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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common	(2) Historic (if applicable)
Gordon E. Harman residence	William T.Leitch House

II. Location

(1) Street Address	(2) Ward
752 East Gorham Street	Second

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District	(3) Present Use
R-4 Residential	Single family home

IV. Current Owner of Property

(1) Name(s)
Gordon E. and Edith Jane Harman

(2) Street Address	(3) Telephone Number
752 East Gorham Street	255-4069

V. Legal Description

(1) Parcel Number	(2) Legal Description
0709 - 132 - 1505 - 4	Original plat Doyon's Subdivision of Lots 8 & 9, Block 138, Lots 2 and 10.

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?	(3) Moved or Original Site?
Exterior unaltered Some minor interior alteration	Original site

(4) Wall Construction
Exterior sandstone 18-22 inches thick
Interior double layered brick 10-20 inches thick

(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 present physical structure is a remarkable preservation of the original, constructed of quality materials by dedicated craftsman. The building has retained its basic appearance for 118 years. The only exterior change took place 12 years ago when the present owners painted the wooden trim (porches, doors, windows, gables, etc.) in white to point up the clover design of the gable ginderbread. Changing the color from faded "tender brown" to white brought out the architectural lines of the overall structure as well as details of the decorative cornices, pear-shaped gable-pointers, and curved window mouldings. Typical features are numerous highpitched gables, buttresses, five ta 11 chimneys topped with chimney pots, doors and windows pointed or flat with moulded headings, Tudor style.

Mr. Leitch brought both architect and workmen with him from New York. The labor was paid for by the day, the total cost approximating $14,000, a large sum for those days. The structure was patterned after the Gen. Timothy Pickering house in Salem, Mass.

The fine structure has a steep slate roof on which stands a "lantern," or glass-enclosed cupolo reached by a winding stairway and topped by a wrought iron railing. The five large chimneys service nine fireplaces. Of the fireplaces, three are faced and mantled in White Italian marble; one is ivory-flecked cocoa marble, brass-framed; one is butter-tiled with musical cherubs, another is faced with hand-painted stylized flower tile and mantled in Renaissance design, and others are in original brick.

The house contains three stairways from main to second floor. A beautiful spiral stairway with black walnut newell post graces the central reception hall. Another walnut staircase leads from the library, and a third open stairway leads from the rear of the house. The house contained the first indoor bathroom in Madison, a device considered very plush for the era. Original details remain, such as the na rrow lath wainscoting and lead piping. However, the original boxed tin tub has been replaced with a small pocelain "Duncan Phyfe" style with ball and claw feet. This is the only bathtub in the house, other than a portable tin model which, when placed by the kitchen stove, can be filled with water heated by tea kettle. During the '30's, Prof. Asher Hobson further modernized the W.C. facilities by installing comfort stations in former hoop-skirt closets and a storage area beneath the front stairway. The present owners restored the marble and porcelain plumbing fixtures.

The cook's quarters were originally in the English basement beneath the East wing of the house. Food was cooked in a large fireplace and sent by dumb-waiter to the "warming" room above and kept over another fireplace. The handsome etched glass arched panel of the two main front doors with matching transoms are original, as are the heavy plate windows (complete with bullet holes), porcelain doorknobs, high-ceiling friezes, etc. The house was connected by tunnel to the former "castle" owned by the Walker family (Giddings Park area).

According to UW Prof. Jack Keinitz, the house is one of the finest examples of American Gothic Revival architecture in the United States.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner	(2) Original Use
Mayor William T.Leitch	Town residence
(3) Architect or Builder August Kuntzbock, architect Napoleon Bonapart Van Slyke,builder	(4) Architectural Style Victorian Gothic Revival
(5) Date of Construction 1854-1857	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Golden sandstone quarried in Westport, barged across Lake Mendota, hand-cut on shore of property site.

(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. State Historical Library and Archives
2. Durries's History of Madison 1874,p.294
3. Butterfield's History of Dane County 1880
4. Register of Deeds office, Dane County
5. Official City of Madison records, City Clerk's office.
6. "Madison Urged to Save Relics of Architecture" by Alice and Bettina Jackson, Wisconsin State Journal of May 6, 1923
7. "Madison Houses" by Jill Marx, published 1968
8. "Foundation to Save Historic Sites" by Frank Custer, The Capital Times of June 21,1968.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title
Gordon E. and Edith Jane Harman

(2) Organization Represented (if any) This nomination submitted by the Taychopera Foundation Inc,. the owners, Christine Legreid Barnes (Mrs. Robert),and other concerned Madisonians.

(3) Address	(4) Telephone Number
752 East Gorham Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703	255-4069

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared
March 15,1972

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

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

The Leitch house is one of a nearly extinct species of stone houses which represented Southwest Wisconsin's reputation for the finest stonework in the nation. This fact, coupled with its superior Victorian Gothic design, makes it noteworthy as a potential Madison landmark.

