

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION REPORT
Certificate of Recommendation
Section 20-92

TO: Heritage Preservation Commission
FROM: Planning Staff
MEETING DATE: August 26 2021

PROPOSAL: The applicant is proposing to replace and install several signs on the property located at 429 7th Street N. (Hixon House)

PROPERTY OWNER:

La Crosse County Historical Society
145 West Ave S
La Crosse, WI 54601

APPLICANT:

Noffke Sign – Jay Haskell
505 Empire St Suite C
Holmen, WI 54636

BACKGROUND: The HPC was given responsibility to review all exterior work that requires a permit from the City on Locally Designated Landmarks per Section 20-92 of the La Crosse Municipal Code. The Heritage Preservation Commission’s decision is a recommendation/advisory only.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to install three (3) signs and one (1) information display to the exterior of the Hixon House Admissions & Gift Shop building located at above address. The signs are meant to help direct visitors as to where the Admissions & Gift Shop are located and to assist where to park vehicles on the property.



The small information box will give the administrator of the admissions an exterior display case to post events, times and dates of museum tours and other museum related news.



All of the signs and display case will be fastened to the building using stainless steel screws to prevent rusting. If the signs would have to ever come down or be completely removed from the building, the applicant has stated that simple wood filler in the screw holes and touch up paint will hide any imperfections left behind from the signs.



SEE ATTACHED PLANS FOR MORE INFORMATION.

ANALYSIS:

There are no standards in the City’s code to review projects by so staff attempts to apply best practices that should be used when restoring historic buildings, including reference to the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

The applicant is proposing to install the signs with minimal impact to the building. Additionally, the sign design is compatible and appropriate to the historic nature of what is considered one of the most historic sites in La Crosse.

FINDING

The proposed signage and installation methods are appropriate to the building.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY STAFF:

This Certificate of Recommendation is recommended for approval.