

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common

(2) Historic (if applicable)

George A. Lougee House

II. Location

(1) Street Address

620 South Ingersoll 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

Private residence

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

(1) Name(s)

Maebel Gunderson

(2) Street Address

620 South Ingersoll Street

(3) Telephone Number

256-6110

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

(1) Parcel Number

0710-073-1011-4

(2) Legal Description Replat of Block 2 and part of Block 1, Urdahl Subdivision; all of Lots 8 and 9, Block 1.

VI. Condition of Property

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

Fair

(2) Altered or Unaltered?

Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?

Original site

(4) Wall Construction

Stucco

(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 George A. Lougee House is an excellent example of Prairie School architecture as designed by a local architectural firm, Claude and Starck. The design of the house from the exterior bears a striking resemblance to the Harley Bradley House in Kankakee, Illinois, of 1900 by Frank Lloyd Wright.

The George A. Lougee House is a large two-story home with stucco exterior finish facing to the east on Orton Park. The main mass of the house is composed of two intersecting elements with the large cross-gabled wing projecting to the east and the smaller wing containing a one-story porch on the south of the house. The windows are generally grouped and are one over one double hung units on the second floor. A horizontal band of painted wood at the height of the second floor meeting rails surrounds the second floor and additional horizontal trim pieces are set in at the second floor window sill, the first floor window head height and at a water table height. These are painted a dark natural brown tone contrasting with the light sand color of the stucco walls. The first floor windows generally tend to be larger, often extending from the water table to the encircling wood trim. Several first floor bays project on the east and north with angular sides at the first floor level only. A generous wall extends along the east toward the south creating a terrace at the entrance as well as a visible horizontal extension of the design. The entrance door is flanked by leaded glass windows in a floral pattern not unlike those used by George W. Maher. The broad gabled roof retains the original slate shingling.

The original interiors of the house were richly ornamented in darkly stained oak trim and cabinet work. The glass casework for the built-in cabinets contained geometric leaded glass patterns. A handsome glass tile patterned panel at the living room fireplace remains.

The interior of the house has been modified to create a series of apartment units greatly changing the generous rooms that originally existed in this spacious home when sold by a subsequent owner in 1939. The present living room beam ceiling can be seen in that portion of the room that remains, although a bedroom has also been partitioned off from the living room. The entrance hall originally had a vaulted ceiling with stained wood beams arching across the span. Partitions now restrict the space.

The porch on the south of the house originally provided a fine view of Lake Monona, but now this has been enclosed and provides the kitchen for one of the first floor apartments. While modified, the house still retains an extremely handsome exterior design of Prairie School architecture, and perhaps ranks among the best of Claude and Starck's residential work.

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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner

George A. Lougee

(2) Original Use

Private residence

(3) Architect or Builder

Claude and Starck (1)

(4) Architectural Style

Prairie School

(5) Date of Construction

1907 (1)

(6) Indigenous Materials Used

(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. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., Prairie Architecture in Madison, Wisconsin; Influences, Forms, and Form-Givers, Unpublished MA Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1971.
2. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., AIA, The Prairie Style on Madison's Near East Side; A Walking Tour, Madison, Wisconsin, 1976.
3. The JOURNAL of Historic Madison, Inc., "Prairie Homes in Madison", Gordon D. Orr, Jr., Vol. I, 1975, Pgs. 21-31.
4. Wisconsin State Journal, Obituary, October 10, 1932 and October 11, 1932.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title

(2) Organization Represented (if any)

(3) Address

(4) Telephone Number

(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared

(1) Information from set of Blueprints in the Louis W. Claude Collection, dated June 16, 1907.

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

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

The George A. Lougee House is important in that it embodies the distinct characteristics of the Prairie School Style architecture and that represents the work of a locally significant architect, the firm of Claude and Starck of Madison. Louis W. Claude (1868-1951) was born in Baraboo, Wisconsin, educated in the local public schools, attended the University of Wisconsin as a special civil engineering student under the tutelage of Allan D. Conover, for whom he worked while a student. He left in 1891 for experience in the Chicago offices of Adler and Sullivan, D. H. Burnham and Company, and Schlacks and Ottenheimer. Claude returned to Madison, accepted a short term appointment on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin and established his own architectural practice about 1894. Edward F. Starck (1868-1947) was born in Milwaukee, moved to Madison and graduated from high school there. He obtained his experience in the offices of Edward Townsend Mix in Milwaukee, Handy and Cady of Chicago, and D. R. Jones in Madison. He joined Louis W. Claude in an architectural partnership about 1896 which lasted until 1929.

During the period of their practice, Claude and Starck designed many public libraries throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and the State of Washington, many banks and public schools in Wisconsin plus a large number of residences and commercial structures. Their work in public libraries has received attention and several, including those in Tomah, Wisconsin; Rochelle, Illinois; Merrill, Wisconsin; and Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. While not exclusively practitioners in Prairie School architecture, Louis W. Claude's writing does indicate a preference for original concepts in architecture. They, nevertheless, have a substantial representation of buildings in other forms.

A personal relationship between Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis W. Claude existed well into the later years of Claude's life and it is conceivable that his admiration for Wright, which he admitted, prompted several designs in a Wrightian mode. Certainly the George A. Lougee House bears a remarkable resemblance to Wright's work.

The Lougee House can be compared with the Harley Bradley House in Kankakee, Illinois, by Wright of 1900 and thus recognize the influence that was felt by Claude and Starck in designing this home. The Lougee House was contemporary with the Eugene Gilmore House of 1908 in Madison by Wright indicating that in the immediate period, residences by Wright, Sullivan (Harold C. Bradley House, 1909), George W. Maher (Edward C. Elliott House, 1910) were all being built.

George A. Lougee was born in Exeter, New Hampshire in 1850 and died in Madison in 1932. Mr. Lougee had a distinguished career in hotel management and ownership. For some 20 years from 1891 to 1911 he operated the Park Hotel in Madison while maintaining the operations of the New Kimball Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. After his retirement from the Park Hotel, he also managed the Palmer House in Chicago, as well as the University Club in Madison. In 1875 Mr. Lougee managed the first dining car on the Pennsylvania Railroad running from New York to Chicago.

While the house did change hands several times, it remained as a private single family residence until 1939 when it was subdivided into apartments. Present owner acquired property in 1945.