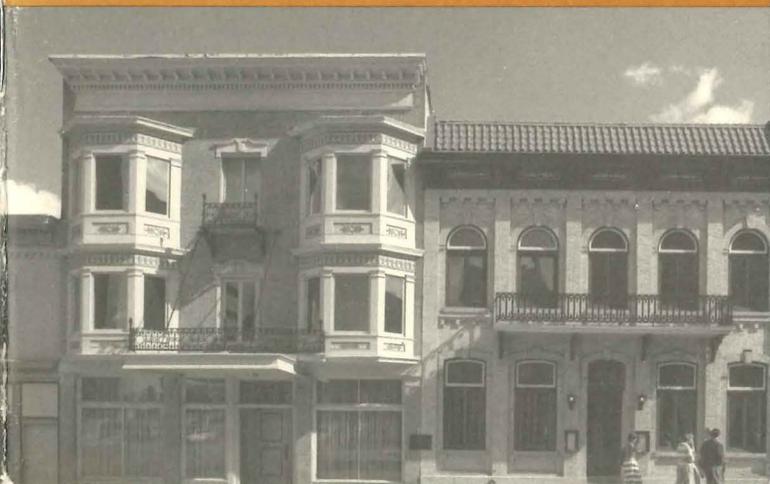
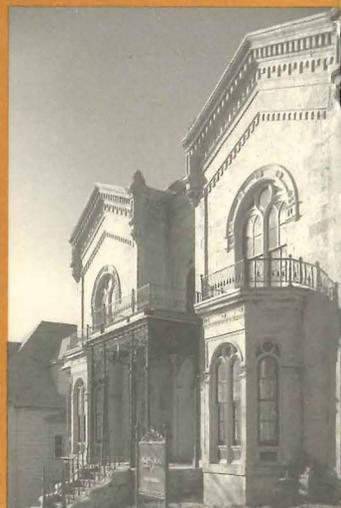
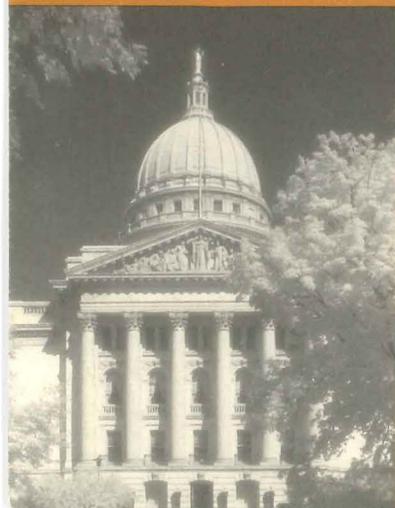
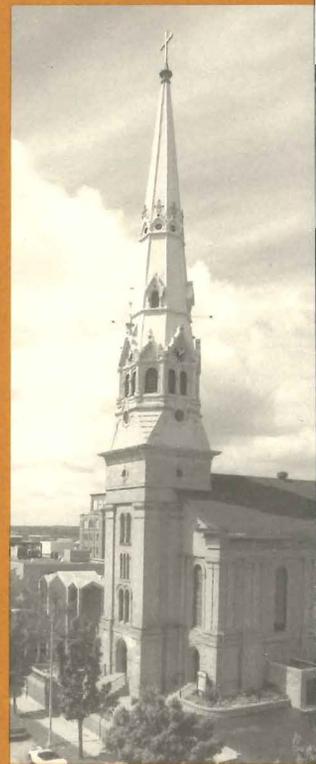
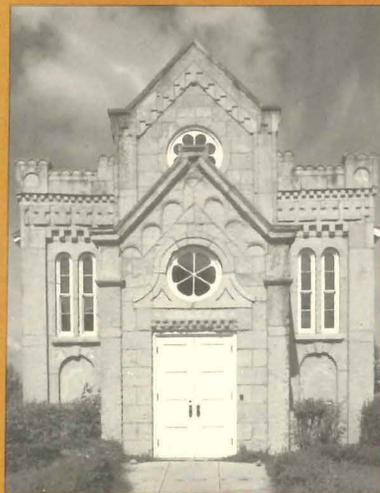
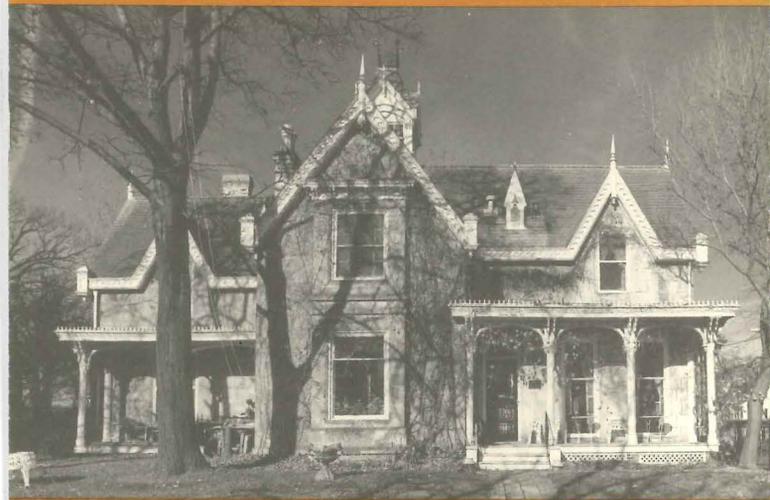


DO NOT REMOVE

# Madison's Pioneer Buildings

*A Downtown Walking Tour*

A Madison Heritage Publication



# Madison's Pioneer Buildings

*A Downtown Walking Tour*

Written by John Gruber  
Edited by Katherine Rankin  
Photographs by Jeff Dean

1987

Second Edition 1996

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A Madison Heritage  
Publication

The Madison Landmarks Commission is producing the Madison Heritage Publications series in recognition of the need for appreciation and preservation of the city's remaining historic buildings and sites. Many of the buildings included in this booklet are private residences. In viewing them, please respect the privacy of the owners and occupants.

# The Birth of a City

Judge James Duane Doty first saw Madison's isthmus in May, 1829, when he and two others were the first white people to travel overland from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien. Doty, a federal judge who later became governor, recognized the potential profit in the beautiful "Four Lakes Region," as it was called, and with his friend, Governor Stevens T. Mason, of Michigan, bought 1,200 acres of isthmus land from the government for \$1,500.

Madison was one of 17 prospective cities, including Fond du Lac, Belmont and Dubuque, offered by eager land speculators to the 1836 territorial legislature as the future capital. Some jealous wags claimed that Doty gained the favor of legislators by passing out buffalo robes to warm them in the hastily erected and drafty meeting hall in Belmont. But it was probably Doty's personal charm and first-hand knowledge of Wisconsin's geography that resulted in the territorial legislature selecting the paper town of Madison as the new capital in November of 1836.

