

The 2022 City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission Most Endangered Building List

The list contains buildings that the commission feels could be endangered but in an attempt to be more proactive by identifying buildings before they are getting to the point that they are in danger of being demolished.

Courier Buildings – The Courier Buildings have been empty since 2011 when the Courier moved to the east side of the river. The building in the middle of the block adjacent to the parking lot is a former Montgomery Ward's store that was designed in a Georgian style that the company used from about 1931 till 1941 and most of them have been demolished over the years.

Dunsmore House – The Dunsmore house is the third oldest building in the City of Waterloo and the oldest Limestone residence left in the city. The building has been owned by the city for many years with little progress being done. The city sold the building a few years ago but then the person who purchased the building applied to demolish it for a Taco stand but it was returned to city ownership.

429 Clay Street – This home is at the corner of Dane and Clay and has been sitting partially boarded up for several years. While the Walnut Neighborhood and Habitat have done an incredible job of revitalizing the area but this home on the north side of the neighborhood sits next to two new habitat homes. Needs TLC.

339 Almond Street – Another beautiful home with lots of potential in the Walnut Neighborhood that needs some TLC.

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church – This church is probably one of the most interesting buildings architecturally in the city. However, the congregation of the church has been struggling for years and the building has damage from water infiltration before the roof was repaired. The building also had bricks from one side building collapse although those bricks have been repaired. Sadly Reverend Holmes passed away but his son is now running the church and is looking to bring in more revenue to the building in order to fix it up.

523 Logan – Former retail building that is sitting vacant that has historic significance to African-American history of the area.

722 Water Street – The reason this building made the list is due to the fact that it has been largely empty for several years although the owners are trying to bring in new tenants or possibly sell the building.

626/628 Park Avenue – This unique duplex has been the victim of good intentions gone bad. A person purchased the building and was looking to rehabilitate the building. They removed the two front porches from the building and did some other basic work but then the work stopped possibly another case of someone taking on a project that ended up being harder than they thought it would be.

YMCA Building – This building was originally put on this list because it was not clear if part of the building would be in danger due to the construction of the new Park Avenue Bridge. However, the final design of the bridge will not require any of the building to be removed.

1325 West 4th Street – We love to hear good news and in this case, it appears that this unique home – also known as the “Pillar House” will be purchased and refurbished. This building has sat empty for several years having been owned by someone who purchased it on tax sale.