

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

American Exchange Bank

(2) Historic (if applicable)

Park Savings Bank

II. Location

(1) Street Address

1 North Pinckney Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)

4

III. Classification

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

Building

(2) Zoning District

C - 4

(3) Present Use

Commercial

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

(1) Name(s)

American Exchange Bank

(2) Street Address

1 North Pinckney Street

(3) Telephone Number

256-2635

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

(1) Parcel Number

30 - 15

(2) Legal Description

S.E. 22 Feet of Lots 7 and 8
Block 101

VI. Condition of Property

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

Excellent

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original Site

(4) Wall Construction

Stone

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

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)

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

The three story building should be classified as Italian Renaissance Revival. Its Madison Sandstone facade displays a massive cornice, originally decorated with urns, finials and small gables. Rusticated pilasters separate the window bays at the first and second floor. The entire first floor shows a rusticated treatment.

Windows linked horizontally by string courses are featuring pronounced plinths at each floor line and are treated differently at each floor. They are grouped in pairs, groups separated by pilasters. At the first floor a semicircular arch with a protruding keystone is used. The second floor windows display a segmented arch with a slightly less protruding keystone. The third floor windows are treated with a flat arch, again using a protruding keystone.

The south corner of the building has been treated differently than the remainder. Here windows with semicircular arches occur also on the second floor. One of the entrances was originally located at this corner.

In 1911 significant alterations took place. The southeast facade facing East Washington was extended to the east by 7 more window bays. While the treatment was identical, which makes it impossible to detect the point where existing building and the addition meet, it destroyed the symmetry existing before. At this time, the decorative elements above the cornice were removed and the frieze below the cornice received a more elaborate treatment. The main entrance was relocated at the west corner of the building facing Pinckney Street.

While the width of the building facing Pinckney Street is approximately 22', the building had a companion facade of 7 more bays or approximately 44' with slightly different window treatment but unified under a continuous frieze and cornice with identical details. Bank and store buildings were separated by a firewall. The store building was demolished in 1946.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)

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

1. Site

The site, lots 7 and 8 of block 101 facing East Washington and North Pinckney Street, has played an important part in the history of downtown Madison.

It was the original site of the American Hotel built in 1838; destroyed by fire on September 5, 1868. The first session of the Wisconsin legislature took place in this building on November 26, 1838. Dr. J. E. Baker commissioned Architect Colonel Stephan Vaughan Shipman (January 26, 1825 - November 13, 1905) to design the \$30,000 building. Completed and opened November 7, 1871, it housed two stores on North Pinckney Street, the Park Savings Bank on East Washington, and insurance and other offices above the stores on North Pinckney Street. Shipman had been the architect of the Central State Hospital for the Insane at Mendota, he designed the dome and rotunda of the State Capitol, the Madison post office, the Dane county court house and the Park Hotel.

2. Occupants

The present owner and occupant of the building, the American Exchange Bank, has been an important element in the Madison community for more than a hundred years. The bank was founded in September, 1871 as the Deutsche Bank or German Bank by John J. Suhr, born in Bremen, Germany on May 27, 1836. The Suhr family made many contributions to the cultural and economic life of the community. One of its visible remaining examples is the Suhr house at 121 Langdon Street. Before acquiring the building it now occupies, the German-American Bank occupied the building at the corner of Main and King Street.

On July 6, 1881 the first National Bank purchased the building at North Pinckney and East Washington from the Park Savings Bank, the original owner.

On December 7, 1921 the American Exchange Bank, which had changed its name from German-American Bank on May 15, 1918, purchased the building, while the First National Bank moved into its new quarters across East Washington Street.

3. Style

The American Exchange Bank is a good example of the Italian Renaissance Revival period and, if a more precise definition is desired, could be classified as belonging to the Romano-Tuscan Mode.

It displays all of the elements typical of this style from the massive cornice to the window treatment and rusticated first floor.

The revival of the astylar Italian Renaissance of Rome and Florence was initiated in 1829 in England and was taken up in the United States in the 1840's.

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LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner James E. Baker	(2) Original Use Bank
(3) Architect or Builder Stephen Vaughan Shipman Jan. 26, 1825 - Nov. 13, 1905	(4) Architectural Style Italian Renaissance
(5) Date of Construction Completion: Nov. 7, 1871	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Madison Sandstone
(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. Sandstones and Buffalo Robes
2. American Exchange Bank 1871 - 1971
3. Madison and the Four Lake Country, 1874 Daniel Durrie
4. Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Page 326, 1960
5. Madison Daily Democrat, Nov. 3, 1871; April 21, 1871; Oct. 16, 1871
6. Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 7, 1871
7. Madison Tax Rolls
8. American Architecture Since 1780, Marcus Whiffen, Page 75,76

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title Horst Lobe	
(2) Organization Represented (if any) Landmarks Commission	
(3) Address 6005 Hammersley Rd. (home) 610 N. Walnut St. (office)	(4) Telephone Number 271-4907 263-3012
(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared August 1975	