

Jenifer-Spaight Historic District

The Jenifer-Spaight historic district consists of a historic residential area that occupies a three-block-long by two-and-a-half-block-wide triangular stretch of land in the middle of the larger Third Lake Ridge local historic district. As with the larger Third Lake Ridge area, the Jenifer-Spaight district contains houses that were built in Madison's pioneer era and examples of residential styles from then until the Great Depression.

In the first decades of Madison's existence, the western part of the Jenifer-Spaight historic district saw a significant amount of residential construction. Good examples of this early time that remain include Hyer's Hotel, built in 1854 (854 Jenifer Street), the Sauthoff house of 1857 (737-739 Jenifer Street), and the Shipley house of 1854 (946 Spaight Street). During Madison's boom period at the turn-of-the-last-century, most of the empty lots were filled in with houses built in the styles popular at that time, including Queen Anne, Craftsman, Prairie, and Four-Square.

The history of the district is the same as the history of the larger Third Lake Ridge historic district. This area, along with the Orton Park district, have been listed in the National Register because a larger percentage of the houses in these blocks area have been sensitively rehabilitated over the past two decades than in other parts of the district. It is only a matter of time before other sections of the local district become eligible for the National Register.