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

I. Name of Building or Site Brown House

| (1) Common | (2) Historic (if applicable) |
|---|---|
| Brown House | Timothy Brown House |

II. Location

| (1) Street Address | (2) Ward |
|---|---|
| 116 E. Gorham | 4th |

III. Classification

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

| (2) Zoning District | (3) Present Use |
|---|---|
| R6 | Multiple Unit Dwelling |

IV. Current Owner of Property

(1) Name(s)
Catherine J. Key and Oscar Jensen

| (2) Street Address | (3) Telephone Number |
|---|---|
| 116 East Gorham St. | |

V. Legal Description

| (1) Parcel Number | (2) Legal Description |
|---|---|
| 0709-144-0415-1 | Lot 16 Block 96, Original Plat |

VI. Condition of Property

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

| (2) Altered or Unaltered? | (3) Moved or Original Site? |
|---|---|
| Unaltered | Original Site |

(4) Wall Construction
Stone foundation; brick walls

(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:

In plan the Timothy Brown Houses combines two main blocks of different sizes, a front squat L-shaped one, and attached to that an oblong extending towards the rear of the property. Brick is the predominant building material and stone blocks form the foumdation. A gable roof with gables at the front, the west side, and the back extends beyond the outside wall. The overhanging eaves are supported by brackets. A denticulated course of bricks below the brackets follows the roof line along the front and sides of the house. Below that an eight-pointed star window graces the pediment. Bricks form pilasters at the corners of the house. The entranceway on Gorham Street at the front gabled end projects from thenwall of the building. The arched door is surmounted by a hood-mould. A wood porch supported by fluted Ionic columns wraps around the front of the house. Five windows appear in the immediate front of the house -- two large narrow windows in the first story and three smaller ones in the second aligned with the door and those in the first story. Two windows (one in each story) also aligned with each other are tucked in the angle of the L to the left of the entranceway. Lintel moulds top all of the windows. The fenestration of the west side of the house is marked by the presence of bay windows done in wood and continous to one another for two stories. Another eight-pointed star window appears in the pediment. The fenestration on the east side of the house continues the motif of narrow windows topped with lintel moulds.

Though "Sandstone and Buffalo Robes" labels the Brown House a Greek Revival house, an argument can successfully be made for an Italianate influence.in the style. Several features account for That: the simple but studied irregularity of its mass; the roof extending beyond the outside walls and supported by brackets; the porch, not a portico; the rounded door and hood-moulding; the narrow windows; and the bay windows not usually part of the Greek Revival design. Though the entrance at the gable end and the pilasters in the corners of the building are more typical of the Greek Revival, the Italianate influence does predominate. The Italianate, however, was not a pure style. It did not exclude classic influences,especially in details. The Timothy Brown House is one of those 19th century houses in which the individual architect combined elements of two styles in search of his own expression.

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

VII. Significance

| (1) Original Owner | (2) Original Use |
|---|---|
| Timothy Brown | Residence |
| (3) Architect or Builder | (4) Architectural Style |
| | Italianate |
| (5) Date of Construction | (6) Indigenous Materials Used |
| 1864-65 | 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. Sanborn Insurance Maps.
2. Peat. Indiana Houses of the 19th Century.
3. Madison Tax Assessment Records.
4. Madison Street Directories.
5.
6. Madison Public Library Street File.
7. Wisconsin Necrology.
8. Madison Then and Now.


IX. Form Prepared By:


(1) Name and Title
Marsha Peters, Citizens Resource Committee

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

| (3) Address | (4) Telephone Number |
|---|---|
| 415 Wisconsin Ave. | 256-5047 |


(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared 5 December 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 solidity and elegance of the Timothy Brown House well represents the milieu of nineteenth century social and business entrepreneurship in Madison. Its location in the proximity of Big Bug or Mansion Hill establishes it as a residence quite suited to a man who was a powerful banker and investor. Timothy Brown came to Madison in 1855 at the request of Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke. Van Slyke, a friendof Brown's from the East and himself a prominent businessman, invited the bank cashier from New York to become his cashier at the Dane County Bank. Brown's rise was rapid. By 1864 he was a founder of the First National Bank of Madison and its principal stockholder. He later was a vice-president and a director. By 1870 he owned a large portion of the Madison Gas Company and had substantial investments in other Madison businesses.

After Brown died in 1870, his widow, Elizabeth, lived in the house until she passed away in the late 1890's. The next occupant of the house as of 1898, was an important figure in the Wisconsin judiciary, Charles V. Bardeen. Bardeen, at one time Madison city attorney, superintendent of schools, and judge in the 16th Judicial Circuit, won election to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 1898. Justice Bardeen lived at 116 until 1908-9 when William Marshall, a University of Wisconsin professor, took up residence. He stayed a short while, for in 1911 the Madison Street Directory lists Charles Burgess, another UW professor, as the occupant. His stay was also short. By 1914 Robert G. Siebecker, one of the most prominent residents of 116, had moved in. Siebecker, a brother-in-law and law partner of Robert Marion LaFollette, Sr., was a justice and later in 1920, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He lived in the Brown House until 1921. In 1922, Timothy Brown, a grandson of the builder and also a Wisconsin Supreme Court justice, moved in and resided there until 1936.

The Timothy Brown House then, was a residence for many prominent figures in state and local business, political, and judicial life. Its importance as a Madison landmark rests on that historical foundation. It is a solid one.