

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

**I. Name of Building or Site****(1) Common****(2) Historic (if applicable)**

Kircher House

**II. Location****(1) Street Address**

733 Jenifer Street

**(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)**

6th District, 1st Ward

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

Building

**(2) Zoning District**

R-4

**(3) Present Use**

Residential

**IV. Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's office)****(1) Name(s)**

Nathaniel Sample

**(2) Street Address**

1105 Rutledge

**(3) Telephone Number**

255-7155

**V. Legal Description (available at City Assessor's office)****(1) Parcel Number**

0709-134-1619-9

**(2) Legal Description**

Block 127, Lot 6&amp;7 (parts of)

**VI. Condition of Property****(1) Physical Condition (excellent, good, fair, deteriorated, ruins)**

good

**(2) Altered or Unaltered?**

slightly altered

**(3) Moved or Original Site?**

original

**(4) Wall Construction**

Cream 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:**

Resting on a solid 40 inch high foundation, is a substantial 2-story cream brick house, located at 733 Jenifer Street. A large 2-story wing faces the street, with a smaller ell on the rear east wall.

A gently sloping gable roof faces the street, and is characterized by wide eaves and repeating, paired brackets. The windows are symmetrically placed, but differ in size. The top of each window is gracefully curved in a depressed arch and capped by large carved lintels with keystones. There is a tiny bull's eye window (oculus) under the peak of the roof. The door opening repeats the lines of the depressed arches found in the windows.

A small porch with slender columns and Doric capitals, formerly stood at the doorway. The original stairway, however, remains.

The house has been transformed from a single family dwelling to several apartments and an architects' office. It appears to be in good overall condition, except for the brickwork around the doorway. The architects' offices, Sample and Potter, have been created from found space in the basement. Entry is gained in a modestly designed basement stairway to the east of the main facade.

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

**VII. Significance**

**(1) Original Owner**

John Kircher

**(2) Original Use**

Residential

**(3) Architect or Builder**

John Kircher

**(4) Architectural Style**

Bracket Style

**(5) Date of Construction**

1877

**(6) Indigenous Materials Used**

Cream 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. Tax and Assessment Rolls, Madison, 1846-1900
2. City Directory, Madison, 1891-1975
3. "All Around the Town" Alexius Baas, Capital Times, May 6, 1950
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**IX. Form Prepared By:**

**(1) Name and Title**

Anne V. Rugg

**(2) Organization Represented (if any)**

Research Committee of Landmarks Commission

**(3) Address**

2325 Center Avenue

**(4) Telephone Number**

241-3715

**(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared**

May 15, 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 Kircher House, 733 Jenifer Street, is significant in the economic and social history of the city and particularly in the Third Lake Ridge area. It has been the home of craftsmen, merchants, railroad men, and now serves a dual purpose as a residence and architectural office.

Its original owner and builder, John Kircher, was a German carpenter and contractor in the firm of Kircher and Holzhausen located on Washington Avenue. Shortly after Kircher built the house, he sold it and apparently left the city.

In the 1890's Adolf Klose, a "rotund little tailor" who worked for Olson and Veerhusen on the Square, lived in the house. Klose had previously lived across the street in the cottage at 748 Jenifer. Presumably the success of his business had enabled him to purchase a more substantial dwelling. This upward mobility and perseverance of the German enclave at the west end of Third Lake Ridge was a common pattern on the last three decades of the nineteenth century.

In the twentieth century, from 1900 to 1955 specifically, the house was owned and/or occupied by various employees -- conductors, brakemen and engineers -- of the North Western Railroad whose depot was two blocks away at the corner of Blair and Wilson.

The elegant embellishments of the house, combined with its modest size, appealed to generations of workingmen who inhabited it. It was affordable, solidly constructed, well-located, and its High Victorian decoration offered a special element. In this dwelling is symbolized a realization of the aspirations of the new Americans of the nineteenth century neighborhood on Third Lake Ridge and a model for the continuing vitality of older buildings.