The isthmus was first settled by a white family in April, 1837, when Eben and Rosaline Peck built a log cabin on what is now South Butler Street. The Peck's "Madison House" boarded 35 construction workers who arrived in June, 1837 to begin building the first capitol.

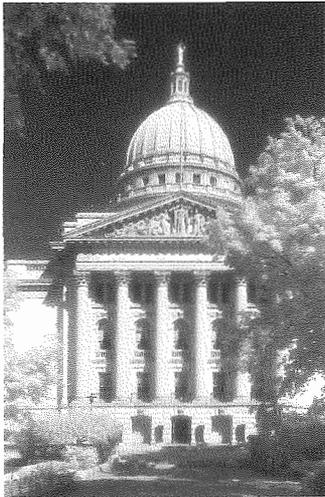
In 1846, Madison, a small pioneer settlement with a population of 626, became an incorporated village. In 1848, when Wisconsin became the 30th state, the capital city was selected as the site for the new state university. The first University of Wisconsin building, now called North Hall, was built on Bascom Hill two years later and is recognized today as a National Historic Landmark.

Tremendous growth followed statehood, and Madison became a city in 1856 when it had a population of 6,864. Most of the historic buildings in this booklet were built about that time. The area north of the Square, near Langdon and East Gilman Streets, was one of two prestigious residential neighborhoods, as evidenced by the ele-

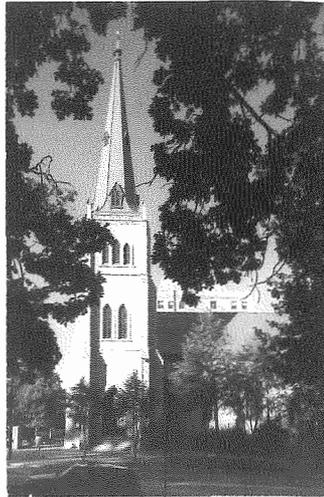
gance of many of these houses. This area was often referred to as "Yankee Hill" or "Big Bug Hill," and today is known as "Mansion Hill" (the other prestigious residential area was located around the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., and Wilson Street and has been obliterated by the construction of large office buildings).

Many of the fine houses, commercial buildings and churches constructed in the era before the Civil War were built of Madison's golden-colored sandstone, lending a unique local flavor to the several nationally popular architectural styles of the day. The stone was quarried near Hoyt Park, the hills of Shorewood, the hill where the main unit of Meriter Hospital is now and Maple Bluff.

Three pioneer architects designed several of these early structures: August Kutzbock (1814-1868), Stephen V. Shipman (1825-1905), and John Nader (1838-1919). Kutzbock, trained in Germany, came to Madison in the early 1850s from New York state about the same time as other New Yorkers involved in Madison's boom following statehood. He was in partnership with Samuel Hunter Donnel until Donnel's death in 1861. Kutzbock did drafting work of all types, including floor plans, perspectives, details and garden plans. Although he was proficient in the architectural styles popular in America at the time, his best works show the strong influence of contemporary German design. The Old Synagogue (300 E. Gorham) and the McDonnell/Pierce house (424 N. Pinckney) are two examples of his finest work. Shipman, who learned the building trade from his father in Pennsylvania, arrived in Madison in 1855. Shipman, a Civil War hero, went to Chicago in 1870 where he became a well-known architect after the great fire. The Mason-Baker Block (1 N. Pinckney) is from Shipman's hand. Nader, born in New York, came to Wisconsin in 1869. He was appointed assistant U.S. engineer in charge of the Wisconsin River Improvement at Portage in 1871. He served as city surveyor for Madison in the 1870s and 1880s and designed Madison's first sewerage system. He first listed himself as an architect in the city directories in 1883. Nader designed St. Patrick's Church (404 E. Main) and the Suhr Building (102-104 King).



Wisconsin State Capitol



Grace Episcopal Church

## Wisconsin State Capitol (1)

### *Capitol Square*

Dominating the skyline of the city and located at the heart of the downtown is Madison's third capitol building. The white granite structure was designed by George B. Post, a well-known architect of the Beaux Arts tradition. The building preceding this one was designed by August Kutzbock (who also designed many homes on nearby Mansion Hill) and Stephen V. Shipman. It was built over 12 years from 1857 to 1869 with two large wings added in the 1880s. In 1904 the state had just begun studying the need for a larger building when a disastrous fire seriously damaged the old structure. The new capitol was built wing by wing, at a cost of more than \$7,000,000, and took eleven years to complete (1906 to 1917).

The gold leafed "Wisconsin" atop the dome was created by renowned sculptor Daniel Chester French on the cliffs overlooking the Hudson River. The site afforded French the opportunity of seeing the piece from the same perspective as we have today from the ground level of the square. For tours, call 266-0382.

Madison Landmark, National Register

## Grace Episcopal Church (2)

*6 N. Carroll Street*

Grace Episcopal, built in 1855-1858, is the only remaining church of the four that fronted on the capitol square in the 19th century and is the oldest extant building on the square. It was designed by James Douglas, Milwaukee, a proponent in Wisconsin of the Gothic revival in domestic and church architecture. The sandstone construction was supervised by James Livesey. Additions through the years, including the large 1894-1895 Guild Hall facing W. Washington Avenue, have been made in the original style of the building, inspired by early English Gothic designs.

The architectural dignity that characterizes the church is due partly to Douglas' skillful arrangement of forms and to the beauty of the memorial windows. The vibrant baptistry window was designed and fabricated in 1899 by Louis Comfort Tiffany's firm in New York.

Madison Landmark, National Register

## Holy Redeemer Church (3)

*120 W. Johnson Street*

The church, a downtown landmark, is the second oldest Catholic church in Madison and the first German Catholic church built in the city. The congregation, founded by about 80 families in 1857, replaced its first church with the present structure in 1865-69. James Livesey, a veteran contractor, stone-cutter, and builder, constructed the church of random ashlar sandstone. The architectural beauty of the edifice is credited to local architect John Nader who oversaw a major remodeling campaign in 1880 that included renovations to the roof and spire. The building was enlarged in 1892. Holy Redeemer has one of the few church interiors in Madison that retain an old world flavor.

Since its construction, the church has been a social center in the downtown area. It accommodates meetings of many groups, especially the elderly.

The hall and offices next door at 140 W. Johnson Street were dedicated as a church school in 1892, the parsonage at 120 W. Johnson Street was built in 1885, and the school sister's dwelling at 129 W. Gorham Street dates to 1894.

