

March 3, 2021

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Wong and Commissioners:

We regret that we cannot testify in person before you today, but we are in the full support of the designation of the Pentecostal Church of Holiness (formerly Our Lady of Lourdes) Landmark nomination as well as the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church of Chicago Adopt-a-Landmark award for this historic Logan Square Church.

Chicago's Roman Catholic Churches are on Preservation Chicago's 2021 Chicago 7 Most Endangered listing which we announced last week to 1,000 registrants. The Pentecostal Church of Holiness is an amazing structure that represents a great commitment to our city and its community. They are the cornerstones of our neighborhoods, and they should be Landmarked and preserved when they meet the Landmarks criteria for designation.

We at Preservation Chicago would like to see the promised designation of St. Adalbert move forward as well, along with the churches which have been closed (and many deconsecrated) and could be grouped together as a thematic Chicago Landmark District much like the neighborhood banks, the Schlitz tied houses, and the Chicago firehouses.

We are in full support of more than a dozen of these churches built by the community and designed by some of Chicago's most notable architects. Therefore, we highly encourage these designations to preserve and encourage the reuse of these amazing structures to remain the cornerstones of the community that they are.

To that point, we encourage more Adopt-a-Landmark funds be used for the repairs of these sacred places much like the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church on Logan Square proper.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. We fully support the Chicago Landmark designation of Pentecostal Church of Holiness, as well as the commitment of Adopt-a-Landmark funds to the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church.

Sincerely,



Ward Miller  
Executive Director

**Fw: Item 3 Preliminary Landmark Recommendation of the Morton Salt Company Warehouse Complex 1305 - 1357 N. Elston Ave. and 1213-1251 Blackhawk Street Roof sign: "When it Rains it Pours"®**

Nancy O'Dea <nancy.odea@hotmail.com>

Thu 2/4/2021 5:45 PM

To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

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**From:** Nancy O'Dea <nancy.odea@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:09 PM

**To:** ccl@cityofchicago.org <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

**Subject:** Re: Item 3 Preliminary Landmark Recommendation of the Morton Salt Company Warehouse Complex 1305 - 1357 N. Elston Ave. and 1213-1251 Blackhawk Street Roof sign: "When it Rains it Pours"®

Nancy Cay O'Dea  
6542 North Oliphant Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631

Dear Commission of Chicago Landmarks Members,

In support of the Morton Salt Adaptive Use project referenced above, I would like to add some qualitative history to the story of the origins of the roof sign. The sign has been a local landmark for years, and its prominent visible location relative to the Ogilvie Transportation Center was always a cue for me to re-button my coat, put away my book or magazine, and put my train ticket back in my wallet when I was coming into work in the morning, along with thousands of others who worked in the Loop and central business district.

The Morton Salt roof sign was an idea my father, Thomas J. O'Dea, had as he rode to work on the train each morning. An advertising manager for the Morton Salt Company, then located on Wacker Drive, from the early 1950s to the mid 1960s, he knew Morton Salt owned the warehouse with excellent visibility from the Chicago Northwestern train lines and the Kennedy Expressway. He decided to have a large sign painted on the roof. He had the budget and staff, and oversaw the implementation and completion of the sign.

In place for some 60 years, the sign is an icon as the neighborhood is evolving from its use as an industrial warehouse area, and gives historic continuity to the venue. As the neighborhood continues to develop, the continued existence of the sign is a visible acknowledgement of the area's past.

The current owners are showing imagination and creativity in planning an adaptive reuse of the Morton Salt warehouse. It will be a unique setting that respects its history with its reuse of the original buildings, and the sign ties it all together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

*Nancy O'Dea*