

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common
Jackman Building

(2) Historic (if applicable)
Parts of Lots 2 and 3, Block 72
described in Vol. 195

II. Location

(1) Street Address
111 South Hamilton

(2) Ward (available @ City Clerk)
Fourth District

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District
C4

(3) Present Use
Commercial - offices

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

(1) Name(s)
Peter R. and Anne T. Wadsack

(2) Street Address
1438 Vilas Avenue

(3) Telephone Number
257-6890 (office)

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

(1) Parcel Number
0709-242-09-03-8

(2) Legal Description Parts of Lots 2
described in Vol. 145, P. 256, Deeds of
Dane County, 12-28-05

VI. Condition of Property

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

(2) Altered or Unaltered?
Altered

(3) Moved or Original Site?
Original Site

(4) Wall Construction
Frame with brick veneer

(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:

A right triangle in plan, the three-story cream brick Jackman Building is rounded at one point of its base and squared at the other. The rounded "facade" at the intersection of Hamilton, Main, and Carroll Streets point toward the Wisconsin State Capitol building. The building follows the lines and slope of the lot, which falls away from the Capitol towards Lake Monona.

Fenestration on the building is generous. The large sash windows have stone lintels with keystones and simple stone sills. At the curved corner, windows and glass follow the contour. The stone trim is repeated at both entrances. A round-arched double doorway on Hamilton Street has alternating radiating voussiors and an embellished keystone; it is the main entrance to all floors. Stained glass in the semi-circular window under the arch forms an unusual geometric pattern. The corner commercial entrance features heavy stone mullions and transom bars. A heavy stone sill course accentuates the third-story windows and balances the heavy, denticulated cornice. The roof is flat.

The foundation of the building is reinforced concrete. Cast iron columns, I-beams, and wood joists constitute the frame inside the brick bearing walls. Stairs are cast iron and marble or slate.

A bold, early twentieth-century commercial design on the exterior, the interior of the building reveals the Prairie School predilections of the architects. Strips of applied finished birch in the halls, stairwell, and offices alternate with sections of painted plaster, suggesting Prairie School horizontality and proportion. Mouldings under the ceilings are dropped several inches to emphasize the expanse of wall rather than the joining of surfaces. Original light fixtures hanging in the halls are composed of intersecting horizontal and vertical metal bars supporting glass globes. The traditional link with the Arts & Crafts movement is expressed in graphics on the building index inside the side entrance. The principal suite of offices on the second floor includes an open reception area with an "island" of built-in seating. The most formal office in the front angle on the second floor is panelled in dark wood. Other interior fittings include inlaid tile floors and gray marble wainscoting on the first floor.

Only minor alterations have occurred over the years. At one point some partitions on the first floor commercial space were removed; recently, cosmetic changes have been made to accommodate adaptive re-use of the first floor. Renovation plans call for partitioning of the third floor. A stairwell and entry will be incorporated to provide separate access to the basement.

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 LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner Richmond, Jackman and Swanson, Lawyers	(2) Original Use Offices
(3) Architect or Builder Claude and Starck	(4) Architectural Style Classical Revival
(5) Date of Construction 1913-1914 (blueprints)	(6) Indigenous Materials Used none

(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. Claude and Starck, plans for Office Building at 111 South Hamilton Street, Madison
2. Jackman, W.L. Letter to Peter Wadsack, 14 April 1979.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title Peter R. Wadsack (Owner) and Barbara Wyatt and Diane Filipowicz	
(2) Organization Represented (if any) State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Historic Preservation Division	
(3) Address 816 State Street	(4) Telephone Number 262-8904
(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared Fall, 1979	

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

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

The Jackman Building is significant architecturally as an interesting commercial design of the notable Madison firm of Claude and Starck. In design and craftsmanship, the building was solidly executed.

An important Madison architectural firm, the architects of the Jackman Building, Louis Claude and Edward F. Starck, practiced together from c. 1898 until 1929. Several of their works are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the Kilborne Public Library (1912), the Eager Free Public Library (1908), the William Collins House (1911), the George A. Lougee House (1907), the Tomah Public Library (1916), and the T.B. Scott Free Library (1910).

Claude and Starck's design for the Jackman Building is unusual in plan, with stairway and halls located along the Main Street facade, and commercial space and offices located in the front angle and along Hamilton Street. Despite the tight plan of interior space a vast spatial effect is imparted by the large and numerous windows. Every room has at least one window, as do the stairwells. The building is enhanced by the fine tile-work on the floors and the attractive proportioning of woodwork and marble. As an imposing early twentieth-century design representing pre-World War I development, it is a significant contributor to the Capitol Square area. With its Prairie School decoration inside, the building reveals its special regional identity, and its kinship with other works by its architects. Contractor John Findorff of Madison completed the building in 1914.

The law firm of Richmond, Jackman, and Swanson had the structure on Hamilton Street built to house the firm's offices and rental space. Ralph Jackman occupied the building longest. His law firm was composed of various partners who succeeded Richmond and Swanson. Eventually Jackman's son, W.L. Jackman, also a lawyer, occupied the building. The firm, in its various incarnations, occupied the second and most of the third floors from 1914 until 1978. Other tenants in the building included accountants, unions, private detectives, service organizations, insurance agents, and the Chamber of Commerce. In 1978 the building was sold by the Jackman heirs to Anne Taylor and Peter R. Wadsack.