Madison Landmark

## Bowen/Bartlett House (4)

*114-116 W. Gorham Street*

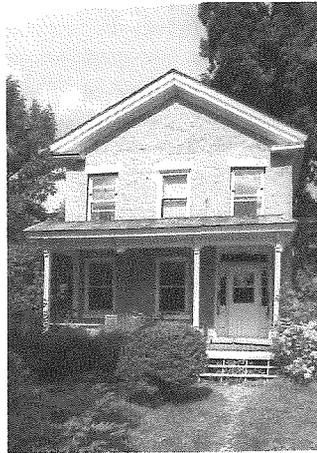
Built in 1853 for Susan and Dr. J. B. Bowen, a successful homeopathic physician, this Greek revival structure is constructed of native red brick. Bowen, mayor of Madison in 1871, became in the same year director and president of the new Park Savings Bank. The Bowens lived in this house for only three years. Their spacious home on their estate at 302 S. Mills Street is now a Madison landmark.

Bowen's partner, Dr. Edward G. Bartlett and his wife, Jane, lived in Bowen's house from 1856 to 1864. Other prominent Madison people who lived in the house included Flora and James E. Moseley, a long-time book and stationery store owner (1865-1873); and Mary and George Gernon, who was associated with the Fuller and Johnson implement business (1873-1903).

Holy Redeemer Church



Bowen/Bartlett House



Stevens House

## Stevens House (5)

*401 N. Carroll Street*

This massive brick residence in the Italianate style was built in 1863 for Madison lawyer Daniel K. Tenney and his wife, Mary Jane, who sold the house to Breese J. and Emma Stevens in 1870. Tenney, who practiced law in Chicago from 1870 to 1897, gave a large sum for the establishment of Tenney Park. His opposition to industrialization and promotion of scenic beauty earned him the title "Madison's favorite curmudgeon."

In 1877 after marrying his second wife, M. Elizabeth, Stevens renovated the house, adding the gracious veranda and decorative bay windows. An influential lawyer, Stevens specialized in railroad, land-grant, and water litigation. He was an important figure in Madison's development and served as mayor in 1884-85, curator of the State Historical Society, and regent of the university from 1891 to 1904. Amelia E. F. Stevens, a daughter, lived here until the 1960s. The house next door at 415 N. Carroll Street was built in 1909 for daughter Elizabeth and her husband, Dr. Reginald Jackson.

Madison Landmark



White House

## White House (6)

114 W. Gilman Street

Built in 1856 by Julius T. White, secretary of the Wisconsin State Insurance Co., and his wife, Catherine (see also 11), the sandstone house has significance in the life of naturalist John Muir. In the early 1860s, Muir was a frequent guest of Prof. Ezra S. Carr and his wife Jane, who lived here from about 1859 to 1868. Mrs. Carr shared Muir's interest in botany and instructed him in the humanities. Muir described the Carr's home as "filled with books, peace, kindness, and patience."

Joseph W. Hobbins, an early Madison business leader, built an addition to the house in 1885. Hobbins came to Madison as a child in 1852. After 10 years of experience in the insurance business, he founded the Hobbins Insurance Co. of Madison. He turned over the insurance agency to his brother in 1883 as he organized the Capitol City Bank, in which he was cashier and vice-president. His wife, Mary, was born in Madison and later served as president of the Associated Charities and vice-president of the second district of the Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs in 1914-15. The Hobbins family owned the house from 1873 to the 1930s.

## Van Slyke House (7)

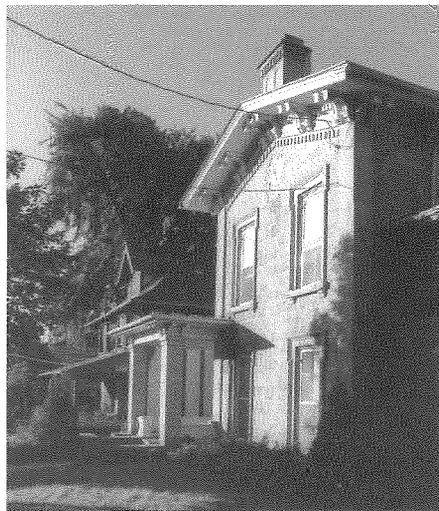
510 N. Carroll Street

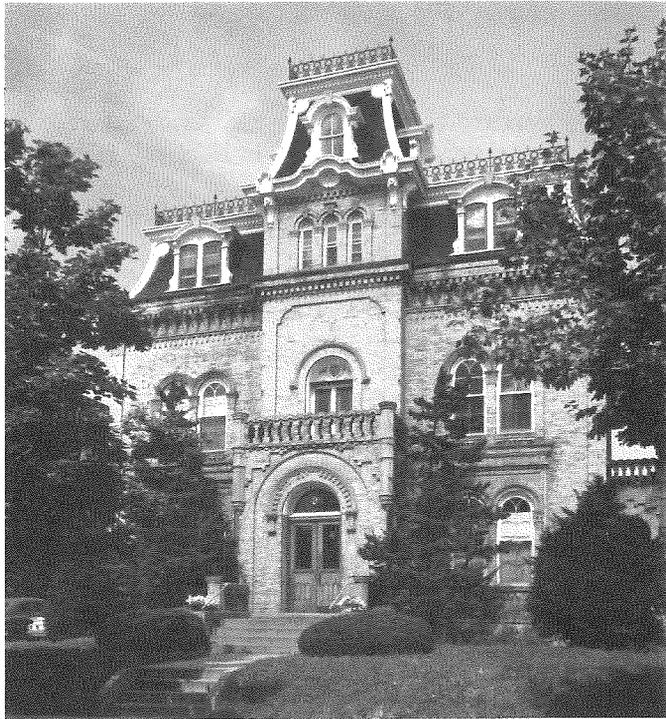
Though originally built for hardware dealer Samuel Fox and his wife Lorain in 1858, this Italianate house was acquired the next year by Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke, then cashier of the Dane County Bank, and his second wife, Annie. The house, a fine example of indigenous sandstone construction, is characterized by the alternating pattern of large and small stones laid up in ashlar courses, a distinctive German masonry technique. Even such details as window mouldings and porch piers are executed in sandstone. The grounds originally extended from Gilman to Langdon Streets.

Van Slyke continued his association with the bank after it was reorganized in 1863 as the First National Bank, serving from 1865 as its president. Van Slyke assisted in the early development of the University of Wisconsin, serving as a regent from 1848 to 1879. He also was active in the movement to erect the first city hall, in the selection of the Forest Hill Cemetery site, and in the purchase of the city's first fire engines. Van Slyke was a wheeler-dealer whose financial maneuverings sometimes raised eyebrows, but he survived the scandals and died as a revered pioneer in 1909.

Madison Landmark

Van Slyke House





Keenan House

## Keenan House (8)

*28 E. Gilman Street*

The last of the four houses constructed on the Pinckney-Gilman corner is a dwelling that was designed in 1857 probably by August Kutzbock for Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke and his wife, Laura. However, the Yankee banker never lived in the house, and it appears that its first resident owners were Ellen and James Richardson, a close friend of the Van Slykes and a real estate speculator and banker.

