#9

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common
Van Slyke House

(2) Historic (if applicable)
Van Slyke House

II. Location

(1) Street Address
510 N. Carroll

(2) Ward
Fourth

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District
R-6

(3) Present Use
Multiple residence

IV. Current Owner of Property

(1) Name(s)
Darrell MacIntyre c/o Mrs. Corrin Schell

(2) Street Address
5 So. Meadow Lane

(3) Telephone Number
233-3570

V. Legal Description

(1) Parcel Number
0709-144-1118

(2) Legal Description
Original Town; parts of lot 10 and 11, block 61

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

(3) Moved or Original Site?
Original

(4) Wall Construction
Local sandstone

(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 Van Slyke house consists of a two and a half story central section, gable ended, plus two story wings on both the northwest and southwest sides. The orginal house was built of sandstone and has been changed only slightly by the addition of a wooden two story porch in the back. There is a scar on the front of the house, probably from a fraternity emblem.

The central section is distinguished by large block stone pillars at the corners. The outer wall construction is an excellent example of local techniques whereby alternate squares of large and small stones were used to achieve a multipatterned facade.

The details of the house provide pleasing decoration. Moulded stone window framing completely surrounds the tall floor length windows, top, bottom and sides in the central section with the bottom section supported by stone brackets. The northwest wing has simple stone lintels and sills. At the top of the building, a dental corbel of stone matches a wooden dental cornice moulding. Ornate brackets set in pairs (except for the center where three are placed) support a medium overhanging, low pitched, gable ended roof. An original one story front porch consists of stone pillars supporting a flat roof, with a low stone wall set on a concrete foundation. The main entrance is framed at the top by a semicircular carved stone arch which ends in ornamental pendants. There are four chimneys two of which are in original condition with dental corbels and two which have been repaired, one of which still retains a dental corbel.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner N. B. Van Slyke	(2) Original Use Residence
(3) Architect or Builder	(4) Architectural Style Italianate Victorian
(5) Date of Construction c. 1863	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Wisconsin Sandstone

(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. Richard E. Perrin, Historic Wisconsin Buildings, Chapter VII "Quarried Rock Buildings".
2. Sandstone and Buffalo Robes, # 16.
3. Alexius Baas, "Architectural Detail Makes Old Home on Carrol St. One of City's Most Outstanding," The Capital Times 7/11/48.
4. History of Dane County: Biographical and Genealogical (Madison: Western Historical Association, 1906) p. 927FF.
5. History of Dane County Wisconsin (Chicago: Western Historical Society, 1880), pp. 1040, 738.
6.
7.
8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title
P. Richard Wagner

(2) Organization Represented (if any)
Citizens Resource Committee

(3) Address 136 E. Gorham St.	(4) Telephone Number 257-5270

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared
Dec. 19, 1971

City of Madison Landmarks Commission

LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

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

The Van Slyke House touches on all four criteria for designation as a Madison Landmark. Tradition ascribes this house to August Kutzbach and a comparision with the Pierce House shows a definite relationship to the firm of S. H. Donnell and August Kutzbach, two of Madison's most skilled early architects.

The masonry of the Van Slyke House is a fine example of a local characteristic in sandstone buildings. This type of work is unique to a small area running from Madison to Mazomanie and Sauk City. Perhaps the most indigenous architectual feature of South Central Wisconsin, this method of alternating large and small stones was perfected by local German stone masons. Most of this type of masonry exists in rural buildings and the Van Slyke House is notable as an urban example of this work.

Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke an important businessman of Nineteenth Century Madison built and resided in the house from the 1860's to 1909. Coming to Madison from New York, Van Slyke formed the Dane County Bank in cooperation with Levi P. Vilas and Leonard V. Farwell. Van Slyke's connection with the bank brought him into contact with Timothy Brown who served as cashier of record, and when the bank was reorganized as the First National Bank with directors Breese J. Stevens, William F. Vilas, Andrew Proudfit, and James E. Moseley. Befitting a successful businessman Van Slyke took an active role in the community including the erection of city hall, selection of Forest Hill Cemetery, and purchasing the city's first fire engine. He served as a regent of the university from its organization until 1872 and as a member of the first city council of Madison.

The Van Slyke House iteself typifies the residential mansion built by the builders and founders of the city of Madison. As such it remains a document in stone of the economic and social history of our city. It is an integral part of the neighborhood of "Big Bug Hill" and certainly N.B. Van Slyke was one of the most important of the "Big Bug."