

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

<b>Name of Building or Site:</b>	
<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Historic Name (if applicable)</i>
	Aldo Leopold House
<b>Location:</b>	
<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Aldermanic District</i>
2222 Van Hise Avenue	Tenth District
<b>Classification:</b>	
<i>Type of Property (building, monument, park, etc.)</i>	
Building	
<i>Zoning District</i>	<i>Present Use</i>
R-2	Residential
<b>Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's Office):</b>	
<i>Name(s)</i>	
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore H. Knupp	
<i>Street Address</i>	<i>Telephone Number</i>
2222 Van Hise Avenue	
Madison, WI 53705	238-8666
<b>Legal Description (available at City Assessor's Office):</b>	
<i>Parcel Number</i>	<i>Legal Description</i>
0709-211-1909-0	Lot 9, Block 6, Mercer's addition to University Heights
<b>Condition of Property:</b>	
<i>Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)</i>	
Good	
<i>Altered or Unaltered?</i>	<i>Moved or Original Site?</i>
Altered	Original Site
<i>Wall Construction</i>	
Frame and Stucco	

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

***Historical Data:***

*Original Owner*

Aldo Leopold

*Architect or Builder*

Peterson and Dohm

*Date of Construction*

1923-1924

*Original Use*

Residence

*Architectural Style*

Craftsman

*Indigenous Materials Used*

n.a.

***List of Bibliographical References Used:***

1. Leopold, Aldo: *A Sand County Almanac, and Sketches Here and There*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1987, pp. 227-228.
2. "Leopold's 100 birthday: A time to reflect upon nature," *Westside Stories*, vol. 2, no. 20, January 31, 1987.
3. Meine, Curt. *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work*. The University of Wisconsin Press. 1988.
4. Ness, Erik. "Listening to Leopold," *Isthmus*, vol. 24, no. 40, October 1-7, 1999.
5. Tanner, Thomas. *Aldo Leopold: The Man and His Legacy*. Soil Conservation Society of America. 1987.
6. Building Permit Records.

***Form Prepared By:***

*Name and Title*

Theodore H. Knupp

*Organization Represented (if any)*

*Address*

2222 Van Hise Avenue

Madison, WI 53705

*Date Nomination Form Was Prepared*

May 22, 2000

*Telephone Number*

238-8666

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

*Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance:*

Aldo Leopold bought the two-story house at 2222 Van Hise Avenue in July of 1924, shortly after its construction. Led by Leopold, his family fixed up the yard immediately after moving in. They planted vegetable gardens, wildflowers, new trees and native bushes. Birdhouses were also erected and glacier-transported boulders were placed in the front yard.

The Leopold house is a two-story Craftsman style house. The siding is stucco over frame. The roof of the main block is a side gable covered with asphalt shingles. A small projecting vestibule has a gabled roof supported by simple brackets. This roof and the roof over the central mass have wide overhangs. Original windows on the building are mostly double-hung units with six or eight panes in the upper sash and a single pane in the lower. On the second floor are three evenly spaced windows. Most windows on the building have original shutters. A belt course separates the first floor from the second and each gable end is trimmed with a stringcourse between the second and third stories and then vertical boards that add the slight Tudor touch that many Craftsman style houses have.

To each side of the main block are similarly sized one-story wings, one for the garage and one for the sun room. Each of these wings now has a second story addition. Over the garage is a study added in 1935 that features the same castellated corners of the original roof for the corners of the new roof. Over the sun room is a bedroom added by the Mrs. Leonard in 1970. It has a gabled roof slightly lower, but following the pitch of the main roof.

Originally the first floor facade had two widely spaced double-hung windows. In 1970 Mrs. Leopold had a clapboard-sided bay window installed between the two windows. The rear of the building has a porch that is a larger version of the original. This larger porch was erected in 1954.

A copy of a photograph published in *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (Meine, 1988) shows Leopold's house as it was when he purchased it. (See Figure 1)

The next owner of the house, David Yankovich, made few home improvements. In 1975, he added more electrical circuits to the house, and in 1983, he replaced the water heater.

The current owners of the house, Theodore and Irene Knupp, have made some alterations to the house. In 1988, they installed a water softener. The next year they added a bathroom and closet to the second-story bedroom while repairing the floor, walls, and ceiling on the second floor. They also replaced the existing kitchen cabinets in the house and repaired the living room/dining room ceiling. Recently they have reroofed and re-painted the house and replaced damaged windows in the sun room with replicas.

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

***Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:***

The house at 2222 Van Hise Avenue is historically significant because it was the long-term home of Aldo Leopold, one of the key leaders of the 20th century conservation movement. It was built on speculation by C. J. Chapman in 1923-24 and was sold to Aldo Leopold in July of 1924. In his biography of Leopold, author Curt Meine refers to Aldo Leopold's purchase of this property:

“...a gray stucco house at 2222 Van Hise Avenue, a short walk away from the Forest Products Laboratory and the University of Wisconsin campus (233).”

Acknowledging the historical significance of the house would be a gesture in honor of Leopold's historical relationship to Madison. From this house, Aldo Leopold met with students and scholars, and forged ahead with his work and writings on land ethics - work that is still considered to be at the forefront of the modern-day conservation movement.

His best-known work was his book *A Sand County Almanac*. Through his personal observations of Wisconsin's natural history, Leopold's book poetically taught the American public to enjoy nature while protecting it. Conservationists embraced *A Sand County Almanac* as a milestone in the conservation movement. In 1978, Leopold was awarded the John Burroughs Medal from the John Burroughs Memorial Association for it. Throughout the years, quotes from “A Sand County Almanac” have been used worldwide in speeches and books and have helped pass environmental laws.

In addition to *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold developed the concept of, and wrote the classic text *Game Management* and over 350 articles on scientific and policy matters. These writings forged a new outlook in conservation. They have found their way into institutions, policies, and teachings. Excerpts from Leopold's essay “Round River” even led Congress to pass the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Leopold biographer Curt Meine wrote, “He's [Leopold] probably the most quoted voice in the history of conservation, even more than Thoreau or Muir.”

Leopold was more than an author. He was a leading figure in the formative years of the conservation movement and a pioneer in fields from forestry and wilderness preservation to soil conservation and wildlife ecology. After graduating from the Yale forestry school, he became the supervisor of the million-acre Carson National Forest in 1912. In 1924, he accepted the position of Associate Director of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin the principal research institution of the Forest Service at that time.

Leopold was one of the founders of the UW Arboretum in 1932. In 1933, he was appointed to the newly created chair in Game Management at the University of Wisconsin. The following year President Franklin Roosevelt selected him to be a member of the Special Commission on Wildlife Restoration. He also served as a conservation advisor to the United Nations. In recognition of his achievements, he has been named to the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Hall of Fame.

Aldo Leopold died of a heart attack on April 21, 1948, while helping his neighbors fight a grass fire. To this day, Leopold is widely acknowledged as the father of wildlife conservation in America.