The original design is quite unusual and may be called German Romanesque revival. In 1870 the Second Empire style mansard roof was added. Dr. George Keenan, a prominent Madison physician and United States consul to Kiel and Bremen, Germany, and his wife, Mary, lived in the residence from 1900 to 1916.

Madison Landmark



Kendall House

## Kendall House (9)

*104 E. Gilman Street*

John E. Kendall from New York built this sandstone home in 1855, the first of the four houses at the corner of Pinckney and Gilman, but he sold it six months later to land speculator James Richardson. The house was originally styled by August Kutzbock in the Italianate mode, with a low, hipped roof and a cupola. However, in 1873 a mansard roof was added to adapt it to the modern French Second Empire style. In the late 1860s, at the height of Madison's resort era, this mansion was used as a summer home by the family of a wealthy St. Louis railroad man.

Early in the 20th century, the house was graced by a frame porch across the entire front of the first floor. Ironwork with spiked finials danced along the roof line. Although not as elegant appearing as when constructed, the Kendall house remains a focal point on Mansion Hill.

Madison Landmark



Old Governor's Residence

## Old Governor's Residence (10)

*130 E. Gilman Street*

The Knapp Memorial Graduate Center, built in 1856, served as the executive residence for 17 Wisconsin governors from 1885 to 1950. Through the years, it has been the scene of many elegant social functions.

Its first owners, Julius T. and Catherine White, built the Italianate style home of locally quarried sandstone (see also 6). White sold the house in 1857 to one of Madison's first settlers, George P. Delaplaine and his wife, Emily. Delaplaine was secretary to Governors Farwell and Dewey and co-owner of one of the largest real estate development firms in the city. In 1867 the house rose to greater social prominence when it was purchased by State Senator J. G. Thorp, a millionaire lumber baron, and his wife Amelia. The Thorps' young daughter, Sarah, married Ole Bull, the world-famous 60-year-old Norwegian violinist in 1870 in one of the most lavish weddings the town had ever seen.

Jeremiah Rusk bought the home for \$15,000 in 1883, when he was elected governor. After extensive renovations, the house was sold to the state in 1885 for a sum "not to exceed \$20,000." Renovations by architects Conover and Porter in 1897 included a sweeping wrap-around veranda with

Ionic columns, which was drastically reduced in size in the 1960s. The center was purchased in 1950 by the University of Wisconsin with Knapp funds.

Madison Landmark

## Bashford House (11)

*423 N. Pinckney Street*

This towering Italian villa style residence was built of sandstone in 1855 for banker H. K. and Pamela Lawrence, friends of Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke. The Lawrences lived here only a few years. Pioneer architect August Kutzbock's incomplete journal mentions interior and garden design work for Lawrence, so it is possible that the accomplished design of this house was from Kutzbock's hand. Old photographs show elaborate Victorian gingerbread on balconies and porches and a formal flower garden to the south, where an apartment building now stands.

Morris E. and Anna Fuller and their family lived in the house for many decades beginning in 1865. Fuller, who came to Madison in 1856, started an agricultural implement distributorship four years later. During the Civil War, Fuller took charge of buying supplies for Camp Randall, including providing the government with 6,000 horses.

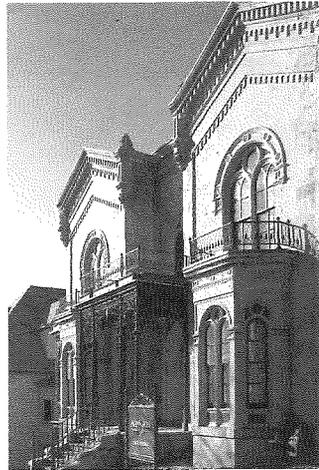
By 1880 Fuller's agricultural implement dealership sold 5,500 to 8,500 "Wood" mowers a year throughout the Midwest. He took on John Johnson as a partner and the business became known as Fuller and Johnson.

The Fullers' daughter, Sarah, married Robert M. Bashford in 1889, and they lived in the house until Bashford's death in 1911. Bashford served in several public offices: city attorney, 1880-86; mayor, 1890; state senator, 1892; and supreme court justice, 1908. From 1916 to about 1928, Dr. Corydon and Bessie Dwight owned the house. Dwight was a physician whose avocation was the development of the Vilas Park zoo. The house was divided into apartments and rooms in the 1930s.

Madison Landmark



Bashford House



McDonnell/Pierce House

## McDonnell/Pierce House (12)

424 N. Pinckney Street

The Mansion Hill Inn is a fine extant Romanesque revival house built in 1857-58 for Alexander A. and Francie McDonnell. It was designed by the architectural partnership of Samuel Hunter Donnel and August Kutzbock. The ornate stonework closely parallels that of the second capitol in Madison, for which McDonnell was the contractor in 1857-59, Donnel and Kutzbock the architects, and the same Prairie du Chien sandstone the building material. Many of the decorative details on the house are said to be duplicates of designs used in the old state capitol building. The house may well be the finest domestic example of the German Romanesque revival remaining in the United States.

Among the former residents of the house were Rebecca and J. H. Garnhart, owner of the Garnhart Reaper Works; Orasmus Cole, Wisconsin Supreme Court justice who married Garnhart's widow; and Sarah Fairchild Dean Conover (sister of Governor Fairchild), who was influential in civic, social, and political activities. During the latter half of the 19th century, the house was the scene of many elegant social events. George and Carrie Pierce used it as their residence and boarding house from 1906 to 1938. The Alexander Company converted it to a luxury hotel in 1985.

Madison Landmark

## Keyes House (13)

102 E. Gorham Street

The rambling brick Italianate style house was built for local speculator Lansing W. Hoyt, and his wife, Melvina, in 1853. It was later occupied by Elizabeth M. and Elisha W. Keyes who made extensive additions and alterations to the house. Keyes was a powerful state political "boss" who was appointed postmaster by Abraham Lincoln in 1861, serving 20 years in that position. In the 19th century, postmasters wielded a great deal of political power because they controlled many jobs that they could give to political supporters.

