

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

Normal Barn

(2) Historic (if applicable)

Normal Hall

II. Location

(1) Street Address

1155 E Lakeside Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)

14th Aldermanic District

III. Classification

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

Building

(2) Zoning District

C

(3) Present Use

Park Shelter

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

(1) Name(s)

City of Madison-Parks Department

(2) Street Address

210 Martin Luther King Boulevard

(3) Telephone Number

266-4711

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

(1) Parcel Number

0709-252-0701-5

(2) Legal Description

T7N R9E, Part W1/2 Described as follows...

VI. Condition of Property

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

Good

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Relatively Unaltered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original Site

(4) Wall Construction

Wood Posts and Vertical Board

(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 Wisconsin State Journal described the Normal Hall in its July 30, 1884 edition as follows, 'A fine large pavilion has been erected in which the normal work is to be conducted. The building is 45x60 feet in size and has a seating capacity for 450 persons. It is a strong, airy structure of one story and one half...The edifice is located upon the apex of the ridge almost directly opposite the boat landing...The location is slightly and airy and the building fills a want which has long been felt.'

The Normal Hall was originally an open pavilion. Wooden walls consisting of vertical tongue and groove boards have since been permanently attached. The building features board and batten siding and exposed rafters under the eaves. A clerestory that had existed directly below the gabled roof has been removed. Skylights exist in the roof.

The frame of the building consists of fourteen chamfered posts with jigsaw brackets. The interior trusses feature a similar design. Structural support has been added with the addition of two I-Beam posts and a crossmember located within the interior of the building crossing the center from wall to wall. Stringers have also been added to give support to the outer walls. Neither of these changes noticeably affect the attractiveness of the building.

The building remains relatively unaltered and appears to be structurally sound. It has been well maintained and is presently painted tan and dark brown.

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

**VII. Significance**

**(1) Original Owner**

Wisconsin Sunday School Assembly

**(2) Original Use**

Lecture Hall

**(3) Architect or Builder**

David R. Jones

**(4) Architectural Style**

Vernacular

**(5) Date of Construction**

1884

**(6) Indigenous Materials Used**

None

**(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. Mollenhoff, David, Madison: A History of the Formative Years, Dubuque, Kendall-Hunt, 1981.
2. Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Wisconsin. David Atwood Publisher. Feb. 13, 1882; July 26, 1882; Mar. 23, 1882; July 30, 1884.
3. Morris, Theodore, Chautauqua. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1974
4. Centennial Edition 1839-1939, Wisconsin State Journal, Madison, Wis. September 24, 1939.
5. Treasurer's Report, Wisconsin Sunday School Assembly. Dec. 5, 1884 entry.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**IX. Form Prepared By:**

**(1) Name and Title**

Joseph G. Bauknecht

**(2) Organization Represented (if any)**

**(3) Address**

124 Mary St. Cambria, Wis. 53923

**(4) Telephone Number**

414-348-5054

**(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared**

January 19, 1988.

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

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

The Normal Hall was built in 1884 as a lecture hall for the Wisconsin Sunday School Assembly. The Assembly first met in August 1881 on the grounds of the old Lakeside House. In 1882 the Assembly bought the 28 acre parcel. During the assembly sessions the grounds resembled a tent city, with Japanese lanterns, an auditorium, a dining hall, normal hall, and a rustic temple. The circular shaped auditorium could seat up to five thousand, which made it the largest room for popular gatherings in the state.

Steamships and trains were scheduled to stop at the grounds and a streetcar line was eventually built to serve the camp. People came from all over the Midwest and the population of the temporary community sometimes ran as high as 15,000, which was more than the population of Madison at the time. Nationally known lecturers and entertainers spoke at the assembly including President McKinley, William Jennings Bryan and Bob LaFollette.

In 1912 the City of Madison purchased the old assembly grounds for a park. In 1919 Monona Park was opened up to tourist for camping, making it the first municipal camp east of the Rocky Mountains. The hall during those years was used as a dance hall.

The Normal Hall is the only surviving building of the Monona Lake Assembly and is one of the few remaining buildings connected with Madison's heyday as a resort community.

The Normal Hall as well as the other original Assembly buildings were attributed to architect David R. Jones in the Centennial Edition of the Wisconsin State Journal. This is further substantiated in the Treasurer's Report for the Wisconsin Sunday School Assembly.

David R. Jones, born in Dolyddelen Wales in 1832, was one of the leading architects in the state in the 1870's and 1880's. His best known remaining designs in the Madison area are the Washburn Observatory and Music Hall. During the years he maintained a practice in Madison, (1873-1885), he was the most prolific architect for the State government. In 1883 the collapse of the south wing of the State Capitol during construction blemished his reputation as an architect and he therefore went into semi-retirement in 1885. After leaving Madison, he became known as one of the best Welsh poets in America and was known nationally among the Welsh American community.