



September 4, 2009

Mr. Joe DeRose
Division of Historic Preservation
Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS)
816 State Street
Madison, WI 53706-1842

Re: Letter of Intent for Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant (\$7,400.00 request)
National Register Nomination - Melvin Avenue Residential Historic District

Dear Mr. DeRose:

In June of 2008, facilitated by a Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant from the WHS, the City of Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission (the Commission) took receipt of the final copy of the "Historic Resources Survey". This survey is a document prepared by the consulting firm of Mead & Hunt that serves as an inventory of historic properties within a defined area approximately one mile north of our downtown area.

As a result of the survey, certain sub-areas were found to contain concentrations of properties which formed the basis of potential historic districts eligible for local recognition and/or National Register listing. The Commission would like to proceed with the preparation of a nomination for National Register listing of the district named the Melvin Avenue Residential Historic District (see the enclosed excerpt from the "Historic Resources Survey").

With the above explanation as support, the Commission herewith notifies WHS of its intent to file for a Historic Preservation Fund Subgrant to help facilitate this nomination. Mead & Hunt has provided the enclosed estimate (not a formal proposal) which places their cost of preparation for this nomination at \$7,400 (including labor and expenses). This amount is our subgrant request. If awarded a grant, we would send out a formal request for proposals in compliance with WHS guidelines. The estimated City costs for administration and coordination of this grant is \$1,800.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Matthew G. Sadowski, Principal Planner for the City of Racine, at (262)636-9151. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mary Whitman, Chair
City of Racine
Landmarks Preservation Commission

Cc: Brian F. O'Connell, Director of City Development
Racine Landmarks Preservation Commission

**Section 6
Recommendations**

Address	Property Type	Construction Date	Status	Architectural Style
433 Melvin Avenue	House	1940	Contributing	Colonial Revival
442 Melvin Avenue	House	1926	Contributing	Bungalow
446 Melvin Avenue	House	1931	Contributing	Colonial Revival
452 Melvin Avenue	House	1938	Contributing	Tudor Revival
456 Melvin Avenue	House	1937	Contributing	Bungalow
460 Melvin Avenue	House	1930	Contributing	Tudor Revival
464 Melvin Avenue	House	1937	Contributing	Colonial Revival
465 Melvin Avenue	House	1940	Contributing	Colonial Revival
504 Melvin Avenue	House	1929	Contributing	Bungalow
507 Melvin Avenue	House	1941	Contributing	Colonial Revival
510 Melvin Avenue	House	1932	Contributing	Tudor Revival
517 Melvin Avenue	House	1940	Contributing	Tudor Revival
2910 North Wisconsin Street	House	1941	Contributing	Colonial Revival
2918 North Wisconsin Street	House	1939	Contributing	Colonial Revival

Architectural Description

The proposed Melvin Avenue Residential Historic District consists of a concentration of single-family homes constructed between 1925 and 1944. Thirty residential properties that comprise the district are situated along the north and south sides of Melvin Avenue and the west and east sides of North Main and North Wisconsin Streets. Twenty-nine properties are contributing elements and only one is noncontributing based on differences in its size and scale. With homes constructed during the early-to-mid-twentieth century, the district predominantly reflects an intact grouping of the popularized Period Revival architecture styles, such as Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and Dutch Colonial Revival. However, Bungalows and vernacular forms are present.

Significance

The Melvin Avenue Residential Historic District is potentially eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a collection of Period Revival houses that display similar size and massing.

**Section 6
Recommendations**

The district reflects the popularity of more modest interpretations of Period Revival architecture. Overall, the district retains integrity and demonstrates the relationship of architectural trends in the survey area. Some houses in the district considered to be contributing feature some alterations; however, they still convey a visual sense of continuity within the historic district. The period of significance spans the dates of construction from 1925 to 1944.

Boundary Description

The boundary for the proposed district encompasses the current legal lots associated with the parcels for 3005, 3008, 3009, 2914, 2915, 2918, and 2925 North Main Street, 2910 and 2918 North Wisconsin Street, and 404, 412, 419, 420, 423, 424, 428, 429, 432, 433, 442, 446, 452, 456, 460, 464, 465, 504, 507, 510, and 517 Melvin Avenue.

