

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

<b>Name of Building or Site</b>	
Common	Historic (if applicable) Smith & Lamb's Block Lamb's Block Lamb's Building

<b>Location</b>	
Street Address 105 W. Main Street	Aldermanic District 4

<b>Classification</b>	
Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.) Commercial Building	

Zoning District c4	Present Use Coffeehouse/Bar
-----------------------	--------------------------------

<b>Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)</b>	
Name(s) Muzzey's Company	

Street Address 105 W. Main Street	Telephone Number
--------------------------------------	------------------

<b>Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)</b>	
Parcel Number 0709-231-1901-4	Legal Description Mills Subdivision of Block 73, Original Plat, Lot 1

<b>Condition of Property</b>	
Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins) Good	

Altered or Unaltered? 1906 Remodeling/Claude & Starck <sup>1</sup> 1992/3 Remodeling	Moved or Original Site? Original
--	-------------------------------------

**Wall Construction**  
Brick load bearing

<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, 1:2, January, 2, 1907. This front page article recapped the building undertaken in Madison in 1906. The section devoted to the work of Claude and Starck indicates that their work for the F.J. Lamb building consisted of \$1500 of alterations. It seems likely that the work was limited to some minor interior modifications. The date of these alterations comes soon after Francis J. Lamb retired, probably reflecting a change in taste by the new tenants, but no documentation has been uncovered to indicate what these alterations were.

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

---

Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance.

The Smith & Lamb Block is a rare and relatively intact local example of the High Victorian Gothic Revival. The "flat-iron" two-story commercial block is situated at the intersection of West Main and South Hamilton streets and diagonally south of the Wisconsin State capitol. The gore-shaped lot falls away in height as the street progresses to the south towards Lake Monona. Its two stories of polychrome brick (much of which has been covered with paint) rest upon a cut stone foundation.

Built in 1876 to the designs of architect David R. Jones, the building consists primarily of cream brick. The Ogee arched windows and doors are accented with red brick. Beltcourses also utilized red brick. Since the building has been painted the red brick of the upper story beltcourses is obscured, but is hopefully restorable.

The five West Main Street commercial bays each have a large plate-glass window, separated from each other by cast-iron corinthian columns. A few of the Hamilton Street window bays and a secondary entry were bricked in sometime before 1950.<sup>2</sup> The remainder of the Hamilton Street openings have all been bricked in since. In some cases the brick has been set back from the main elevation, thereby leaving the shape of the original openings easily discernible. The beltcourse between floors consists of sandstone and is supported by brick dentils and bricks laid on slant. The metal cornice still remains in place, but retains only a few of its original brackets.

The second story has two-over-two double-hung windows with wooden sashes and stone sills. The only exceptions are the two sets of paired windows that are one-over-one and narrower in dimension.

The corner entry has been recently (1992-3) rehabilitated, as has most of the interior in order to accommodate its scheduled use as a coffeehouse and bar. The remodeled entry now includes a new wooden door surround similar to the original and some replaced bricks, but in general retains most of its original features. The upper story of the interior retains two marble fireplaces, hardwood floors and decorative window surrounds.

---

<sup>2</sup> Capital Times, "Main Street," March 19, 1949. Vertical Files, Madison Public Library. The 1949 newspaper article by Alexius Baas includes a current day photograph that also shows that the basement entry was also still in tact.

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

---

<b>Original Owner(s)</b> Francis J. Lamb George B. Smith	<b>Original Use</b> Commercial/Offices
--	---

---

<b>Architect or Builder</b> David R. Jones - Architect James Livesey - Mason Moulton & Chase - Carpenters E. Sharp & Sons - Plaster H. M. Egge - Painting  Claude & Starck - Architects (1906 alterations)	<b>Architectural Style</b> Gothic Revival
--	--

---

<b>Date of Construction</b> 1876 - Original Construction 1906 - Alterations	<b>Indigenous Materials Used</b> Brick
---	---

---

---

**List of Bibliographical References Used**

---

Capital Times  
Durrie, Daniel S., A History of Madison, the Capitol of Wisconsin (Madison, Atwood and Culver, 1874)  
Madison City Directories  
Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance Maps  
Wisconsin State Journal

---

---

**Form Prepared By:**

---

**Name and Title**  
Richard A. Bernstein  
309 Norris Court  
Madison, WI 53703 (608) 251-4615

---

---

**Organization Represented (if any)**  
Madison Trust for Historic Preservation

---

<b>Address</b> PO Box 296 Madison, WI 53701	<b>Telephone Number</b> (608) 251-4615
---	---

---

---

**Date Nomination Form Was Prepared**  
February 21, 1993

---

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

Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

On May 18, 1876 the Wisconsin State Journal announced the following:

A NEW BUSINESS BLOCK - The contracts were awarded Wednesday for a handsome business block, 40 feet front on Main Street, 59 feet on Hamilton Street, opposite the Park Hotel, to be two stories high with a basement, to be built by MESSRS. SMITH & LAMB after plans by Mr. D.R. Jones at a cost of \$5,000. It is to be built of cream colored brick, with flush belts and arches of red brick, a new style here. There will be one room in the basement fitted up for a barber shop. On the first floor above the ground there will be two stores. The second floor, with [the] entrance from Main Street, will be devoted to offices. There will be fire proof vaults on the first and second stories. The roof will be of gravel and tar, laid by Mr. Gill.

