

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

Sauthoff House

(2) Historic (if applicable)

Sauthoff House

II. Location

(1) Street Address

739 Jenifer Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)

6th District, 1st Ward

III. Classification

(1) Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)

Building

(2) Zoning District

R-4

(3) Present Use

Residential

IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Name(s)

Richard Crabs

(2) Street Address

741 Jenifer Street

(3) Telephone Number

255-1896

V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Parcel Number

0709-134-1610-7

(2) Legal Description

Lot 7, Block 127

VI. Condition of Property

(1) Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)

Good

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Slightly altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original

(4) Wall Construction

Rose brick

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:

Sitting between Lake Monona and Jenifer Street is a square, 2 story vernacular house of remarkable rose colored brick. The style of the house has been variously derived from the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate. The flat roof is characterized by wide eaves and painted white brackets. The tall windows are symmetrically placed and capped by carved stone lintels on the first floor, and flat lintels on the second story. On the north side of the house is a 2 story square bay window structure painted white.

The house has been transformed from a single family dwelling to several apartments. Several windows on the south side of the house have been altered - one bricked in, and two filled with thick glass cubes. The front steps are not original.

For being almost 120 years old, the house appears to be in good condition. The only area requiring attention would be the brick work surrounding the doorway and the door itself.

The house enjoys an excellent lakefront view and terraced backyard. The front of the house is landscaped attractively with hedges and clusters of potted flowers.

**City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)**

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

Fredrick Sauthoff

(2) Original Use

Residential

(3) Architect or Builder

Michael Zwank (?), Bldr.

(4) Architectural Style

Vernacular

(5) Date of Construction

1857-58

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

Rose Brick

(7) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the significance of the nominated property and its conformance to the designation criteria of the Landmarks Commission Ordinance (33.01), limit of 500 words.

VIII. List of Bibliographical References Used

1. Tax Assessment Rolls, City of Madison, 1846-1900
2. City Directory, Madison, 1858, 1866, 1875, 1885, 1889-1975
3. "All Around the Town", Alexis Baas, Capital Times, June 3, 1950
4. U.S. Census, 1860
5. History of Dane County Biographical and Genealogical, Western Historical Association, 1906
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Anne V. Rugg and Lance M. Neckar

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

Research Committee of Landmarks Commission

(3) Address

2325 Center Avenue

(4) Telephone Number

241-3715

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

May 15, 1977

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

The Sauthoff House is particularly symbolic as a home of a nineteenth century merchant family who contributed to the growth of the city in its boom years and to the vitality of the small, but significant, enclave of German-speaking people who lived at the west end of Third Lake Ridge. This enclave of merchants, laborers, craftsmen, and the like contributed importantly to the provision of services which supported Madison's nineteenth century economic and physical growth. Not to be discounted, however, was the cultural role played by these immigrants, particularly the Sauthoff's. Additionally, the firm little brick house of vernacular stylistic derivation is a symbol of the stolid commitment these new arrivals made to the city.

Three generations of the Sauthoff family have occupied this house from 1857-8 to 1917. Its original owner was Friedrich Sauthoff, who with his wife, left Hannover, Germany at the age of 31. A year later, 1857, he began construction of his home at 739 Jenifer (or Rutledge as it was sometimes cited in the city directories.) Sauthoff had been trained at the Kaufmannsschule in Hamburg, a type of vocational training school, where he had apparently learned tailoring. However, for some time here in Madison he also worked for his neighbor Edward(?) Baus, a cigar maker located on King Street. Later Sauthoff was listed in the directories as a tailor and proprietor of gents' furnishings store. In 1875 he was in partnership with a man named Olson (later of Olson and Veerhusen?,) and in 1885 with his sons.

A brief glance at the neighborhood in the 1850's and 60's reveals that Sauthoff had at least three neighbors (within four houses) who were also German-speaking tailors, Jacob Schmitz, Joseph Lohrs and Adolph Klose. Living in Sauthoff's house in 1860 was a Hessian butcher, Johann Wissler. Across the street lived Michael Zwank, a Prussian mason who may have built Sauthoff's house. Next door lived Julius Vogel, a master turner (lathe operator) from Saxony. Cabinet makers, blacksmiths, and wagonmakers lived on Jenifer and Williamson rounding out the immediate neighborhood.

The Sauthoff's were active in community organization and cultural life, particularly those of Germanic derivation. They were athletically inclined. Friedrich and his son Gus were members of the Turnverein along with a number of their neighbors including John George Ott. Friederich was also a sailor and he raced his boat "Venus" on Lake Monona. Carrie, a daughter was an oarswoman and the first woman to swim across Lake Monona.

Gifted musically, the family contributed in many ways to the cultural life of the city. Friedrich was a member of the Maennerchor along with his neighbors Ott, C. Hinrichs, Baus, Joseph Kilb, and C.W. Heyl. His daughters Carrie and Anna played piano and sang taking lessons from their live-in teacher Anna Hudson. Louis, a son, was a member of the Fuller Theatre Orchestra. Fred, another son, played drums and later traveled with the Ringling Brothers Circus.

At one time Friedrich was also an alderman for the Sixth Ward. (c. 1885)