before our eyes.

Thanks in advance for making this recommendation to the City Council.

Louise Benson Griffin
Woodbury MN

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Ms. Spong,

I support the Stone Saloon and the 3 other historical limestone buildings. Places like these give St Paul the vibrant character that makes it unique and interesting. I have only recently started working in downtown St Paul and am learning the interesting and fun places that make up the city.

Please assist in having the HPC recommend to the City Council that they:

- Assign historic designation to the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses); and
- Grant a “historic use variance” to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Respectfully,
Daryl Johnson
1255 99th Court Ne
Blaine, MN 55434

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

I will be unable to attend the public hearing on August 13th with the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission, so I wanted to voice my support for the Stone Saloon via email.

Thanks!

Brad Knutson
950 18th Street
Newport, MN 55055

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

Good morning,

August 5, 2015

I am unable to make the public hearing on August 13th, but I am writing to add my voice to support Tom Schroeder's work to restore the Stone Saloon on Smith Ave to it's original purpose of a German lager house.

I have been following the progress of this project and as someone who appreciates history and beer I am excited to see this work complete and raise a stein in this historic building.

I am also writing as a board member of the Germanic American Institute. German settlers are the people who helped make Saint Paul a great city, and celebrating this heritage is important. The GAI does this through educational activities throughout the year and I have spread the word about this building. We are all looking forward to supporting this institution, which we feel will add to the renown of Saint Paul.

Tom has done a great deal of hard work and I hope that this hearing will allow him to complete his vision.

Thank you for your time.

Liz Pearson
GAI Board of Directors
www.gai-mn.org

Thank you Liz,

Just to verify, your testimony does not represent the whole board of the GAI?

Amy

Thank you Amy.

You are correct, my statements do not represent every member of the Board of Directors of the GAI, but it does represent several, along with many members of the GAI who I have spoken with in regards to this establishment.

Everyone that I have spoken to (not as a board representative, but as a fellow member of the GAI, a lover of Saint Paul history and beer) has shared the same excitement about this project and are very excited to see it open for business.

The board's retreat is this Saturday and I plan to bring this item up on our agenda and ask for a formal statement that can be submitted for record.

Thank you for your response.

Liz Pearson

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Please consider approving this owner's application at the Council meeting on August 13th.. Thank you.

156 22nd Ave. South, SSP... formerly a West Sider @ 793 Delaware...

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Amy,

My name is Pat Cunningham.

I am writing to you to express my interest, and seek your support of helping the Stone Saloon complete the transformation of becoming a vital community asset. The historic building has already been preserved, and now awaits utilization to be put back to work.

I believe having a German Lager House, that showcases German culture would be a great addition to the City of St. Paul, and the immediate neighborhood.

Your support would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Pat

806 Park Place Drive

Mendota Heights, MN 55118

C: 651.724.0434

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Ms Spong

I am writing on behalf of the Stone Saloon in their request to be granted an historic use variance.

I would like to ask that you grant that so the stone salon can open.

I have been following their renovation efforts on their website.

I am not in any way affiliated with the stone salon or its owners.

I am writing as a history buff.

I think that this would be a very interesting place to visit.

I would hope that all of the work and money that the owners invested will result is a place that the public can visit.

Hopefully his successful efforts will encourage others to renovate historically significant buildings.

Thank you for your time.

Pat Cosgrove
14302 Hickory Court
Apple Valley, MN 5524

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Hi Amy,

I think St. Paul is very lucky to have someone like Tom working on a restoration project. Very lucky, indeed. (I keep trying to get him to move to Stillwater!). I do hope the HPC and City Council will grant his request; I certainly think he has done his homework.

Donald Empson
"Witsend Cottage"
1206 North Second Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-351-0172

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

Dear Amy: I am writing to you about my support for the Stone Saloon on Smith Av. This will be a WONDERFUL addition to the neighborhood! I am very excited to see Tom Schroeder's dream finally come to fruition. It is great to see someone with so much ambition and energy putting their heart and soul into the project. And I am looking forward to finally being able to drive into my hometown and enjoy a brew in such a historic building in the very near future! Thank you for all you do to make this happen.

