

From: Scott Leonard <dcscott20002@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 10:36 AM
To: Townsend, Tyler <Tyler.Townsend@cityofracine.org>
Cc: Hintz, Jeffrey <Jeffrey.Hintz@cityofracine.org>
Subject: Preservation Racine request for historical sign on public property

STOP! External Message. Think before you click.

Good morning, Alder Townsend:

Again, many thanks for offering last week to support Preservation Racine's proposal to have a historical marker created and placed that describes Camp Utley, a Civil War training camp that existed in the area immediately north of the Lake Oaks/DeKoven Center campus. The proposed location is on city-owned property in the 1800 block of Wisconsin Avenue, where that street comes to a point with Main Street. The address of that parcel is 1805 Wisconsin, though an alternate location could be the small triangle, surrounded by curbing, immediately to the south (opposite 1833 Main).

I have been working with Jeff Hintz, Assistant Director of the Department of City Development, on what steps to go through to get permission from the City to erect this sign, and he is copied here. He has advised that, as a next step, you enter in a communication on Preservation Racine's behalf, through the council communication process, to support this request. It should include the following:

1. Photo of marker (see attached photo of existing, two-sided sign on the DeKoven Campus, describing the former Racine College, which we will use as a pattern, with the same design and same vendor).
2. Proposed text for the sign, front and back (see below).
3. Site plan (see attached, showing both 1805 Wisconsin and the adjacent alternate site).

As I understand the process, your communication will result in the council's assigning the request to a committee for consideration. The committee then may make a recommendation to the common council for their consideration and approval. Separately, Preservation Racine and the City Attorney's Office will discuss and come to agreement on the terms of an easement, maintenance, liability, etc. Jeff has said that either of us can reach out to him with any questions about the process.

Preservation Racine plans to pay for the marker with memorial donations that were made after the death last year of our member, Charlie Rice. His wife, Joan Rice, still lives in their home in the 1700 block of Wisconsin, which is within the historical footprint

of Camp Utley. Charlie was a man of many interests, one of which was Camp Utley, and Joan strongly supports this proposal.

All of us at Preservation Racine appreciate your support of this request, which will help us honor the purpose of the donations and inform the public about the interesting history and geography of Camp Utley.

Best regards,

Scott Leonard
Vice President/Acting President
Preservation Racine
(personal) 1144 Main Street, 53403; 202-374-6221; dcscott20002@gmail.com

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[proposed Camp Utley marker text, for two-sided marker]

Camp Utley

Starting in June 1861, new units gathered, trained, and were equipped at Camp Utley, before joining the Civil War. It was named for Racine citizen and State Senator William L. Utley, then Adjutant General for Wisconsin, later the Twenty-Second Wisconsin Regiment's commanding officer. The 75-acre camp lay south of Racine city limits on the farm of Truman G. Wright. Approximate borders were Main Street, 16th Street, Center Street, and DeKoven Avenue (bordering Racine College).

A fence separated Main Street from a private race track, which became the camp's parade ground. Originally, recruits lived in tents west of the track. There were wooden buildings for the kitchen, dining room, commissary, and quartermaster. The dining room was 100 by 75 feet, with 10 long tables each seating 100 men. (see other side)

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Camp Utley

(from other side) Some 1,500 artillery men were stationed here in winter 1861-62. Tents were replaced with wooden structures, each with a cook's room and sergeant's room flanking a bunk room. In February 1864 three new buildings were constructed for the arrival of the Seventh regiment.

There were two off-site target ranges for artillery practice. One was west of Green Bay Road and one in Riverside Park.

Camp Utley served as the place of rendezvous for five Wisconsin regiments – the Fourth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Second, Thirty-First, and Thirty-Third. It was the camp of instruction for eight of Wisconsin's thirteen batteries of light artillery. During the last year of the war, it was used by the Seventh Wisconsin – part of the “Iron Brigade” – and the Thirteenth Wisconsin Regiments.

In memory of Charlie Rice

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