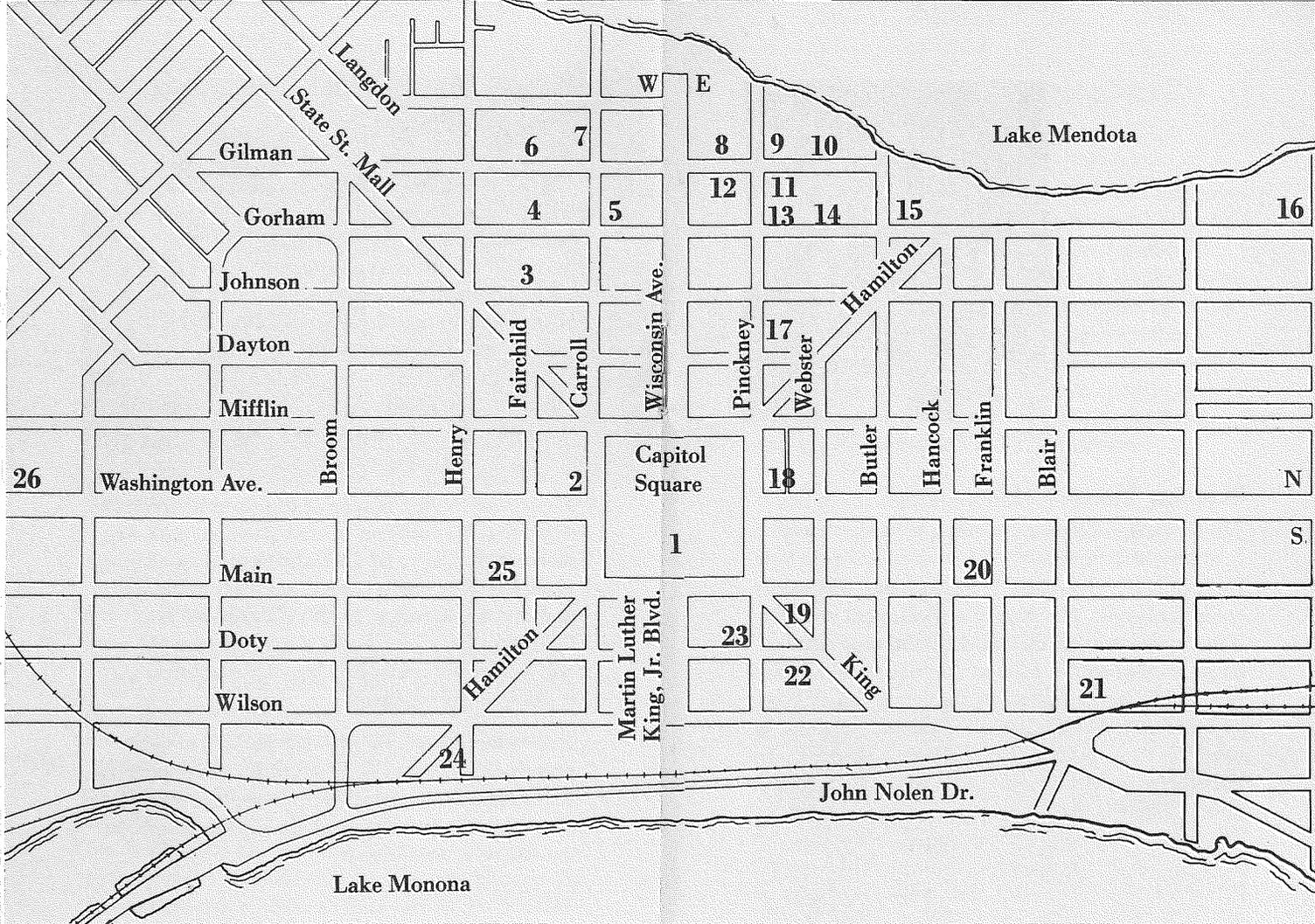
Keyes was elected mayor of Madison in 1865, the city's first Republican in that position, and was reelected in 1866 and 1886. He served as a University of Wisconsin regent, state assemblyman, and municipal judge. In the Progressive era, "Fighting Bob" La Follette made Keyes the symbol, somewhat undeservedly, of the political corruption of big business.

The original front yard of this house has been preserved as Period Garden Park. Area residents campaigned successfully to protect this open space after plans to build a large apartment house on the site were announced.

Madison Landmark

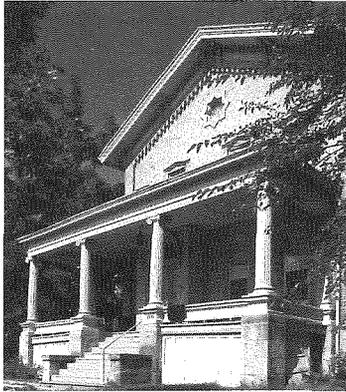
Keyes House





1. Wisconsin State Capitol, Capitol Square
2. Grace Episcopal Church, 6 N. Carroll Street
3. Holy Redeemer Church, 120 W. Johnson Street
4. Bowen/Bartlett House, 114-116 W. Gorham Street
5. Stevens House, 401 N. Carroll Street
6. White House, 114 W. Gilman Street
7. Van Slyke House, 510 N. Carroll Street
8. Keenan House, 28 E. Gilman Street
9. Kendall House, 104 E. Gilman Street
10. Old Governor's Residence, 130 E. Gilman Street
11. Bashford House, 423 N. Pinckney Street
12. McDonnell/Pierce House, 424 N. Pinckney Street
13. Keyes House, 102 E. Gorham Street

14. Brown House, 116 E. Gorham Street
15. Gates of Heaven Synagogue, 300 E. Gorham Street
16. Leitch House, 752 E. Gorham Street
17. Bird House, 215 N. Pinckney Street
18. Mason-Baker Block, 1 N. Pinckney Street
19. Suhr Building, 102-104 King Street
20. St. Patrick's Church, 404 E. Main Street
21. Chicago and North-Western Depots, 133 S. Blair Street
22. Fess Hotel, 123 E. Doty Street
23. Hooley Opera House, 120-128 E. Pinckney Street
24. Stoner House, 321 S. Hamilton Street
25. St. Raphael's Cathedral, 222 W. Main Street
26. Milwaukee Road Depot, 640 W. Washington Avenue



Brown House

## Brown House (14)

116 E. Gorham Street

Built in 1863, the cream brick residence is in the Italianate style. The stately neo-classical veranda dates to the turn-of-the century. Timothy Brown came to Madison in 1855 at the request of a fellow New York stater, Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke, to be a part of a growing Yankee contingent in the "Big Bug" or Mansion Hill area. Brown quickly became the cashier and principal stockholder of the Dane County Bank. With others he reorganized it into the First National Bank in 1863. In 1870, Brown took control of the floundering Madison Gas Company and turned it into a financially sound business. Brown's real estate holdings and business investments made him a well-known commercial figure and one of Madison's wealthiest people. In civic affairs, he served as treasurer of the board of regents, alderman, county supervisor, and leader of the Dane County cavalry during the Civil War. His wife, Elizabeth, continued to live in the house until her death in 1896. Mrs. Brown's house became the center of a family compound.

Later residents of the Brown family homestead included three justices of the state supreme court: Charles V. Bardeen; Robert G. Siebecker, chief justice and a law partner of Robert M. La Follette; and Timothy Brown, also a chief justice and a grandson of the original owner. A rambling carriage house is to the east.

