

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

Streets Department or City Market

(2) Historic (if applicable)

City Market

II. Location

(1) Street Address

702 East Millin
Market Place, Corner of Blount

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)

4th Aldermanic District

III. Classification

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

Building

(2) Zoning District

C3

(3) Present Use

Garage

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

(1) Name(s)

City of Madison, Department of Public Works

(2) Street Address

210 Monona Avenue

(3) Telephone Number

266-4620

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

(1) Parcel Number

0709-133-0108-5

(2) Legal Description

Orig Plat, lots 1-3, block 134

VI. Condition of Property

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

Deteriorated

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original Site

(4) Wall Construction

Concrete & Brick - load bearing

(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:

Originally the building was set out on an I-plan, however additions have obscured that plan over the years. It is constructed of concrete and brick. The polychrome walls are load-bearing with steel trusses supporting the roof. A grey cement base, which angles slightly inward from the foundation, is capped by two wide horizontal bands of brickwork, the first being red, the second, cream. A narrow band of concrete cuts through the red brick panels to emphasize horizontality and to provide lintels for windows and doors. The widely overhanging roof, originally of green tile, is hipped over each of the ends of the I and gabled over the body. Today the roof is a combination of asphalt and sheet metal. The original skylights remain.

Vehicular entryways in the east and west facades, originally trimmed in ornate concrete work, have been enlarged. The concrete trim has been lost. Modern garage doors have replaced hinged double carriage house-style doors. The other major change in the building is the addition of frame sheds to the set-back body of the I (on the north and south sides of the building.)

The interior has remained basically intact with minor modifications over the years to accommodate its new use as a garage. The original space may have been subdivided into small stalls for farmers and purveyors, but this is speculation. The architect's intention was presumably to create an open, virtually uninterrupted space for market operation.

The Wisconsin State Journal called it the "most artistic piece of property owned by the city". (Dec. 27, 1909.) The original cost of the building was \$14,000.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

City of Madison

(2) Original Use

City Market

(3) Architect or Builder

Robert L. Wright

(4) Architectural Style *style write-up*

Prairie School *craftsman/Prairie*

(5) Date of Construction

1909

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

None of distinction

(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. Brooks, H.A. The Praire School: Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries, Toronto, 1974(?)
2. Wisconsin State Journal, "A Market House for the City of Madison", Nov 16, 1909
3. _____, (outline article & picture of market), Dec 27, 1909
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

Lance Neckar, Staff & Phil Bradbury, Assistant

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

Landmarks Commission & Plan Department

(3) Address

210 Monona Ave

(4) Telephone Number

266-4635

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

July 10, 1977

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

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

The City Market of 1909 is historically and architecturally significant. It is a survival of the period of civic improvement around the turn of the century, and it is specifically, the first and only municipally constructed market building in the city. And it was designed according to the tenants of the internationally significant design school called Prairie. The architect was Robert L. Wright, a Madison-born architect, educated at the University of Wisconsin and at one time a draughtsman for Claude (Louis W.) and Starck (Edward F.), a local firm sometimes working in the Prairie idiom.

One of the hallmarks of urban experience at the turn of the century was the emphasis on the upgrading of public facilities and a general concern for urban aesthetics. Projects typical of this era in Madison include: the commissioning of Frank Lloyd Wright to do a public boat house by the Madison Civic Improvement Association; the hiring by a concerned committee of fifty of John Nolen to draft Madison: A Model City; the commissioning of architects of competence and distinction to design significant educational facilities, for example, Central High by Cass Gilberg; and in the semi-public arena, the design and construction of the city's two major passenger depots for the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago and Northwestern. The city market, like the schools and the public library, was a municipal contribution to improvement. Especially well-suited to this area, it provided a place where city consumers could deal directly with rural producers.

The Prairie School was a stylistic idiom generally concentrated in the Upper Midwest in the period from the turn of the century to the World War I years. It was primarily a residential style, although significant non-residential buildings were also designed. Its chief form-giver was Frank Lloyd Wright. However, contemporary architects of talent also used the idiom. Among them were the local firm of Claude and Starck. It is likely that the architect of the city market learned about the design school from his one-time employers and the contemporary professional journals.

The unusual aspect of this distinctive and well rendered buildings is, of course, that it is a public market building designed in a residential style. The non-residential work of the period is small in volume. It is confined to clubhouses, small libraries, resort hotels, exhibition pavillions, and a scattering of commercial structures. In most instances, then, the scale of these projects was residentially derived. Similarly, this building is very much on the order of a large residence. However, its use is extraordinary, perhaps unique.