Sincerely,
Patricia Thraen
16015 Norell Av N
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
651-216-3015

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong,

As I am not able to attend the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission meeting next Thursday, I am writing in support of the Stone Saloon.

I have known and worked closely with Tom Schroeder for 6+ years. I became aware of his work on the Stone Saloon during this time and have closely followed the evolution of the Stone Saloon building.

The Stone Saloon - and the other limestone houses - are important remnants that illustrate the history of St. Paul beyond that of the great ox cart merchants and railway industrialists. Don't get me wrong, those individuals and their buildings contributed greatly to the City. It is important to preserve these buildings for future generations as they represent those who provided the labor for the city's builders.

The plans proposed for the Stone Saloon, to make it a living historical site, are ambitious and will be a great addition to the community along West 7th. The plans to make the Stone Saloon a functioning commercial building, contributing to the economy of the neighborhood, are fantastic! Putting the building to work is greatly preferable to a site that receives historical designation, then is put on the proverbial mantle to collect dust with a placard saying, "look but don't touch".

Without the historic designation and historic use variance, these plans for the building and the community are for naught. What's left you ask? Another historical building placed on the mantle to collect dust.

Specifically, I ask that the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission approve and recommend to the St. Paul City Council:

- the historic designation of the Stone Saloon (and four other small limestone houses);
and
- the granting of a "historic use variance" to allow the Stone Saloon to re-open as a historically-themed, Civil War era beer-only neighborhood tap house and microbrewery.

Thank you.

Robert Sannerud
6613 Hillside Lane
Edina, MN 55439
(952) 564-1528

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 13, 2015

Amy,

I am writing in support of the Stone Saloon receiving an Historic Use Variance to develop the property at 445 Smith Avenue as a historical interpretive center and microbrewery/taproom.

I believe that it is a great opportunity to draw attention the history of the city of St. Paul as well as strengthen its connection to the modern era.

<http://m.startribune.com/business/320960021.html>

Best regards,
Robert Van Nelson

Can you please provide your address. This will not make it into the public record if received after 3:45 pm. We are preparing for the meeting now.

Thanks,
Amy

My address is:
1215 West 31st Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

I am writing in regards to the upcoming meeting regarding the Stone Saloon as I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, 8/13.

I am an amateur historian and have studied architecture for many years. I have watched Tom through all stages of his endeavor to preserve and bring back the history of this part of St. Paul. He has gone to great lengths to ensure that every detail has been attended to, and in keeping with the history of the structure, and also the brewing process.

I fully support his endeavors, and know that given his personality and goals, he will go to great lengths, now and on into the future to ensure the historical accuracy of the property, and of the brewing operations. I have no doubt that he has had the well being of the neighborhood and community in mind and as a priority since day one, and will act in an active and proactive manner to ensure that the neighborhood experiences only improvements because of the Saloon and brewing operation's presence.

Thank you,
Rose Jensen

Hello Rose,

Can you provide your address?

Thanks,

Amy

Rose Jensen
5987 Highview Place
Shoreview, MN 55126

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 13, 2015

Hello Amy-

I am writing to urge you to support the historic designation and variance request for the Stone Saloon project. I learned of the project through a recent Star Tribune article which was quite informative and very interesting.

I grew up in St. Paul, and last year my son bought a rather neglected house on West 7th Street. He is working diligently (with some help from his father and I) to restore it and make it a comfortable home. Throughout this process my husband and I have come to love this particular area, and are strongly considering a return to St. Paul after nearly twenty years in Afton. I believe that this project enhances the appeal of West 7th by providing a social venue with deep roots to the community, and preserving an important part of Minnesota's heritage. I do not know Mr. Schroeder, but I'm quite impressed with the scope of his efforts and have no doubt the Stone Saloon will become a landmark venue.