Madison Landmark

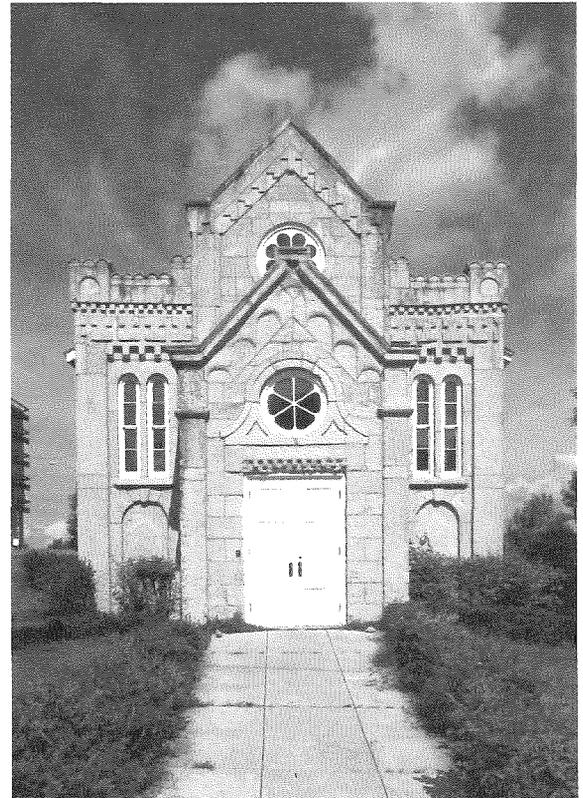
## Gates of Heaven Synagogue (15)

300 E. Gorham Street

This early German Romanesque revival sandstone and brick structure, designed by August Kutzbock and erected in 1863, housed the congregation of Shaare Shomaim for 16 years. It was the first synagogue in Madison and is one of the oldest surviving synagogues in the nation. It also has served as a kindergarten, the Mission Tearoom, a dentist office, the Gill Funeral Home, a Unitarian church, an English Lutheran church, the Church of Christ, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist.

When it was threatened with demolition, a group of citizens organized to move the building from its original location at 214 W. Washington Avenue to James Madison Park.

Madison Landmark, National Register



Gates of Heaven Synagogue

## Leitch House (16)

752 E. Gorham Street

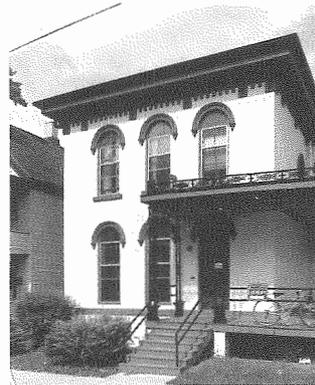
This fine Gothic revival style house in the Andrew Jackson Downing cottage tradition was constructed for William T. and Jane Leitch in 1857 just after they arrived in Madison. According to legend, the buff colored sandstone was quarried in Westport, and carried across Lake Mendota on barges. The exterior of the house is characterized by ornate bargeboards lining the gables and by a cupola perched at the central peak of the roof.

Leitch, a New York clothier, and his wife were originally from Scotland. Leitch served three consecutive terms as Madison's mayor beginning in 1862 and was also president of the school board and city assessor. When selling in 1880, the owners described the house in a *Wisconsin State Journal* ad as "replete with every convenience for a comfortable and pleasant home. The stable, carriage house, cow house, etc., are all stone buildings. The grounds . . . are laid out in lawn, fruit, and vegetable gardens. The view of Fourth [Mendota] Lake is unsurpassed."

From 1881 to 1902 Moses R. Doyon, a banker, lived here with his wife, Carolyn, during which time he served as alderman, mayor, and member of the school board. The next owners, from 1902 to 1934, were Bella and Nils P. Haugen, Wisconsin state tax commissioner, state assemblyman, and U. S. congressman. Prof. Asher Hobson, a top agricultural economist, and his wife, Thea, also owned the house.

Recently the house was extensively renovated by Steve Lotharius and Roz Anderson.

Madison Landmark, National Register



Bird House



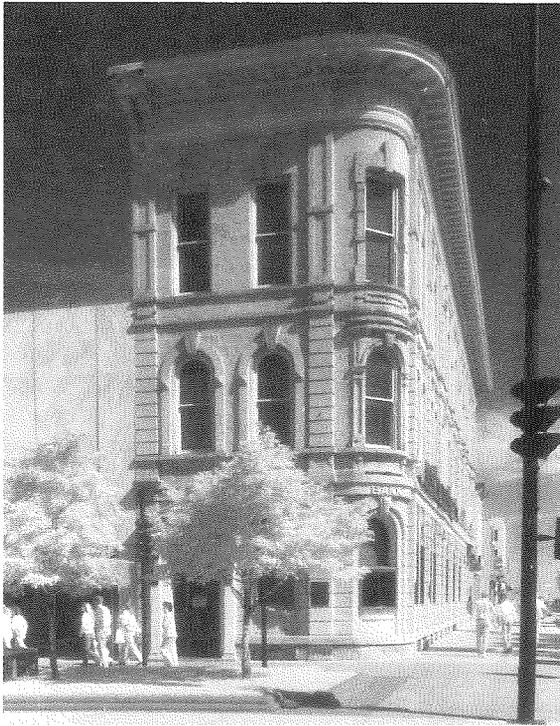
Leitch House

## Bird House (17)

215 N. Pinckney Street

The Italianate, white brick house was built in 1861 by Truman E. and Ellen M. Bird. Bird came to Madison in 1855 to join his brother, Ira, in a carriage manufacturing business. Truman Bird represented the second ward in the city council in 1862. He and his wife lived here until the 1880s, when they followed a pattern typical of many early settlers and moved further west, in this case, to Salt Lake City.

The Bird house is quite distinctive in design, with round-arched, four-over-four windows, a quatrefoil window on the south side, delicate wrought iron railings, and a mansard roofed addition to the rear. It retains better than most houses in Madison the delicate and profuse decoration that is so representative of the Victorian era.



Mason-Baker Block



Suhr Building

## Mason-Baker Block (18)

*1 N. Pinckney Street*

Built in 1871, the old American Exchange Bank is one of the last remnants of the large three or more story sandstone blocks that dominated the capitol square from the 1850s to the 1950s. It is located on the site of the old American Hotel, where the first session of the Wisconsin legislature was held. Its architecture, by Stephen V. Shipman, is a fine example of the Italian Renaissance revival, displaying excellent craftsmanship in sandstone. The building originally extended five bays along N. Pinckney Street. This part was destroyed by fire in the 1940s.