The contract prices are as follows:

Mason work, James Livesey	\$2000
Carpenter work, Moulton & Chase	1,374
Plastering, E. Sharp & Son	244
Painting, H.M. Egge	577 <sup>3</sup>

Within a week a small frame store occupied by R.G. Norton's watchmaking establishment was removed to make way for the new brick building.<sup>4</sup> On October 5, the Wisconsin State Journal reported that:

The new block erected by SMITH and LAMB on the corner opposite the Park Hotel is approaching completion. The building is of [cream] brick, with trimmings of colored brick, and the exterior presents a novel and attractive appearance. On the ground floor there are three handsome and roomy stores. The second story is divided into offices, and we understand MESSRS. SMITH and LAMB are to occupy the three large rooms on the corner, which will make as convenient and pleasant offices are to be found anywhere. We have not learned who will occupy the stores, but from the location of the block they will not be vacant long after completion.<sup>5</sup>

Some of the impetus for constructing this new commercial block may well have come from the announcement of a plan to demolish the United States Block at the corner of Pinckney and Main Street, where Smith and Lamb had their offices at the time, to make way for the construction of the Tenney Block.<sup>6</sup> By early December, the

---

<sup>3</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, May 18, 1876, "Local Matters," 4:1.

<sup>4</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, "Local Matters," 4:1, May 25, 1876.

<sup>5</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, "Local Matters," 4:1, October 5, 1876.

<sup>6</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, "Local Matters," 4:1, July 26, 1876.

firm could advertise their new location at the "New Block opposite [the] Park Hotel."<sup>7</sup>

Both George B. Smith ( ? - ? ) and Francis J. Lamb (1825-1916) were prominent Madison attorneys. Smith died soon after the relocation. Soon thereafter Lamb formed a new partnership with Burr W. Jones. By 1883, the city directory listed the building as the Lamb's Block and by 1905, as the Lamb Building. The terms "block" and "building" were used interchangeably.

The prime significance of the Lamb building is its architectural styling. Polychromy is the hallmark of the High Victorian Gothic. The style was also referred to as Ruskinian Gothic, in honor of the architectural philosopher John Ruskin, who praised the Gothic Revival for its morality, honesty and beauty. Ruskin recommended the use of color as long as it was "integral" to the building and not dishonestly "applied."

Examples of this style are increasingly rare, with the only other known example in Madison being the Assembly and Library Hall (now Music Hall - 1878). The architect for both of Madison's examples was D.R. Jones. Jones was born in England, where the style reached its greatest prominence. The Smith & Lamb Block is the only known commercial adaptation of the High Victorian Gothic and as such should be designated a Madison Landmark pursuant to 33.01(4)(a)3.

It is also an example of the work of a master architect, D.R. Jones. David R. Jones was perhaps the most prominent among Madison's first generation of post Civil War architects. His accomplished designs include some of the city's and in some cases the state's most important commissions of the late nineteenth century. These include the River Falls Normal School (1874), the School for the Blind in Janesville (1875), the Governor's Office in the Capitol (1875), the Wisconsin Building at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia (1876), Science Hall (supervising architect - 1877), Washburn Observatory (1878), Assembly and Library Hall (1878), Simeon Mills Building (1879), the 1882 extension of the north and south wings of the State Capitol, Republican Observer Building in Richland Center (1883), H.T. Bailey Store and Opera House in Richland Center (1883), Unitarian Church in Madison (1885), and Columbia County Insane Asylum in Wycocena (1890).

Jones was born in North Wales October 24, 1832. At the age of 13 he emigrated with his family to the United States. Landing by boat in Milwaukee and then traveling by train to Columbus, Columbia County. At age 20, Jones left home to apprentice with Lucius Bradley, a Racine architect. Jones worked for Bradley for three years. After that he returned to Columbia county and worked on a bank building in Portage and later the Chatwood Hotel in Cambria. From 1856-68, Jones owned and ran a lumber yard and cabinet shop. In 1869 he gave up the lumberyard to work with another architect, this time in St. Paul, Minnesota. In two years time he became the head draftsman for the architect Ratciff in St. Paul. While there his wife died. He left his three daughters with their grandmother and set up his own office in Madison, Wisconsin.

He kept his office in Madison for thirteen years (c. 1872-1885) "doing mostly State work on Normal Schools, the University, the Asylum for the Blind - also on

---

<sup>7</sup> Wisconsin State Journal, Advertisement, 3:1, December 6, 1876.

the State Capitol." Within the first seven years of his Madison residency, Jones had designed 61 of the buildings erected in Madison and the vicinity and oversaw the alterations or additions to another 47.<sup>8</sup> Because of a building collapse at the Capitol, Jones along with the other architect H.C. Koch and builders Nowlen and Bentley were prosecuted by none other than Robert La Follette. They were found guilty of negligence. Nonetheless Jones continued to work on the Capitol, although he now had to report to the architect W.W. Boyington.

Probably in no small part because of the disgrace of such a large public failure, in 1886 he returned to live in Cambria, Wisconsin. After traveling throughout Great Britain for almost a year, Jones returned to Cambria in 1888 and designed and built his own home. According to two of Jones's obituaries "nearly all the houses built since he moved there show a mark of a master" giving "much of his service gratis, especially for churches."<sup>9</sup> Students of Jones while in Madison included Edward Stark, F.W. Paunach and J. G. Chandler.

David R. Jones work was some of the finest in the City and in the State and as such the Smith and Lamb Block should be designated a Madison Landmark pursuant to 33.01(4)(a).

---

<sup>8</sup> History of Dane County, p. 1005.

<sup>9</sup> Wisconsin Necrology, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.