

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

(2) Historic (if applicable)

Ledwith Cottage - Klose Cottage

II. Location

(1) Street Address

748 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

C2

(3) Present Use

Residential

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

(1) Name(s)

Jack Taylor

(2) Street Address

2221 Oakridge - Madison

(3) Telephone Number

244-8511

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

(1) Parcel Number

0709-134-1623-0

(2) Legal Description

Block 128, Lot 8, 1/2 of lot 5

VI. Condition of Property

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

Fair

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Unaltered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original

(4) Wall Construction

Wood clapboard

(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:

The Greek Revival Vernacular cottage at 748 Jenifer Street is an unpretentious L-plan frame structure. Its clapboard is painted white, with black trim on the windows.

The principal 1½ story wing faces gable-side to the street. The other wing, containing porch and foyer, reaches perpendicularly from the main wing. It appears that both wings were constructed concurrently.

There are four large, plain symmetrically placed windows on the main wing, and one window and doorway on the other wing. The enclosed stoop contains an interesting, small arched peep-hole window.

The cottage sits on a small lot, a good distance from the street, with its back on Williamson Street. There is a stable in the back, which is now used as a garage.

Unfortunately the years have taken their toll on the cottage - it needs a coat of paint and the porch is in a distressed condition. Otherwise, it is a charming little cottage, utterly irresistible when the morning glories climb the front porch and flowers fill the tiny yard.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

James Ledwith

(2) Original Use

Residential

(3) Architect or Builder

(4) Architectural Style

Vernacular Greek Revival Cottage

(5) Date of Construction

1863

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

None of Significance

(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 Records 1846 - 1900
2. City Directories, Madison 1885, 1889 - 1975
3. "Century Old Cottage on Jenifer Street", Alexius Baas, Capital Times, January 9, 1949
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Anne V. Rugg

(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:

This dwelling is evidence of the mid-to-late-nineteenth century lifestyle of Madisonians of the entrepreneurial class. It is both architecturally and historically significant. Architecturally it is important as a remaining example of a type of dwelling common all over nineteenth century Madison and particularly on the business- and craft-oriented east side. It is also significant for the history it has witnessed, a history dotted with ethnic community linkages.

The architecture of the house is straightforward and modest. It is typical of the houses of the late Greek Revival vernacular, virtually unadorned. Lacking even the usual returns on the eaves, the house's only embellishment is a small arched window in an enclosed front stoop. A number of these sturdy L-plan dwellings of frame construction can still be seen in the city; however, their numbers have diminished in recent years.

Although owned for many years by members of the dominant German-speaking population of the west end of the Third Lake Ridge, the house was built by wagonmaker James Ledwith, a partner of the firm Bird and Ledwith on East Main Street. Five years after the construction of the house it was sold (in 1868) to Adolf Klose, a German-speaking tailor. He lived in the house for approximately twenty years before buying the Kircher House across the street at 733 Jenifer. Andrew Hippenmeyer, a butcher and alderman, moved to the house from Rutledge Street in the nineties. Hugo Vogel, a son of Julius Vogel (719 Jenifer) lived there from 1907-1946. The younger Vogel was a real estate broker and Madison City Treasurer. (see Sauthoff House nomination form for further description of the neighborhood in the 1860's.)