

July 1, 2021

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

c/o Chairman Ernest Wong

City of Chicago

Chicago City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: The Monastery of the Holy Cross, formerly The Church of the Immaculate Conception and Rectory, 3101-3111 S. Aberdeen Street, Chicago

Dear Chairman Wong and Members of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks,

Preservation Chicago proudly restates their support for the proposed Preliminary Chicago Landmark designation of the Monastery of the Holy Cross, originally constructed as The Church of the Immaculate Conception and Rectory, located at 3101-3111 South Aberdeen Street in the neighborhood of Bridgeport.

This Gothic Revival church, executed in impressive grandeur by accomplished German architect Hermann J. Gaul, was erected between 1908 and 1909. Gaul carried out numerous commissions for Chicago's thriving German Roman Catholic community during the early part of the twentieth century with the Church of the Immaculate Conception being one of his grandest undertakings. Once completed, the magnificent church became a hub for Bridgeport's German community, solidifying and settling a national parish that would both serve and unite German immigrants in the area for decades to come. Even as Bridgeport's demographics shifted in the second half of the century, the church remained a haven for incoming immigrants in which they could practice and celebrate their faith and heritage.

The church is also a singular architectural achievement. The church's impressive steeple is a highly visible landmark throughout Bridgeport while its high pointed gables, detailed carvings, and fine brickwork offer additional exterior splendor. These features are rivaled only by the

church's interiors which feature ornate window tracery, luminous Austrian art glass, and high-vaulted ceilings which provide spectacular acoustics.

This special house of worship is at once an architectural treasure and the last remaining testament to the history of German Roman Catholic parishes in Bridgeport—it would make a wonderful addition to the list of Chicago's officially designated landmarks. We would like to reiterate our gracious thanks The Monastery of the Holy Cross and the Benedictine Monastery of the Subiaco Cassinese Congregation, Prior Peter Funk, OSB, the Department of Planning and Development for their support in bringing the Monastery of the Holy Cross before the Commission on Chicago Landmarks.

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago



WALTER BURNETT, JR.

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June 30, 2021

Chairman Villegas
Committee on Economic, Capital & Technology
Development
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Ernest Wong, Chairman
Commission on Chicago Landmarks
121 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

**Re: Class L Application
1357 Property Owner, LLC**

Dear Chairman Villegas and Chairman Wong:

Please accept this letter of support for a Class L requested 1357 Property Owner, LLC (the "Applicant").

The project involves an investment of over \$30 million to adapt a 4.1 acre riverfront site. The redevelopment will create approximately 200 construction jobs and 50 full-time and 130 part-time permanent jobs.

The Applicant worked closely with Landmarks staff and the various community groups to review this project and agreed to numerous refinements and improvements throughout the course of such review.

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Walter Burnett, Jr.
Alderman, 27th Ward