

## Report to the Manitowoc Plan Commission

**Meeting Date:** April 28, 2021

**Request:** PC 9-2021: City of Manitowoc, Matters Referred to Plan Commission Rahr-West Art Museum; Review of Building Addition Site Plan pursuant to WI Statute 62.23(5).

**Report:**

Wisconsin Statute § 62.23(5) “Matters Referred to City Plan Commission” states: *“The council, or other public body or officer of the city having final authority thereon, shall refer to the city plan commission, for its consideration and report before final action is taken by the council, public body or officer, the following matters: The location and architectural design of any public building; .....*”

**Project Background:**

The Rahr-West Art Museum facility includes the Vilas-Rahr Mansion, a Queen Anne style home built in 1893 that is on the National Register of Historic Places. The four-story mansion requires visitors to ascend stairs to reach any of its levels, effectively prohibiting guests with mobility issues. The museum has consulted with architects, engineers and historians for decades in an attempt to rectify this limitation. Due to the historic nature of the building, most solutions have been in excess of available funding. Presently, the museum can only offer accessibility-impaired visitors a basic video tour of the Mansion. In order to meet the goals and allow all visitors to fully experience everything the Museum has to offer, the solution is to add an elevator that enables access to each of the six floors of the facility – 4 floors of the Vilas-Rahr Mansion and 2 floors of the connected exhibition galleries.

The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places so the Museum is currently working through the approval process with the State Historical Office to get their approvals.

Timing: Anticipated completion of the elevator and stair addition is January 2022.

**Recommendation:** Approval of the concept and construction of the Rahr-West Art Museum addition.







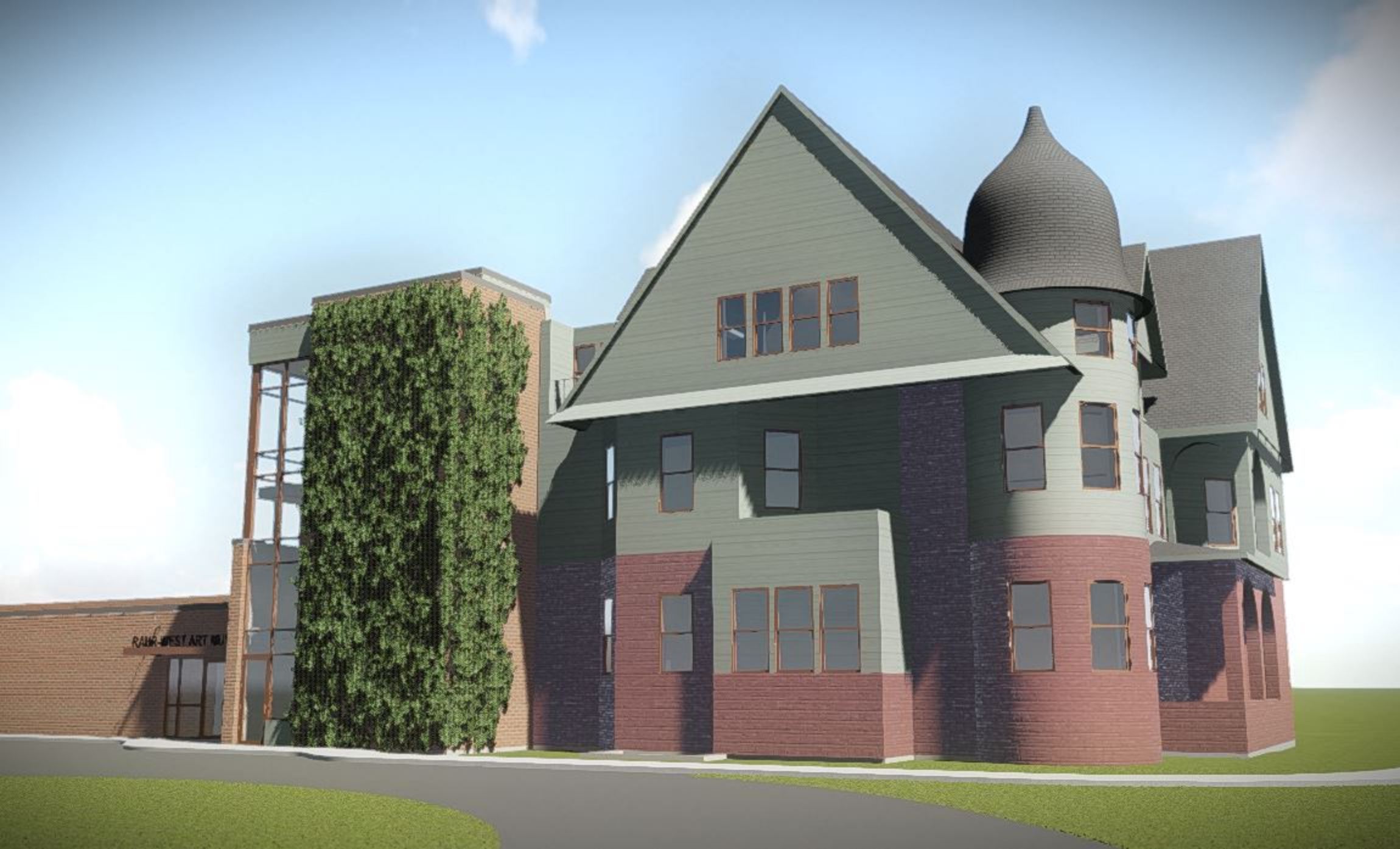


BAKER-WEST MUSEUM  
A HISTORIC HOME





ENTRANCE  
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RAIN WEST ART MUSEUM





RAHR-WEST ART MUSEUM



RAHR-WEST ART MUSEUM