Minnesotans value their history, and the wonderful limestone buildings in St. Paul add a richness through their character and presence. Please vote to forward this project. I wish I could attend the meeting tonight, but will be there in spirit!

Kind Regards,
Julia Welter

Julia,

Can you provide your address?

Thanks,

Amy

15045 45th Street South
Afton MN 55001

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

I am writing in regards to the upcoming meeting regarding the Stone Saloon as I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow, 8/13.

I am an amateur historian and have studied architecture for many years. I have watched Tom through all stages of his endeavor to preserve and bring back the history of this part of St. Paul. He has gone to great lengths to ensure that every detail has been attended to, and in keeping with the history of the structure, and also the brewing process.

I fully support his endeavors, and know that given his personality and goals, he will go to great lengths, now and on into the future to ensure the historical accuracy of the property, and of the brewing operations. I have no doubt that he has had the well being of the neighborhood and community in mind and as a priority since day one, and will act in an active and proactive manner to ensure that the neighborhood experiences only improvements because of the Saloon and brewing operation's presence.

Thank you,
Rose Jensen
5987 Highview Place
Shoreview, MN 55126

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Hello Mrs.Spong,

I would like to voice my support for the Stone Saloon.

I have been a Saint Paul resident and am particularly fond of the West 7th area. An area on the up and up featuring the new Bad Weather Brewing tap room (right across the alley from Stone Saloon!).

I've had the pleasure to visit the Stone Saloon and it is a magnificent way to introduce a whole new generation to a love for local history. As a young person myself, I know others my age will love getting a heritage beer in the most 'old-school' tap room in town and those interactions will spark interest in local history in general! Not to mention a great place to energize and organize existing history lovers!

For me, the historic designation and the historic use variance go hand in hand: without the use variance, there is no need for the historic designation. It would be like fixing up a model T without an engine.

Please recommend to the City Council to designate the Stone Saloon as a historic space and to grant a historic use variance.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Sannerud

Please provide your address.

Thanks,

I live at 16501 Buchanan St NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304

Used to live at 1815 Thomas Ave, Saint Paul

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Dear Ms. Spong, allow me to express my support of the Stone Saloon. I lived in the Irvine Park area (in the Panama Flats Rowhouses, built in 1888) for twelve years. I live in Minneapolis now, but retain a fondness for St. Paul and the historic buildings there. I am not acquainted with the owner but I've been following the progress of the Stone Saloon and it's painstaking, authentic restoration since I first heard about it a year or so ago. I think it's just the unique sort of thing to make the neighborhood even more special and honor the city's history at the same time.

Please recommend the City Council add the historic designation to the building and grant the historic use variance for the tap house and microbrewery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,
Andrea Myers

Andrea,
Please provide your address,

Thanks,

My home address is
52 Russell Ct
Mpls MN 55410

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 11, 2015

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

My name is Bruce Ye, and I am a BIM Modeling Supervisor at Martinez Geospatial, a laser scanning company which did the laser scan of the Minnesota State Capitol. I graduated in Architecture with a Bachelor of Art at the University of Minnesota. In 2013, I worked for John Yust, AIA, the architect who has been in charge of the current renovation of the Stone Saloon. I helped Mr. Yust to generate a few drawings and renderings of the saloon to study the site massing of the project. Mr. Yust is an experienced architect and has passion on historic preservation, especially for this project. He will only bring good to the neighborhood because he lives nearby the stone saloon and he is part of the neighborhood. Together with the owner Thomas Schroeder, they share the same vivid and historic vision and form a strong team to create such a unique and historic place for the community. This idea not only preserves this historic building but brings back the unique understandings of a past time to the public. I am proud to be a small part of this project. I hope you would support this project. It will prove itself to be a successful sustainable model for historic preservation and to be a nice place for the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ye

Home Address:
514 Huron Blvd, Apt 3
Minneapolis, MN
55414

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 10, 2015

Dear Amy,

I am writing to express our support for the renovating and re-opening the Stone Saloon as a tap house and microbrewery.

