

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common Shuttleworth/Slaughter House	(2) Historic (if applicable)
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II. Location

(1) Street Address 946 Spaight Street	(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)
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III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District	(3) Present Use Dwelling-Cooperative
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IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Name(s) Katie Kazan ~~et al~~ (~~7 owners~~)

(2) Street Address 946 Spaight Street	(3) Telephone Number 257-6037
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V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)

(1) Parcel Number	(2) Legal Description Block 153-Lot 11
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VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered? Little Alteration	(3) Moved or Original Site? Original
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(4) Wall Construction
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:

There is a look of uncompromising honesty about the Shuttleworth/Slaughter house on Spaight Street. It stands forthright and sturdy on its site--making no demands. It is this last quality, together with its age and vine covered walls, that give it, at the same time, an aura of mystery.

Though it is not possible to say precisely when it was built, it appears to have been built in 1854 or 1855. The abstract is difficult to decipher, the property having changed hands so often, but it does seem to indicate that in 1854-55 Elisha W. Keyes had a home built there. A newspaper account by Alexius Baas in 1947 in which he conversed with the then current owner, F. D. Shuttleworth establishes 1854 as the date. Also the deed from Keyes to Adin Randall would indicate there was a house on the lot in 1855. Mr. George Harrison's detailed map of Madison, dated 1855, has a structure on Lot 11, Block 153. It is doubtful that any structure preceded the Shuttleworth house on this lot. As further evidence, the Shuttleworth/Slaughter house has many of the same features and the same materials that are part of Hyers Hotel only two blocks away, and the Hyers Hotel was built before 1855. The only dissenting record is the one in the City Assessor's office. It gives a date of 1864, but this is not a contemporary record and may well be in error.

The Shuttleworth/Slaughter house is well placed on a full lot, 66' x 136'. It is a two-story structure built of brick which has been painted over in a soft white color. It is completely symmetrical, except in the rear where a wooden lean-to has been built, but even the wall to which the lean-to has been attached is an exact duplicate of the front wall. Once there was a piazza in the front with four pillars, but now all that remains is the cement floor. The windows are large with decorative shutters and stone lintels. There are two chimneys rising from the hipped roof. The wide eaves with brackets and the other features would seem to place it architecturally in the Italianate style--a style that was in vogue at that time.

There has been little alteration to the exterior of the house, except for the front porch. The lean-to in the rear was added, apparently almost at the start. The alterations to the interior are superficial--some rather temporary-looking panelling. The fireplace is of more recent vintage than the house. The wooden structure in the rear has sloping floors, etc., and needs a good overhauling, but the main part of the house seems structurally sound though very shabby.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

Elisha W. Keyes

(2) Original Use

Home

(3) Architect or Builder

(4) Architectural Style

Italianate

(5) Date of Construction

1854-55

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

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. Reminiscences of Distinguished Men, Slaughter c. 1878
2. History of Madison and the Four Lake Country, Durrie c. 1874
3. Necrology File, State Historical Society Library
4. Madison City Directories
5. Records of the Dane County Register of Deeds Office
6. Original Abstract
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By: June Johnson

(1) Name and Title June Johnson, Librarian, State Historical Society

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

(3) Address

210 South Bassett St.

(4) Telephone Number

255-6530

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

September 11, 1976

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

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

As important as the Shuttleworth/Slaughter house may be to Madison history because of its age and architecture, it also deserves recognition because of the eminence of the men who made it their home.

The first of these men was Elisha W. Keyes. His occupancy was so brief and his fame so wide there is no need to discuss him here.

It was in 1877, after many occupants and many mortgages that William Banks Slaughter purchased the house and moved in with his wife and daughter.

William Slaughter was a Virginian who, like many of his compatriots, moved West to Kentucky. He had had a good classical education and in Bardstown had read law in his uncle's office. As a lawyer he became active in politics and a good friend of President Jackson, who appointed him in 1835 to the very important post of register of the land office at Green Bay.

Mr. Slaughter, like almost everyone else, was anxious to buy up land in the new territory and in 1835 bought a tract of land on the north side of Lake Mendota. Along with James Duane Doty, he platted the area with the view to its becoming the City of Four Lakes--"a city that did not come to be."

In 1837 he was appointed Secretary of the Territory of Wisconsin. He held this position for four years, but then decided to retire from public life. It was literature and language that were his first love. On various patriotic occasions it was he who gave the main address. He wrote sketches for the American Biographical Company, but he is best known for his charming book, "Reminiscences of Famous Men." He was so interested in ancient languages, especially Sanskrit, that around town he was called "Bugs" Slaughter.

During the Civil War he was called back into public life by President Lincoln who appointed him commissary of Subsistence and Quartermaster in the Union Army.

For several years he lived in Middleton. In 1877 he moved to the house on Spaight Street where he died at the age of 82, "respected and loved by all who knew him."

His widow and daughter and nephew stayed on at the same address for several years, but apparently in straitened circumstances as the tax rolls and abstract reveal.

It was in 1893 that Farrand Kayley Shuttleworth bought the

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

Spaight Street house. He was the third prominent lawyer to occupy this dwelling. Mr. Shuttleworth was also a colorful and political man. He was born in Fennimore and was the first graduate of the Fennimore High School. He graduated from the Wisconsin Law School in 1892. Though he was interested in politics, he was never successful in being elected for any public office. He ran for Dane County district attorney, he tried for mayor of Madison in 1914 and for Congress in 1918. He also made a bid for the governorship. He, like Colonel Slaughter, was a literary man and well steeped in Greek history and mythology. He had a flourishing law practice and from 1895 to 1898 was a partner of E. W. Keyes.

The house on Spaight Street was Mr. Shuttleworth's only home in Madison. He died there in 1929 at the age of 66, having lived in the same house for thirty-six years.