

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common
Jacob Wirth House

(2) Historic (if applicable)

II. Location

(1) Street Address
2817 Milwaukee Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)
District 16

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District
R4

(3) Present Use
Single family dwelling

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

(1) Name(s)
Edward J. Lazarz

(2) Street Address
2817 Milwaukee Street

(3) Telephone Number
244-5405

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

(1) Parcel Number
0710-052-2204-8

(2) Legal Description
Lot 1, Wirth Rep. of part of Lot 105
Farwell Addition

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?
Unaltered

(3) Moved or Original Site?
Original site

(4) Wall Construction
Red 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)

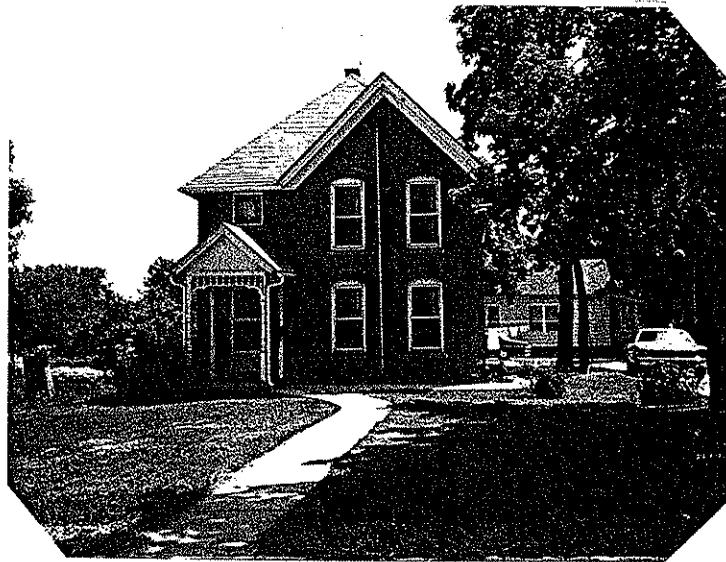
VI.(5) Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:

The house is a plain two story brick house built by Jacob Wirth in 1883. It is quite possible that Jacob Wirth built this house incorporating an existing older structure built between 1856 and 1873 by Frederick Stang. At the time of its construction it stood at the center of some acres of farm land as a farmette; an interesting example of a late 19th century suburb of Madison. The bricks for construction were made in the family brick yard believed to have been located where East High School now stands.

The house has four tall brick capped windows facing Milwaukee Street. To the left of the front facing windows is a small front porch with a penthouse roof, ornamented pillars and spindle scroll work of the period.

Entering the house there is an old fashion stairway to the four upstairs bedrooms. To the right is a large living room from which a square arch leads to the dining room with wainscoting belonging to the original part of the earlier house. Arches and doors are squarely capped and finished at the edges with medallions.

The house has remained virtually unchanged in nearly 100 years. Modern indoor improvements have not altered in any way this fine well constructed house.



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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner Jacob Wirth	(2) Original Use Residence
(3) Architect or Builder	(4) Architectural Style
(5) Date of Construction 1883	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Local 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. Abstract of Title from Government to June 1, 1932
2. Capital Times July 4, 1948 Article by Alexius Baas
3. State Historical Society Necrology F902,3ZN7, V29, P130 (Jacob Wirth)
4. Madison City Directory 1883-84
5. Reg. of Deeds - General Index of Grantors 1835-1915 (Deeds book 37, P506, Dane County Plat Book)
6. Probate Register - General Probate File of Cty Court (Roll 171-A-19)
7. State Historical Society - Blooming Grove Census 1870
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title Keith L. Stich and David W. Stich	
(2) Organization Represented (if any)	
(3) Address 624 S. Thornton Ave. Madison, Wis. 53703	(4) Telephone Number 256-6492

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared December 1, 1982
--

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

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

The Jacob Wirth house is significant primarily for its example of late 19th century suburban living. The house was built outside of Madison on a small parcel of farmland; it being one of several farmettes in the late 1800 along Milwaukee Street. Located on the corner of Milwaukee Street and Wirth Court (named after Jacob Wirth) it has remained in the same family for nearly 100 years.

Jacob Wirth was born in Germany coming to America alone at the age of 15. He came to Madison in about 1881. He married Anna Gerstenbrei and purchased the property described as E. 3/5 of Lot 105 Farwell addition to Madison. In 1883 he built a house of bricks he made himself at the family brick yard located at the present site of Madison East High School.

The Wirths had seven children all born in the house at 2817 Milwaukee Street. Jennie Wirth was married to William H. McCormick, an early Madison chief of police. Their daughter Rosella and husband Edward Lazarz are the present owners.

The house has retained all of its original charm and historical fabric. It stands today as a late 19th century example of the simple country life.

Addendum to Landmark Nomination
2817 Milwaukee Street
the Stang-Wirth house

The Stang-Wirth house was originally constructed between 1861 and 1873 for Frederick Stang, an immigrant from Bavaria who settled in the Town of Blooming Grove to become a market gardener. In 1883 the house was significantly enlarged by Jacob Wirth, a laborer who worked for many years for Fuller and Johnson.

The house is significant for three major reasons. The first is its association with an early market gardener, Frederick Stang. The market gardening phenomenon is one that naturally occurred in suburban fringes of pioneer cities. In Madison, in the year 1870 for example, there were about a dozen families who made their livings by producing market vegetables and fruit for the Madison area. Of those farms, only about four farmhouses remain: Hickory Hill (a Madison Landmark) on the west side, the John Sachs house at 2838 Milwaukee Street, about a block away from the Stang-Wirth house, and the Ernst Sommers house at 2212-2216 St. Paul Avenue, built by Philo Dunning early in the history of the Madison area. The Stang-Wirth house is, therefore, significant as one of the few remaining homes connected with the suburban market gardeners.

The home was constructed, according to family legend, of brick from the Girsten-brei brickyards. This soft red brick was produced in the area around Union Corners at the west corner of the intersection of Milwaukee, Washington and North Street. Of the approximately four buildings remaining constructed of this brick, the Stang-Wirth house retains more of its historic integrity than the others. Therefore, it is significant as a representative example of a building constructed of a locally indigenous material.

Thirdly, the home is significant simply as one of the few suburban houses on main roads leaving Madison which still retains most of its historic features. Very few houses in Madison retain as much of their original appearance as the Stang-Wirth house.