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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common: St. Patrick's Church

(2) Historic (if applicable):

II. Location

(1) Street Address: 404 East Main Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk): 4th

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District: R6

(3) Present Use: church (and school)

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

(1) Name(s): St. Patrick's Parish

(2) Street Address: same

(3) Telephone Number: 257-3555

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

(1) Parcel Number: 0709-133-1909-6

(2) Legal Description: Orig. Pl. SE44' of NE 66' of Lot 5 and SW 132' of Lots 4 and 5 block 267

VI. Condition of Property: Good - Excellent

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered? Slightly altered

(3) Moved or Original Site? Original site

(4) Wall Construction: stone foundation, superstructure of white brick

(5) On a separate sheet of paper, describe the present and original physical construction and appearance (limit 500 words).

THIRD OLDEST

City of Madison Landmarks Commission
LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

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

St. Patrick's Church today looks basically the same as it did when it was finished in 1889. At that time the Wisconsin State Journal described it in this way:

"The walls are 24 feet high and the ground dimensions are 117 feet long and 46 feet and 12 inches wide. Under the sanctuary there is a room 22 by 40 feet which is used as a winter chapel.....the spire, which is on the left front flank of the church, is one hundred feet high from the water table. The foundation, including the water table, is stone. The superstructure is constituted of white brick with stone cuttings".

The architect was John Nader who had planned Our Lady of Consolation Church in Oregon, Wis., and the builder was Timothy McCarthy who also built St. Paul's University Chapel in 1910.

The plan is basically a long rectangle of two stories accentuated by four storied tower topped by a narrow dome on the left side of the entrance. A smaller tower echoes the larger one on the right side of the doorway which protrudes from the main body of the church. Two large round arched windows face the street while the side of the building is lined with a series of paired round arch windows with small circular windows above. F.D. Kinsella of Chicago provided these windows in 1888 for $800.

A growth in the early congregation necessitated a widening of the church in 1903. On both wides of the building were added nine feet, six inches of additional space. Because of the demolition of the original walls, five supporting pillars had to be erected on each side. This widening had the effect of making the church look triangular in shape. (as it does today)

Originally an old home and later a rectory occupied the lots directly next to the church. Today this area is almost completely covered by a modern parish house.

The original interior was designed by Odin Oyer, a Norwegian artist from LaCrosse. The Daily Madison Democrat described his adornment as "a triumph of art" and concluded that, "the interior of St. Patrick's is probably the most beautifully decorated of any church in the Northwest". The interior was redecorated ##########in July 1950, by the Bernard Greunke Studio.

The building was strengthened and protected by improvements made in 1957. These renovations included reenforcing the flooring, laying new floors, and improving the plumbing, heating and electric systems. The interior was also renovated at this time, ##########, in a more modern style.

NOTE: The architect, Col. John Nader, was also the architect of the John J. Suhr residence at 121 Langdon Street, built c. 1883.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner	(2) Original Use
St. Patrick's Parish	Church
(3) Architect or Builder John Nader, architect Timothy McCarthy, builder	(4) Architectural Style
(5) Date of Construction 1888	(6) Indigenous Materials Used white brick, stone base

(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. Father Leo Rummel, History of St. Patrick's Church. Madison, Wis. 1958.
2. Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 7, 1971.
3. Wisconsin State Journal, March 18, 1889.
4. Madison Past and Present 1852-1902 (Madison, 1903).
5. ###### Daily Madison Democrat, April 12, 1896.
6.
7.
8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title
Lucie Vogel

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

(3) Address	(4) Telephone Number
18 Sherman Terrace, Apt. 5	241-1643

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared
Dec. 1, 1971

City of Madison Landmarks Commission

LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

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

St. Patrick's Church deserves designation because it reflects the original appearance of the city, it was deemed outstanding when it was built, it reflects cultural and social history of Madison, it is identified with formerly active members of the Madison community, and because it continues to have the capacity for public use and enjoyment. It is a visual landmark to those familiar with the skyline around the Square, it is in good condition, and it has served and continues to serve important public functions to the people of Madison.

St Patrick's Parish was formed as an outgrowth of St. Raphael's Church in the 1880's. The congregation at St. Raphael's had become too large so a dividing line was drawn through Monona and Wisconsin Avenues with those living east of this line attending St. Patrick's. The Church was dedicated on St. Patrick's Day in 1889 and through its first priest, Father Knox who had come to America from Limerick, Ireland, the church soon became identified with the Irish people in Madison.

During the first 69 years of its existence, the parish had only two parish priests. These two men differed in their style, but both contributed to the life of Madison in many ways. Father Knox widened his influence through the establishment of the School at St. Patrick's which has continued to function to the present. Father Knox apparently had a knack for public life and became involved in many community activities such as the Catholic Summer Sessions, and the Madison Literary Club. Identified as Madison's Irish Church, he and his parishoners stood behind Irish rights in the community and watched with interest the progress of Irishmen in all fields. As the current Father Doherty wrote at the dedication of the parish hall, "Our parish properties are tangible evidence of countless prayers and sacrifices on the part of priests and people".

St. Patrick's continued to thrive under the leadership of its second parish priest, Father Grace, a less public figure who continued to develop the internal resources of the church. His philosophy is summed up by a note from his first sermon, "The real criterion of a priest's work is not how fine a church or school he may build, but his work in 'a supernatural aspect'".

Under the current parish priest, Father Doherty, renovation of the building has occurred with the addition of new interior decoration. "All these additions, transformations, and embellishments give the edifice an 'alive' atmosphere and make it a brighter, more appealing place for prayer and worship".

The church and school today continue to perform those valuable social, religious, and educational functions to the Madison community which have marked its entire existence.