

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common
Stebbins House - Plough Inn

(2) Historic (if applicable)
Old Plough Inn

II. Location

(1) Street Address
3402 Monroe Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)
11

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District
R4

(3) Present Use
Dwelling

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

(1) Name(s)
Mrs. Roland Stebbins

(2) Street Address
Four Winds Manor
3402 Monroe Street/ 303 S. Jefferson
Verona 53593

(3) Telephone Number

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

(1) Parcel Number
0709-282-2410-7

(2) Legal Description
Sec 28, T7,
R9E, Prt NE
1/4 Comm E Cor of Lot 7 Blks
Glenwood, etc.

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?
Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?
Original Site

(4) Wall Construction
Mixed-sandstone and brick

(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 old Plough Inn is a mixed sandstone and brick structure that has been covered with stucco. The part of the dwelling that faces Monroe Street is brick, while the part which is nestled against the slope of Copeland Avenue is sandstone laid up presumably in coursed ashlar fashion.

The house is two-and-one-half stories high with a gable roof and a partially exposed basement. The end gable faces Monroe Street. It is characterized by returned eaves typical of the Greek Revival style in Wisconsin and by a silhouette horse placed a few feet below the peak of the gable. Shutters flank the double hung windows.

Today the main entry of the house is gained from the west side where there is also a sun porch added by Roland Stebbins in the early twentieth century. The original access to the house may have been a doorway somewhat below grade on the Monroe Street side. This doorway leads to the basement which was used as the tap room for the inn.

One curious detail of the house is the oblique angle at which the back wall of the house is set. One explanation for this occurrence may be that early surveys put the half-section line exactly where the wall was constructed, thus rendering the rather truncated appearance.

The sideyard to the west is a pleasant overgrown area of flowers and trees, and it should be retained as an open space.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner Frederick and Amelia Paunack	(2) Original Use Dwelling - later a halfway house
(3) Architect or Builder Frederick Paunack	(4) Architectural Style Greek Revival
(5) Date of Construction 1853 (original portion), 1858? (brick)	(6) Indigenous Materials Used Sandstone and local brick
(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. Dane Co., Deeds 14, p. 246., Deeds 36, p. 378.
 2. Dane Co., Treasurer, Property Tax Rolls. State Historical Society (SHSW) Archives and Manuscripts (A&M).
 3. Dane County, Production of Agriculture, 1860, Schedule 4, Town of Madison, SHSW A&M.
 4. Ligowsky, Map of Dane County, 1861. SHSW A&M.
 5. Milwaukee News Sentinel, March 31, 1940, "Historic Homes in Wisconsin: Plough Inn Keeps Early Charm".
 6. The Sheldon and the Gorham Genealogies, SHSW A&M.
 7. The Sunday State Journal, June 24, 1917, "Historic Tavern Stands as Bright Spot in Memories of Madison".
 8. Western Historical Association, History of Dane County, Wisconsin. (Chicago, 1880).
 8. Western Historical Association, History of Dane County, V.2. (Madison, 1906).
- (SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Lance Neckar and Jack Holzhueter

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

Landmarks Commission and State Historical Society of Wisconsin

(3) Address

2034 Rusk Street, #2

(4) Telephone Number

241-4313

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

August 22, 1975

Wisconsin Secretary of State Elections and Records, Wisconsin
State Census, 1855, V. 3, Dane County.
Wisconsin State Journal, January 23, 1923 & October 27, 1939,
"George Whare Dies" & "Roland Stebbins' House Has Seen Many
Changes in the Past 100 Years".

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

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

Plough Inn has interest for the city of Madison in that it is first, an early sandstone house (partially), second, a typical example of an early halfway house, and finally, a significant immigrant dwelling for it also represents the early presence of one of Madison's first families, the Paunacks.

Plough Inn was originally built in 1853 (the stone portion of the house) by Frederick and Amelia Paunack, natives of Saxony, Germany. Paunack emigrated to America in 1849, living in Baltimore until 1852 when he arrived in Madison. By profession a stone cutter, he immediately found work here on the university buildings and later the state capitol. After a few years he had saved enough money to purchase a stone business which he actively maintained until his death in 1876. The quarry for Paunack's business was located somewhere on what is now University Avenue near Ridge and Harvey Streets, Quarrytown, where several stone structures remain to this day.

There is reason to presume that the stone for the house, however, was quarried locally on the site of The Glen, now a city park and a Madison Landmark (designed by Jens Jensen, 1949). The oral tradition that surrounds the creation of the park and the existence of exposed rock faces in an unusual topographic arrangement seem to support this judgment.

The property was conveyed briefly to a Thomas Griffiths who held it between February 1855 and September, 1857 at which time the house became the property of John Whare, listed as a tavernkeeper in the 1860 census. He had a wife, Isabella, and four children: George, May, John and William. It was during Whare's ownership that the building acquired the name Plough Inn, for the tavernkeeper was a born Briton. During his ownership Whare improved the building with a substantial raise in his assessment occurring in 1858, presumably the year of the brick addition.

The inn was located in an extremely likely area for it fronted directly on the Madison-Wiota Road, constructed as an access road from the State Capitol to the southwest and improved by authorization of the legislature in 1851-52. It was also near the route of the St. Paul Railroad tracks that would be laid beginning about 1854. In fact, the census tracts for 1855 for the Town of Madison in the area of Plough Inn lists a household of 21 males headed by "John Dooling rail road" (sic). Another establishment in the neighborhood apparently indicates booming activity, for one household headed by Jonathan Witherby (Killoughly?) housed eight males and twelve females--an unusual proportion. During Whare's ownership through 1865, it is likely that the area was one of considerable popularity among both the local and traveling populace, including the men in blue encamped nearby.

In later years, the house was occupied by the Roland Stebbins Family. Mr. Stebbins was a University professor and a painter.

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

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

*ADDENDUM

As an area of speculation, the site also has some interest, for it is apparent that people such as the Paunack's were not at early dates, i.e. the 1850's, controlling the land. Rather, people with some capital such as the dry goods merchant Charles Morgan, who built the Spring Hotel as his country residence, and his agent provocateur, Daniel Gorum (Gorham), a speculator, appear to be the genuine moving forces in the area. Morgan's original purchase of land in the vicinity, one-half of a quarter section (on which Spring Hotel was built) was made of Daniel Gorum. The latter gentleman presumably handled the arrangements for the construction of Morgan's house. Gorum is said to have operated a brickyard in the area and this notion may be supported by the fact that a brickmaker, William Emmons lived in the area in 1860. Hence, Gorum was the likely man to handle the construction of the house. Morgan, however, did not hold his half of the quarter section very long and resold it in part (not the house) to Gorum in 1857. In 1860, Daniel Gorum sold his brother James a thirteen acre parcel and so on.