From reading the website blog and touring the building, it's clear that the work to date has been a labor of love on the part of people who want to preserve St. Paul's history and share it with future patrons. We think that it a worthy goal and one that we hope you will support.

Best regards,

Connie Dickson and Stephan Weingarten
1466 Rocky Lane
Eagan, MN

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

Dear Historic Preservation Commission,

My name is Anthony Alan Rodriguez, and I am an Architecture Student at the University of Minnesota. In 2013 I worked for Greg Bemis, a brick mason, and helped build a new brick chimney at the Stone Saloon using hand made brick and soft lime mortar. These experiences have been very important to me on the path of becoming an architect. I have learned about class A chimney codes, proportion of banding and corbeling. It was an excellent experience in understanding historic preservation and I am proud to have played a small part in the project. I support this project and encourage the Commission to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Anthony Alan Rodriguez
263 16th AVE SW
New Brighton MN 55112

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 7, 2015

Amy, I support the Stone Saloon and hope you do too. Thanks,

Chris
202 Crestwood, Stillwater, MN 55082

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 13, 2015

Hello Amy-

I am writing to urge you to support the historic designation and variance request for the Stone Saloon project. I learned of the project through a recent Star Tribune article which was quite informative and very interesting.

I grew up in St. Paul, and last year my son bought a rather neglected house on West 7th Street. He is working diligently (with some help from his father and I) to restore it and make it a comfortable home. Throughout this process my husband and I have come to love this particular area, and are strongly considering a return to St. Paul after nearly twenty years in Afton. I believe that this project enhances the appeal of West 7th by providing a social venue with deep roots to the community, and preserving an important part of Minnesota's heritage. I do not know Mr. Schroeder, but I'm quite impressed with the scope of his efforts and have no doubt the Stone Saloon will become a landmark venue.

Minnesotans value their history, and the wonderful limestone buildings in St. Paul add a richness through their character and presence. Please vote to forward this project. I wish I could attend the meeting tonight, but will be there in spirit!

Kind Regards,
Julia Welter
15045 45th Street South
Afton MN 55001

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 14, 2015

Amy,

I'm writing to express my support of Tom Schroeder's restoration and future plans for 445 Smith Ave. (The Stone Saloon)

As a stone carver/mason I've had the privilege of working on many historic projects, and I produced the window sills for 445 Smith Ave. I felt that a lot of research and effort had gone ensuring the integrity of the design.

Too many historic buildings fall into disrepair, often close to the point of demolition. 445 Smith Ave is a case in point. I feel strongly that in the interest of the preservation of older buildings throughout the state, we need to support those prepared to fund such projects in anyway we can.

I look forward to your comments at the public hearing on Thursday.

Yours sincerely,
-Kay

Kay Owen

Stone Carver & Restoration Mason

Owen Masonry

[612.817.9439](tel:612.817.9439) | omasonry.com

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12, 2015

Ms Spong,

I wanted to drop you a note to express my support for the Stone Saloon project coming up for your review this Thursday August 13.

I've lived in Minnesota my entire life with the exception of a stint in the military stationed in England.

After 3 years in England you come to appreciate all the old architecture and the vast history these old buildings represent.

Wouldn't it be nice if we too could save our old building.

I think we could, if there were some way that the owners could restore these structures without having to go bankrupt in the process. Or tearing them down to make room for a parking lot or other business.

By granting Stone Saloon (and other sites) a historic use variance you would be giving owners of these historic sites the ability to financially afford to restore them to their former glory.

Please approve the Stone Saloon's request for a historic use variance this Thursday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brad Turbes
11560 195th St W
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-913-8728

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 10, 2015

Hi Amy,

I wanted to send this short email to express my full support for the Stone Saloon. I strongly believe the work that Tom Schroeder is doing with this historic place will add value to the historical legacy of the city.

As a regular visitor to MN, I plan to make this saloon a meeting place for my brothers-in-law when visiting family. We all appreciate history and a good beer.

