

COURTHOUSE NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

January 20, 1994

Dear Courthouse Neighbors and Friends,

Just a brief note to let you know that your Courthouse Area Neighborhood Association Steering Committee is forging ahead with active plans to protect our neighborhood. We have attended Appleton City Council meetings and Outagamie County Supervisor Board meetings to learn more about the situation and to keep these city and county representatives aware of our position.

At this point, we feel fairly confident that we are keeping abreast of the ongoing happenings and would like to assure all of you that the situation does not seem quite as bleak as it did when we first met as a group. Surprisingly enough, we have discovered supporters within the city and council members who are sympathetic to our cause, and we were extremely pleased to learn that the county executive was quite shocked by our initial group response to his proposal to acquire a five-block area in our neighborhood for Justice Center surface parking purposes. Some "insiders" agree it "caused the largest, loudest uproar ever heard in response to a county proposal." (Three cheers for us!)

As you know, the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission has been asked to do a study of courthouse area parking needs. We are equally pleased to report that East Central is interested in meeting with our group in the near future for our input. In addition, Alderman Kalata has introduced a resolution in the City Council to "use the courthouse neighborhood as a prototype for a city-wide neighborhood preservation program." This is where matters stands at this time.

Currently, we are pursuing several areas surrounding this issue, including:

- * applying to the Wisconsin Trust for Historic Preservation for nomination to the 1994 Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties and Preservation Watch Designations

- * investigating the feasibility of calling for an environmental impact study on the effect of additional traffic congestion on the neighborhood area
- * establishing neighborhood goals
- * gathering and compiling historical information on individual homes in the area in preparation for nomination as an historic neighborhood.

This newsletter accompanies a letter/questionnaire that addresses and initiates the latter item. We are asking for your help in documenting our historic properties, while realizing that much of the lore connected to our area is passed down orally from one generation to the next. Please help us record this valuable knowledge and supply us with names of former residents or relatives who might provide additional information.

In the future, we will share interesting news about our historic homes and keep you abreast of upcoming events. To whet your appetite for historical research, we have included a copy of the Courthouse Walking Tour Map done by the Outagamie County Historical Society in 1980. Happy hunting!

The Historical Committee

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