The handsome stone construction, the series of gables across the front, the high roofed dormers and the pointed windows are both characteristic and distinguishing details. When the original owner, Mayor W.T.Leitch, put the property on the market for sale, his ad in the Wisconsin State Journal of July 7,1880 further described it as "Gothic style, built by day's work and finished in the best manner as a residence for the present owner, and is replete with every convenience for a comfortable and pleasant home. The stable, carriage house, cow house, etc. are all stone buildings. The grounds front on Gorham street, 132 feet, and on Livingston street 330 feet to the Lake Shore, and are laid out in lawn, fruit and vegetable gardens. The view of Fourth Lake is unsurpassed."

The house is further distinguished as reflecting the broad cultural, political, economic and social history of Madison through the years, and is also identified with distinguished personages and important events in local history. In 118 years, family ownership has been limited to only five, and each family prominent in civic, educational and political service to the community.

William T.Leitch was born in Dover,England in 1808, educated at the University in Edinburgh, Scotland, where his father, James, was a prominent manufacturer. Mr. Leitch came to the United States in May of 1829 and became a successful wholesale clothing manufacturer. In addition to his New York business he had a branch plant in Charleston, S.C. until the Civil War. In 1848 he took up residence in Williamsburg, Va., where he remained until permanently settling in Madison in June of 1858 and continuing his interest in public affairs. He was elected mayor for three terms of office starting in 1862, and that same year was Grand Marshall of the July 4th parade. He served as school board president in 1863,64, and '65. He served as city assessor in 1872, '73 and '74 and was clerk of the school board as late as 1879. He served as vestryman of Grace Episcopal Church for ten years and was 12 years president of the Madison Horticultural Society. He helped to organize the Caledonia Club on Mar. 26,1874 for the purpose of perpetuating the athletic games of Scotland and for the care of indigent Scottish families. In 1876, St. Andrews Society was formed with Mr. Leitch as president, merged with the Caledonia Club, for benevolent purposes, together with the commemorating of literary and historical events. He died Jan.29,1897 and is buried in Brooklyn,N.Y. His son, William T.Jr., born in 1834, died in 1922 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Next to occupy the Leitch house was M.R.Doyon, both alderman and mayor, who lived there from 1881 to 1902. Born in 1845, Doyon came to Madison in 1881 from Ironton, Vt. where he was a merchant, mill owner, and operated a farm. He became an officer of the Capital City Bank in 1883. He served on the Board of Education in 1887, '88 and '90. He was Madison mayor in 1888 and 1889. The Doyon family has been active in local affairs

Add 1

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

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

through the years. At the time that M.R.Doyon acquired the Leitch property, he also acquired the William Wright family as next door neighbors in the "wooden cottage on East Gorham Street." Established in Madison by 1880, Frank Lloyd Wright, along with his sisters Jane and Maginel, went to the Old Second Ward School. Frank and his neighborhood friend, Robert Lamp, invented the "Frankenrob," a water-velocipede, and had a printing firm. Robie, a red headed cripple, had a secret and hopeless passion for little blue-eyed Etta Doyon next door, while Frank (nicknamed "Shaggy,") preferred thw golden curls of Ella Gernon. Etta Doyon's younger brother, Charlie, wanted to join the boys' printing firm and young Frank Lloyd Wright negotiated a business deal. Mr. Doyon, banker, loaned $200 so they could buy a larger press and more type, and the firm expanded to become Wright, Doyon and Lamp, Publishers and Printers.

The next owner was Nils P.Haugen, Wisconsin state tax commissioner and prominent figure in the Progressive movement, who occupied the home from 1902 to 1934. A native of Norway, Haugen was a close friend of Sen. Robert M. LaFollette Sr., he served in the Assembly and Congress and was a pioneer advocate of the income tax. While in the Assembly in 1878, he was the first to talk over the first telephone in Madison.

Occupying the house from 1934 to 1959 was Prof. Emeritus Asher Hobson, noted agricultural economist, co-op movement authority and former chairman of the UW Department of Agricultural Economics. A native of Kansas, Prof. Hobson served as a marketing and economics official in the State of Washington, as assistant chief in the U.S.Agricultural Department farm management office, and as consulting economist with the Federal Farm Board during his active career. In retirement, and with his family, he operates Little Norway near Mt. Horeb.

As present owners, the Harmans purchased the Leitch property from the Hobsons in 1959 and have devoted the past 12 years to its restoration. A registered professional engineer and associate member of the American Institute of Architects, Gordon Harman has also contributed to local community service. He served as Second Ward Alderman from 1968 to 1970 and is again a candidate for that office. A member of the Parks Commission, he has also served on several other public boards, civic organizations, and community projects in the public interest. Inaddition to preserving the house, the Harmans have acquired and restored several items of furnishings of local historical significance. Notable in this category are a massive pier glass on a marble base, formerly in the Vilas Mansion, a large gilt-framed mirror reputed to have been among a special shipment of Belgian glass to Madison around 1880, a rolltop desk with a century of use by Wisconsin supreme court justices, including Chief Justice Cole who used it from 1871 to 1892, and other similar items.