

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
CITY OF LA CROSSE
BEFORE THE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE DESIGNATION OF THE **Abraham Lincoln Junior High (Main/Original Building only)**, located at **510 9th Street S**, to be designated as a Historic Structure.

FINDINGS OF FACT AND DETERMINATION

The Heritage Preservation Commission of the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, having held a public hearing on June 22, 2023 on the above matter to consider whether to designate the said property to be an historic structure, and the ~~owner~~/**representative of the property**, Dr. Aaron Engel **having**/~~having not~~ appeared in ~~writing~~/**in person** and due notice of such hearing having been given, and upon such hearing and considering the evidence and documentation presented at such hearing, renders the following findings of fact and determination:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The jurisdiction of the Heritage Preservation Commission to hear the proposed designation is pursuant to Sec. 20 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Crosse.

2. That the property under consideration is within the City limits of the City of La Crosse.

3. The property ~~does~~/**does not** exemplify or reflect the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the nation, state or community, because: N/A

4. The property ~~is~~/**is not** identified with historic personages or with important events in national, state or local history, because: N/A

5. The property **does**/~~does not~~ embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen which is inherently valuable for the study of a period, style,

method of construction or of indigenous materials or craftsmanship because: ___ The original structure is considered one of the best examples of the Neo-classical School of Architecture indicative by its flat surfaces, classical ornamented stepped back façade and rusticated base. The push for Neo-classicism was fueled by the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the Richardsonian Romanesque gave way to the Neo-classicism of the "City Beautiful Movement" even in the Midwest and in La Crosse. Relying on Greek models rather than Roman, the Neo-classical Revival of 1900-1920 was best applied to the design of monumentally scaled public buildings such as banks, schools, and civic buildings.

6. The property ~~is/is not~~ representative of the notable work of a master builder, designer or architect whose individual genius influenced his age, because: _____ Abraham Lincoln Junior High School was designed by Otto Merman and built in 1924. He was responsible for designing several residences and commercial buildings in La Crosse between 1912 and 1935 either by himself or with other prominent architects in the area. Many of his buildings are still in existence.

DETERMINATION

Based on the evidence and documents presented at the hearing and the findings of fact set forth above, the Heritage Preservation Commission hereby determines that the said property ~~shall/shall not~~ be and hereby ~~is/is not~~, designated as a historic structure subject to the terms of Section 20 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Crosse.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2023.

HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Tim Acklin, AICP
Planning Administrator