Boundary Justification

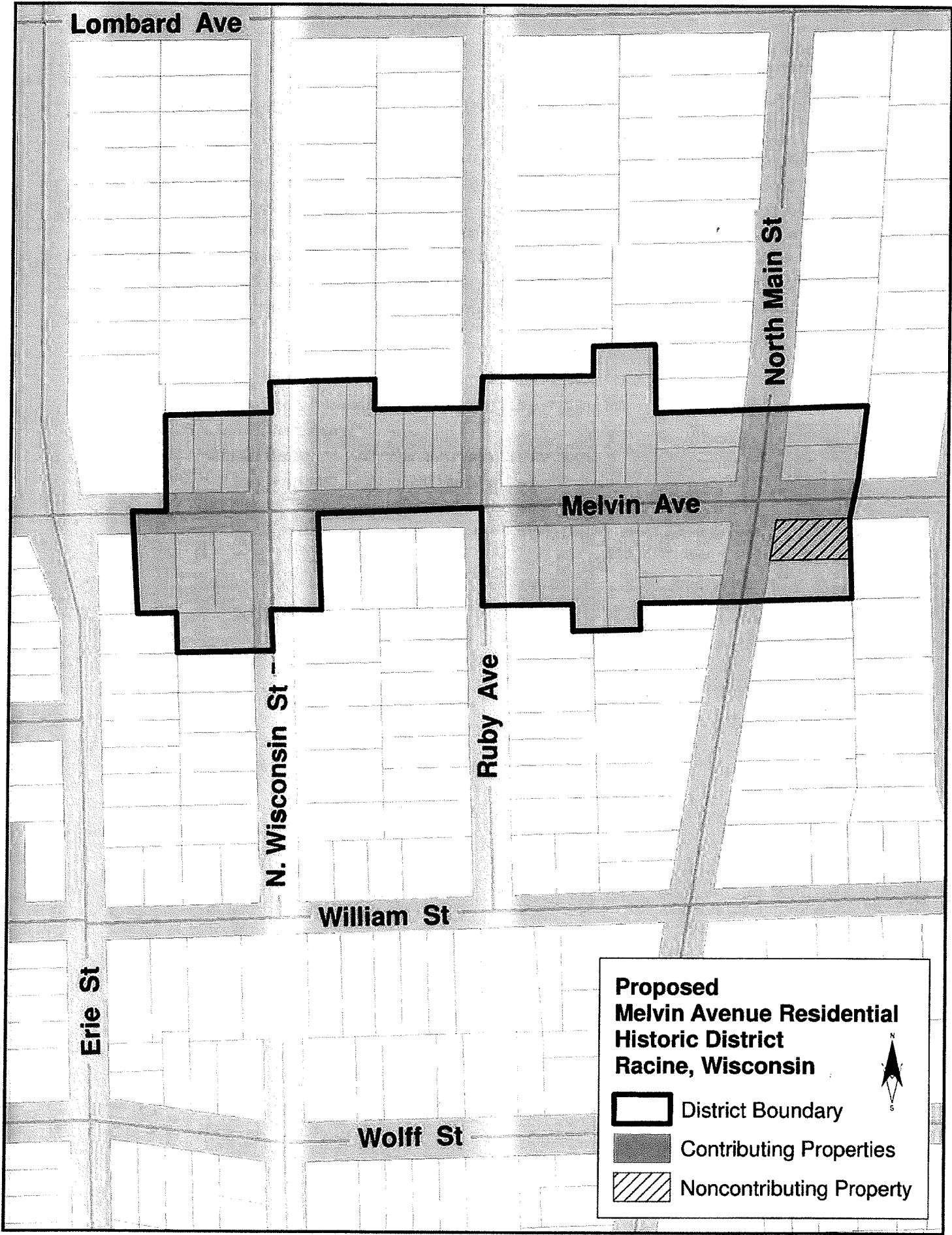
The district boundary corresponds to the historic area associated with these properties and provides an appropriate setting.



433 Melvin Avenue



3005 North Main Street



Lombard Ave

North Main St

Melvin Ave

N. Wisconsin St




Ruby Ave

William St

Erie St

Wolff St

**Proposed
Melvin Avenue Residential
Historic District
Racine, Wisconsin**

-  District Boundary
-  Contributing Properties
-  Noncontributing Property