The bank building's occupants through the years were pioneer banking establishments which contributed greatly to the growth and development of the community. Opened in 1871, the building housed the Park Savings Bank on E. Washington Avenue, and two stores on N. Pinckney Street with insurance and other offices above the stores. The First National Bank occupied the building from 1881 to 1922, when the American Exchange Bank (see also 19) moved in. During alterations in 1911, the southeast facade facing East Washington Avenue was extended to the east by seven more window bays and the main entrance relocated to the west corner of the building facing Pinckney Street. The decorative elements above the cornice were removed and the frieze below the cornice received a more elaborate treatment.

Madison Landmark, National Register

## Suhr Building (19)

*102-104 King Street*

The sandstone Italianate structure, historically known as the German-American Bank block, was designed by John Nader. Nader purposely designed the building in an old-fashioned style to blend with the older sandstone structures on the block. The Suhr Building was occupied by the

bank from the time of its construction in 1887 until 1922. Founded in 1871 by John J. Suhr as the German Bank to serve Madison's largest ethnic population, it was incorporated in 1885 under the banking laws of Wisconsin and its name changed to the German-American Bank. During World War I, the name was again changed, to American Exchange Bank. The bank moved to larger quarters at 1 N. Pinckney Street (18) in 1922.

The back part of the building housed the Huegel-Hyland shoe store for half a century.

Part of Simeon Mills Historic District, National Register

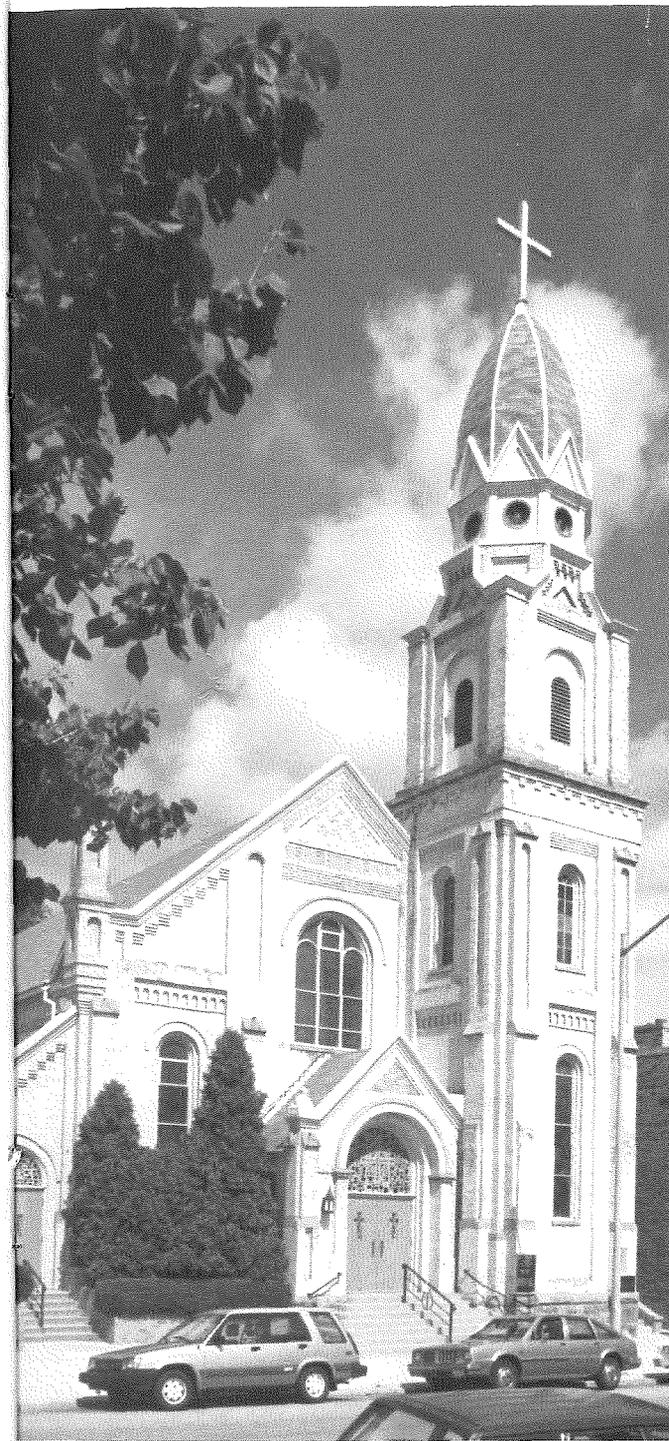
## St. Patrick's Church (20)

*404 E. Main Street*

St. Patrick's is the third oldest Catholic parish in the city, having been created to accommodate large numbers of people who could not be served by St. Raphael's (see 25). The Romanesque revival style building was designed by John Nader, a pioneer Madison architect and civil engineer. Nader came to Madison in 1873. According to an obituary, his "plans for St. Patrick's Church and a number of east end residences are among his best works."

Since its dedication on St. Patrick's Day in 1889, the parish has maintained a strong Irish membership. A growth in the congregation necessitated a widening of the church in 1902. Major renovation to stabilize the building was undertaken in 1957.

Madison Landmark, National Register



St. Patrick's Church



Chicago and North-Western Depots

## Chicago and North-Western Depots (21)

*133 S. Blair Street*

The MG&E offices include two former Chicago and North-Western buildings, a freight station opened in 1906 and a passenger station completed in 1910. Both railroad buildings were designed by Frost and Granger (see 26). The busy passenger station, which once boasted of a fine dining room, was built of Bedford stone in “an attractive white color” similar to the C&NW’s Chicago station, designed by the same architectural firm. Division offices were located here from 1933 to the late 1950s.

The passenger station was sold to MG&E in 1965, a few months before C&NW passenger service ended, as the railroad consolidated its freight offices at Monona Park on E. Johnson Street. MG&E remodeled the passenger station into an operations center. Later, the freight depot was purchased, turned into an energy exhibit hall, and both buildings blended into MG&E’s new office complex, dedicated in 1983.

Part of the East Wilson Street Historic District,  
National Register

## Fess Hotel (22)

*123 E. Doty Street*

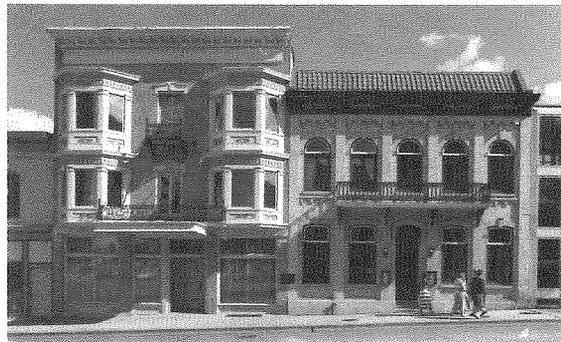
The Fess Hotel, owned by the Fess family from the 1850s to 1970s, has one of the longest records of service to the public of any business establishment in the city. It is a fine example of middle and late Victorian commercial architecture combined in one structure, the exterior of which remains intact.

