

## HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF WALKER-AJAX

### **National Register Criterion A: Industry.**

The Walker Manufacturing Company, a local firm that grew in the twentieth century to become a nationwide industry leader in the design and manufacture of mufflers, jacks and other automotive parts.

### **National Register Criterion A: Invention.**

This was the location where the first Walker Silencer, an innovative automobile muffler design, was invented and first produced.

The Ajax Plant played a vital role in the company's development and success as one of the company's earliest production facilities. The plant remains as the last remaining production facility in Racine associated with the Walker Manufacturing Company and is also among the last vestiges of Racine's early role in Wisconsin's automobile manufacturing industry.



## JUSTIFICATION FOR DEMOLITION

Cardinal carefully considered the options for rehabilitation of the 19 existing buildings. Two previous developers planned to restore the buildings and retain the historic character, and each walked away from the site due to financial burden on their proposed projects.



Cardinal, in partnership with the City, has come to the conclusion that demolition is the only viable outcome for redevelopment. The buildings are in such disrepair that rehabilitation is ultimately economically infeasible:

- Roofs have failed in numerous locations
- Buildings have begun collapsing unto themselves
- Significant amounts of asbestos inside of the structures











1536













16th  
Clark



30

ON MAPS













1061

FIRE ALARM PULL STATION  
DO NOT REMOVE

1061



































































## **PROPOSAL FOR MITIGATION**

- Preservation of oldest building's brick
- Outdoor exhibit north of Pabst Pub, incorporating preserved brick
- Ajax website



## PROPOSAL FOR MITIGATION: OUTDOOR EXHIBIT WITH PRESERVED BRICK





# PROPOSAL FOR MITIGATION: AJAX WEBSITE

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## PROPOSAL FOR MITIGATION: AJAX WEBSITE

History page features a brief summary of the building history, along with an interactive timeline and photos



The image displays a web interface for an interactive timeline. On the left, a large black and white photograph shows an elderly man, likely George Brumder, working at a desk with architectural plans and a lamp. To the right of the photo, a text box provides a historical detail: "1892 George Brumder hires architect Eugene Liebert to design a 10-story Germania Building based on Joseph Pulitzer's The World building in New York." Below this, a horizontal timeline axis spans from 1860 to 1930. Several event markers are visible, each with a small icon and a text label: "George Bru..." (1892), "Nationwide..." (1895), "Building pe..." (1896), "George buil..." (1896), "America ent..." (1916), "Anti-Germa..." (1917), and "First Indoor..." (1926). Navigation arrows are present on the left and right sides of the timeline area.

1892  
George Brumder hires architect Eugene Liebert to design a 10-story Germania Building based on Joseph Pulitzer's The World building in New York.

Timeline JS

1860 1863 1866 1869 1870 1873 1876 1879 1880 1883 1886 1889 1890 1892 1895 1896 1900 1903 1906 1909 1910 1913 1916 1917 1919 1920 1923 1926 1929 1930 1933

George Bru...  
Nationwide...  
Building pe...  
George buil...  
America ent...  
Anti-Germa...  
First Indoor...



## PLANS AND RENDERINGS

Proposed site plan:

- 87-unit building on northern half
- 54-unit building on southern half
- Historic rehabilitation of Pabst Pub on southeastern corner (16<sup>th</sup> and Clark)