I truly appreciate your consideration on this matter.

Warm regards,
Santiago Davila
1550 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22209

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 12,2015

Dear Mr. Counts,

Please consider this email in support of tomorrow's Heritage Preservation Commission hearing to grant the Stone Saloon a Historic Use Variance. I grew up less than a block from the building and after college lived within a block of the structure until I was 28. I renovated an 1870's house at 151 Goodrich Ave. (<http://www.yusthaus.com/project/yusthaus> - also about a block from the Stone Saloon) for over 2 years, returning the structure to it's original glory by restoring the wooden clapboard siding, original floors, original decorative wood trim and detailing, etc... I have also helped my parents, who have lived in the neighborhood since the early 1970's, with multiple 19th century home restoration projects, all keeping with the history and character of one of the most historic neighborhoods in Minnesota. My Dad always insisted on the most historically accurate decisions for these buildings - like real wooden shingles - even if it meant more maintenance and money in the long run.

While growing up I also witnessed my parents unrelenting dedication to this historic neighborhood. As past executives of the Fort Road Federation they fought redlining initiatives, trucking routes, etc... which if successful would have torn the neighborhood apart and led to more degradation of the historic homes in the area.

My Dad, John Yust, is the architect of the Stone Saloon, he is a former employee at the Minnesota Historical Society, and probably done more 19th century restoration design work and advocacy than any other architect in the state. His efforts in support of Tom Schroeder mean the Stone Saloon is in the safe hands of a bona fide historic preservation dream team.

My work has subsequently led me to New York and San Francisco which are places dense with historic structures and preservation efforts. I can safely say that this project and its authenticity will put many of them to shame. I mention the project to each new colleague and friend I connect with in my travels and have only ever received a response of "How soon can I visit?". I believe this speaks to the reach this project will have beyond Minnesota.

Please grant this variance, there are few words to describe how much this project means to the neighborhood, to historic preservation in MN, and to all the people who have unflinchingly poured so much time, money, sweat, craftsmanship, and historical research into the building.

Sincerely,
Charles Yust
380 Frederick St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

And up until the beginning of July I owned the house about a block away at:
151 Goodrich Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 5, 2015

I support the stone saloon at 445 Smith Ave.

This would be a great asset to the neighborhood. Bringing back a lost history from the roots of St Paul.

Please support making the Stone Saloon a reality. This is the type of small business we should be investing in. Something backed by the neighborhood, steeped in history, a perfect platform for continued neighborhood collaboration.

Thanks.

Anna Yust

Can you please provide your address.

Thanks,

Currently I am living in Copenhagen Denmark but was a resident at 256 Goodrich ave for 1982-2001. And a resident at 202 mcboal st 2007-2013.

During my time at 202 mcboal, I was able to participate with archeological excavations at 445 smith. I was also able to witness the fragments of history the revealed themselves when the old plaster was taken down on the interior and the infill stone facade was removed.

I will likely move back to this neighborhood when I move back to Minnesota and would really love this addition to the neighborhood.

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors

August 6, 2015

Hi Amy,

Greetings from accross the pond.

I just wanted to offer my support to the owners of The Stone Saloon who were kind enough to show me around the saloon when I last visited St Paul in January last.

I was thouroughly impressed by the sympathetic renovations and with the future plans for the premises. As a former renovater of property here in the UK and in France and a fellow bar owner its always exciting to see other similar minded folk embracing historic buildings and utilising them for modern day use, instead of flattening them for a quick buck and replacing them with cheap trash.

I hope you will offer your support and I look forward to raising a tankard by way of thanks in the near future at the saloon on completion of the works or when I next visit, whichever comes first.

All the very best to you.

Honk, honk,

Nelly Smyth
Snow Goose Cafe Bar

Can you please provide your address?

Thanks,

Sure Amy, really hope to visit the Saloon soon.
The Snow Goose,
52/54 Sunderland Street,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
England,
SK11 6HN

Written Testimony:
HPC Limestone Properties Neighbors
