



Naperville, IL 60540
August 6, 2024

Planning and Zoning Commission
City of Naperville
400 S. Eagle Street
Naperville, IL 60540

Dear Planning and Zoning Commission:

Naperville Preservation Inc. is a grassroots organization dedicated to preserving historic buildings and places in our city. Last year, we celebrated our 5-year anniversary. We are writing here because anyone interested in the historic places in our city should take great interest in the North Central College Master Land Use Plan, which specifically mentions a “renovate or replace assessment” of several buildings.

As we all know, North Central College (“the College”) has many fine historic buildings. These buildings help make the campus a charming place. The list of these buildings is long, ranging from the most prominent building, Old Main, to perhaps the smallest – and a favorite to many of us – the Boiler House, now a coffee shop. Also notably, the College owns several former private residences that currently serve in different functions for the college.

Quite significantly, the College owns the Truitt house, now known as the Abe House, a City of Naperville local landmark. The College should be celebrated for owning one of only four local landmarks in our city.

There are several buildings on the College’s list for “renovate or replace’ assessment”, on pages 53 and 54, that deserve special mention. All of them are very fine buildings, and several of these buildings have been previously documented by experts as being significant. Some are within the Naperville Historic District, where they are neighbors to private residences that are well-maintained, and all have decades of remaining life.

First, the Hammersmith House, at 120/122 South Brainard Street, in Figure 1. In the Granicki survey, this building is noted as “Significant,” may be eligible for listing as a local landmark, and in excellent condition. It is located in the Historic District.

Next, the Peter Boecker House, 116 South Brainard Street, was recorded as “Significant” in Granicki, may be eligible for listing as a local landmark, and in good condition. It is in the Historic District. See Figure 2.

There is 224 East Chicago Avenue, noted as “Significant” in the Laskey survey. It is not in the Historic District. See Figure 3.

Next, 225 North Loomis Street is noted as “Potentially Significant” in Granicki. It is in the Historic District. See Figure 4.

Finally, the Edward Everett Rall House, at 329 South Brainard Street, is noted as “Significant” in Laskey and is a potential landmark. It is not in the Historic District. It is quite grand. See Figure 5.

These are all excellent buildings, as documented in the surveys mentioned, and should be preserved. Naperville Preservation supports their ongoing maintenance and their renovation, whether to continue in their current uses, or to give the buildings new uses. These buildings can and should continue to be a part of the College’s vibrant campus and the surrounding community.

For more information about the historic buildings and places in our community, please visit www.napervillepreservation.org, or email me at bill@napervillepreservation.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Simon

Bill Simon
President
Naperville Preservation Inc.

Attachment
Photographs of Select North Central College Buildings



Figure 1: Hammersmith House, 120/122 S. Brainard Street



Figure 2: Peter Boecker House, 116 S. Brainard Street



Figure 3: 225 N. Loomis Street



Figure 4: 224 E. Chicago Ave



Figure 5: Edward Everett Rall House, 329 S. Brainard Street