

May 6, 2021

Commission on Chicago Landmarks

City of Chicago

Chicago City Hall

121 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Re: (Former) Lake Street Schlitz Brewery-Tied House/(Former) La Luce Restaurant, 1393-1399 W. Lake Street, Chicago

Dear Chairman Wong and Members of the Commission,

We at Preservation Chicago, fully support the Chicago Landmark Designation, of the Former Schlitz Brewery-Tied House, located at 1393-1399 W. Lake Street, on Chicago's Near West Side.

This is a fine quality building of great craftsmanship and design and constructed in anticipation of the Columbian Exposition or Chicago World's Fair of 1893. It's overall composition and quality of detailing are outstanding, and this is an exemplary example of a Schlitz Brewery-Tied House, constructed in the Queen Anne style, as well as a being a fine-quality neighborhood commercial building. The Schlitz Lake Street Brewery-Tied House Building, also known for about 20 years as the "La Luce Restaurant," is a highly visible structure, lovely in appearance, and is seen for many blocks, as one proceeds northward on Ogden Avenue, to Lake Street. It's magnificent use of rich materials of red brick, limestone, ornamental copper bays and corner turret, make it a much-admired building, and part of the Ogden Avenue, Lake Street, Near West Side, built environment and viewshed.

The Schlitz Brewing-Tied House building was surveyed as part of the Near West Side Community Area #28 in December 1984, and determined at that time, some 37 years ago, to be orange-rated and of significance in the Chicago Historic Resources Survey, which itself was published 25 years ago, by the City of Chicago. The significance of the building has been recognized by both the general public and the City for decades, and its importance to Chicago's built environment has only increased over almost forty years.

We at Preservation Chicago were proud to assist with both research and outreach to the public, contributing to this Preliminary Chicago Landmark Designation Report. The public outcry associated with the building's possible demise and demolition, led us to start a very nicely worded Change.org petition to encourage preservation of the building, and the consideration of a Chicago Landmark Designation of this orange-rated structure.

The tremendous response from the general public was unlike anything we had encountered previously and resulted in over 8,000 petition signatures, spanning 366 plus pages and about 24 pages of comments in support. These have been presented to all of you on the Commission on Chicago Landmarks, as well as the Department of Planning and Development, City of Chicago for the record.

Together this is 390 plus pages of documents and representing the opinion of over 8,200 individuals, many of them from Chicago, yet others extending across the nation. All of the 8,217 signatures, as of the first week of May 2021, are in support of preservation of the building and a Chicago Landmark Designation of the Lake Street Schlitz Brewery-Tied House Building.

We wish to thank the Department and Staff for bringing this much-loved building on Chicago's Near West Side to the Commission on Chicago Landmarks and for your consideration and support of this structure as a Designated Chicago Landmark. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Ward Miller

Ward Miller, Executive Director

Preservation Chicago

PUBLIC COMMENT - FORMER SCHLITZ BREWERY TIED HOUSE

Illinois Historic Group Directory <ihgdir@gmail.com>

Tue 5/4/2021 6:54 PM

To: ccl <ccl@cityofchicago.org>

[Warning: External email]

I expect you will (and should) receive mostly favorable guidance and recommendation from the interested public to protect the former Schlitz Brewery Tied House on West Lake St. This Tied House is one of the remaining few cases of this unique period in Chicago beer industry history, and quite honestly the business case supporting demolition and redevelopment is weak.

There has been past interest from the public in supporting preservation of this structure, in spite of any assurances you may receive from the property owner that he was not aware of public interest.

Since the building has been gutted per a recent media report, an adaptive reuse proposal can begin to be worked on but yes, the historic building should stand.

Bill Kenney

Illinois Historic Group Directory Administrator