George E. Fess, an immigrant from England, and his wife, Anna, started out with a grocery store and “eating house” next door where a parking ramp stands today. They expanded into the hotel business, adding the present buildings on the east, the street facades of which were constructed in Milwaukee cream brick in the early 1880s and St. Louis rose brick in 1901. Originally, the hotel included livery barns and an ice house.

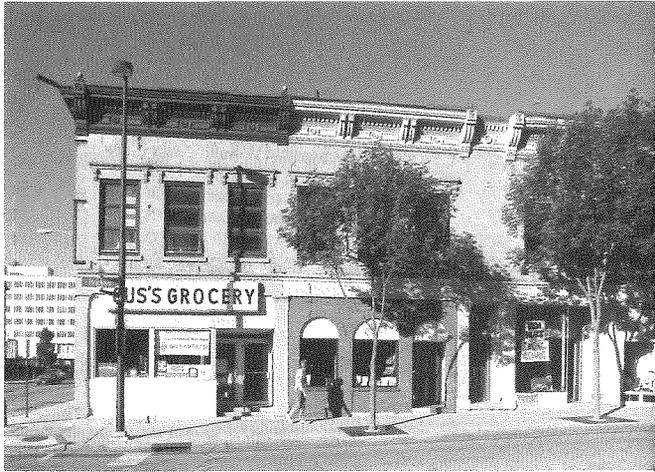
Never catering to the wealthy, the Fess lodged a variety of visitors. Juries, legislators, travelling salesmen, and weekly boarders all took rooms at the Fess. Its location near the railroad stations and its reasonable rates made it a natural stop for rail passengers. Carrie Nation stayed in the Fess in 1901 because it did not have a bar, although several saloons were within a stone’s throw.

Today’s restaurant and outdoor garden is an example of wise recycling and adaptive-use preservation.

Madison Landmark, National Register



Fess Hotel



Hooley Opera House

## Hooley Opera House (23)

*120-128 N. Pinckney Street*

Madison's first theater, built in 1856, was on the third floor of Peter Van Bergen's business building on Pinckney Street. General Tom Thumb's show played for the grand opening in what was then known as Van Bergen's Hall. The hall closed in 1868 after a troupe of actors refused to appear on its stage because they feared the roof was weakened. When reopened in 1871, the theater became known as Hooley's Opera House. A variety of shows, from *La Traviata* to burlesque, played until 1884. Noted personalities included Buffalo Bill, Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Ida Livingston, Fanny Davenport, and Thomas Keene. The structure was weakened by steam from a Turkish bath opened in 1882, and the top two floors had to be razed in 1885, ending the building's theater career.

The building is associated with an early minority family. George and Carrie Williams, barber and hair dresser, operated the Bazaar of Fashion in the building for many years. George Williams came to Madison in 1850, was a janitor and later manager of the opera house and Turkish baths. Carrie Williams manufactured hair goods. Her brother, William H. Noland, was listed on the ballot for mayor in 1866.

As of this writing, the facade has been taken down. It will soon be rebuilt as the three-story building it was originally.

Madison Landmark

## Stoner House (24)

*321 S. Hamilton Street*

This imposing two-story Italianate structure now occupied by the Wisconsin Society of Architects was built in 1855 of Madison sandstone. Joseph J. and Harriet Stoner lived here from about 1865 to 1884. Stoner operated his nationally-known business - publishing panoramic (or bird's eye) views - from the house.

Thomas and Susan Regan purchased the residence in 1886. Susan Regan died a year later, Thomas Regan, owner of a plumbing firm and master plumber at the state capitol, lived in the house with his four daughters until his death in 1915. The daughters, who inherited the house, moved the kitchen to the first floor and in its place in the basement built recreation and laundry rooms.

The house was sold to Varley and Ellen Bond in 1922. The Bonds extensively remodeled the house between 1923 and 1926. Bond was associated with Manchester's, then Madison's leading department



Stoner House

store, from 1921 to 1942. He died in 1950; Mrs. Bond sold the house in 1957, and subsequently it was used as a small office building.

For ten years the house stood vacant until in 1983 it was donated to the Wisconsin Architects Foundation, and moved 100 feet north. Renovation, completed in October 1984, provides space for the society's offices and a small museum.

Madison Landmark, National Register

## St. Raphael's Cathedral (25)

*222 W. Main Street*

Construction started in 1853 on this robust early Romanesque revival church of Madison sandstone, and was largely completed in 1862. It was dedicated by Bishop Henni on November 13, 1966. The steeple, designed by John Nader, was added in 1882.



St. Raphael's Cathedral

The first mass for Madison's Catholic community was in the home of James Sullivan in 1843. Later, in 1848, a small wooden church on lots donated by Governor Doty was erected on West Main Street. Father Francis Etschmann, the second pastor of St. Raphael's, secured enough money to begin building a new, more imposing structure during a statewide fund-raising drive in 1853. Over the years, St. Raphael's has served as Madison's Irish Catholic congregation. The surrounding Bassett neighborhood was known in the 19th century for its strong contingent of people of Irish descent. Many Irish folk came here in the 1850s to help build the rail lines and stayed to work in the rail yards. St. Raphael's is now the cathedral for the Madison diocese.

## Milwaukee Road Depot (26)

*640 W. Washington Avenue*

Opened in 1903, the Milwaukee Road station and baggage building stand as a reminder of the importance of railroad transportation in the growth of Madison. The brick structures were designed by Frost and Granger, a prominent Chicago architectural firm that also designed the Chicago and North-Western station (21) in Madison and railroad buildings across the Midwest. The West Madison site has been associated with transportation since 1854 when the first rail line, the Milwaukee and Mississippi, reached Madison. The Milwaukee Road, the first of three major railroads that historically served Madison, made a vital contribution to the commercial life of the city by bringing tourists, legislators, university students, and soldiers, particularly during World War II. As the major freight transporters, the three railroads enabled Madison to become a wholesale and distribution center large enough to serve farmers and agricultural industries throughout the Midwest.

The outside appearance of the depot has changed little over the years, although dormers have been removed and in 1928 the roof was raised on the baggage building to provide a meeting room for the railroad's women's club. As part of a remodeling in 1940, the original station entrance was



Milwaukee Road Depot

closed and two waiting room windows converted to doors to accommodate larger crowds. The railroad maintained a park behind the station from shortly after its opening to 1940, when a parking lot was built.

Scheduled passenger service to Madison ended in 1971, but Amtrak maintained a ticket office here until 1978. Milwaukee Road freight offices were located in the station until its remaining Madison operations were moved to the east side in 1983. Today, the large yards have been reduced to two tracks used by the Soo Line, which purchased the Milwaukee Road in 1985.

Madison Landmark, National Register

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