

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

(2) Historic (if applicable)

II. Location

(1) Street Address
1030 Jenifer Street

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)
6th aldermanic district

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District
R4

(3) Present Use
multiple residence

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

(1) Name(s)
Otto Gebhart, Jr.

(2) Street Address
1146 E. Washington Ave.

(3) Telephone Number
256-2996

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

(1) Parcel Number
0709-134-0223-9

(2) Legal Description
Lot 14, Block 175

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?
altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?
original

(4) Wall Construction
frame

(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 J.C. Cutter house is a massive two and one half story frame. Pairs of steep gables dominate the front and SW sides and a single one is found on the NE side all of which are identical. Walls of the gables are of board and batten siding and are pierced by small attic windows, two of which are still nine paned. The gable eaves are decorated with bargeboards with pierced designs and with square and turned ornaments at the apex and base corners of the gable (use of brackets, too). A frieze of mouldings separate the board and batten from the clapboard of the rest of the walls.

From the left front of the house protrudes the stairwell over which is a steeply sloping roof originating at the aforementioned frieze and projecting over a large stair landing window being supported by brackets springing from the jambs of the window. Versions of this design are found at the street facing front parlor windows and above the two sided oriel on the NE side of the front parlor. The stair landing window's upper half is divided into long vertical panes ending in a curvilinear pattern at the eave. The lower half is divided into four panes. The fenestration pattern beneath the other gables on the front and SW side is observed to be double windows at the second floor divided by a muntin. Similar windows may have been on the first floor SW side but have been replaced with single multi-paned windows. Two single windows are found beneath the front right gable on the first floor. These are the front parlor windows.

Horizontal bands of vertical siding framed by strips of moulding are found between the sills of the second floor and the lintels of the first and between the sills of the first floor windows and the base moulding. Variations occur below each window in a pattern of narrow boards set side by side at 30°-60° angles.

On the SW side of the house the 1st fl. wall beneath the furthest gable is recessed.

The NE side of the house is the least visible of the street viewing sides due to a fencerow of vegetation adjacent to it. It is on this side that the oriel window is found. The other major feature

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

continued

is a gable projecting from the main mass of the house with beveled or recessed corners. The gable in this case is supported from beneath the base corners by large brackets. The windows are all found on the portions of the wall bearing angularly from the main mass of the house.

An open porch is found at the south corner of the house comprised of a moderately rising gable supported by twelve turned posts of which single members are found where the porch meets the house, two pairs support the SW side, and triple sets at both of the front facing corners. The main entry to the house is at the south end of the Jenifer St. side. The gable of the porch resembles those on the main part of the house in surface treatment. However, the apex ornament consists of three picket-like rays originating from the apex and joined by straight braces thus looking like a fractured arc. Beneath the frieze of mouldings as found on the other gables is another quite different frieze of a horizontal band of turned spindles set vertically. A low wall of clapboard further defines the edge of the porch.

Alteration to the original house include the expansion of a second floor room over the porch. There is a conspicuous lack of a decorative chimney. A recent wood exterior staircase leading to the second floor at the rear of the house can be seen from Jenifer Street.

The setting of the house gives the viewer the opportunity to realize the mass of the structure and its perspective from the south side, however, from the east side the view is blocked by the fencerow and this prevents the large open space there from contributing to the open setting as is found on the southwest side.

On the SW side is found a small garage set far back on the lot which seemingly reflects the character of the house in the design of the gable and the texture of the siding.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

Judson C. Cutter

(2) Original Use

Single family residence

(3) Architect or Builder

(4) Architectural Style

Eastlake

(5) Date of Construction

1882

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

buff sandstone foundation

(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. Madison Daily Democrat, Jan. 1, 1883, p.3.
2. Madison City Directories
3. Assessments and Tax Rolls, Division of Archives & Manuscripts, SHS
4. Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, A Guide to the Styles, The M.I.T. Press, 1969.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Gary Tipler, co-chairman of the Landmarks Research Committee

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

Landmarks Research Committee

(3) Address

1118 E. Dayton

(4) Telephone Number

257-9335

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

Nov. 8, 1976

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

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

The rather impressive structure at 1030 Jenifer was built by Judson C. Cutter in 1882 and leased for the first eight years for short terms to more than one family including a railroad contractor. The first owner occupant bought it from Cutter in 1890. Cutter, it seems, may never have lived in it. Being a capitalist it was very possible that the house was built as an investment.

The significance of the Cutter house lies in the fact that it is a prime example of the "Eastlake style". The abundance of architectural details found in the brackets, bargeboards, windows, friezes, porch supports, and wall surfaces define by their presence and design that somewhat shortlived but popular style. The style is attributed to the English architect, Charles Locke Eastlake, whose book Hints on Household Taste was first published in London in 1868. The first American edition in 1872 became an immediate success and six more editions appeared over the following eleven years. In 1881, Eastlake claimed he had no responsibility in the wide application of his concepts to American architecture and labeled the "Eastlake style" as being "extravagant and bizarre". His criticism as well as that of others marked the decline of the popularity of the style which persisted in California and the West until the late eighties.