

**MARIEMONT ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 4, 2013**

Mr. Bruggeman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Mr. Bruggeman, Mr. Allen, Mr. Thomas and Ms. Schwartz. Mr. Stegman arrived at 5:45 p.m. Also in attendance was Building Commissioner, Dennis Malone.

Building Commissioner Malone said currently the structure located at 3920 Oak Street is neither included in a historic district nor designated as a "Landmark Structure" and thus does not enjoy ARB protection. The structure is currently owned by the Masonic Lodge of Madisonville-Madeira-Mariemont and is for sale. The original building was the "one room schoolhouse" for Mariemont and as such has great historic significance. To protect the building's status it must be formally designated a Landmark Structure by the Architectural Review Board and accepted by Village Council. Because it is not in the Historic District or labeled as a landmark structure there is nothing to prevent it from being demolished. If it was included it could still be demolished but it would require ARB approval to do so.

Mr. Todd Keyes, 6825 Hammerstone Way, said they are presently in the process of buying the building from the Masonic Lodge. It has been approved by their Board of Trustees. It still has to go through the process of financing. The plan is to use the building as the home for the Village Church of Mariemont. In conversation with the Masonic Lodge they too would like to see the historic designation given to the building.

Mr. Don Keyes, 6904 Mt. Vernon, said the Masonic Lodge was surprised that it was not listed in the Historic District. It was confusing because the firehouse next door is listed in the Historic District.

Mayor Policastro said his concern is that the structure is not listed currently in the Code of Ordinance listing it in the historic district nor is it on the list of historic structures. We need to protect it because it held the first schoolhouse in the Village of Mariemont. It is important for ARB to make a request to Council to change the ordinance ASAP. The ARB has the expertise to make this request to Council and Council has the authority to make the change.

Mr. Bruggeman suggested some sort of critical designation criteria or a review by MPF to establish if it meets requirements. We should have some standard process that is backed up by the technical nature of defining the historic values of the building and possibly any other structures that are not protected presently such as the newly found Indian Mound. Mr. Thomas agreed that we could ask MPF to identify other structures that they think should be included on the list. But he does not think we should hold up this process in order to do that.

Mr. Allen said clearly it was an oversight perhaps a clerical error in the past. Both the current owner and the potential new owner are in favor of the designation.

Mr. Don Keyes said as President of MPF he is going to put it on the agenda for the next months meeting. Mr. Bruggeman said that is a good check and balance. It prevents someone from politically designating a piece of property in the future. Historical rationale needs to be applied rather than making it a board political decision.

Ms. Peggy Keyes, 6904 Mt. Vernon, said she agrees that it was an oversight in the past. If it was in the historic district or named a landmark structure it would help with securing financial grants.

Mr. Stegman moved, seconded by Mr. Allen to make the recommendation to Council to include 3920 Oak Street with the buildings listed in the Code of Ordinances Historic District. On roll call; five ayes, no nays.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ann Schwartz  
Secretary