

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

I. Name of Building or Site

(1) Common Koritzinsky, Neider, Langer  
and Roberson Law Offices

(2) Historic (if applicable)  
Adolph H. Kayser House

II. Location

(1) Street Address  
802 East Gorham Street

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

III. Classification

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

(2) Zoning District  
R5

(3) Present Use  
Law Offices

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

(1) Name(s)

Allen Koritzinsky, Charles Neider, Richard Langer

(2) Street Address  
802 East Gorham Street

(3) Telephone Number  
251-0998

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

(1) Parcel Number  
0709-132-08-02-5

(2) Legal Description  
S256' of Lot 1, Block 139, Original Plat

VI. Condition of Property

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

(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:**

Following description is from "Adolph H. Kayser House" by Gordon D. Orr, Jr., 1980, and is copyrighted 1980 by the author. It is used by permission.

The Adolph H. Kayser House is a large single family frame residence with brick veneer and stone trim. The house was designed in a "progressive"<sup>1</sup> manner following upon the details and forms used by George W. Maher, Architect, of Chicago and Kenilworth, Illinois. <sup>2</sup>The principal facade faces southeast to East Gorham Street.

The main mass of the house is constructed of an orange-tan face brick containing iron spots and set with very thin joints of a rose colored mortar blending with the bricks. The building contains two stories plus an attic story with dormers on all four sides. The hip roof rises with two pitches, the lower of modest pitch and the upper is steeper with ridge running front to rear. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, although it probably was covered in clay tile when originally built.<sup>3</sup> Two brick chimneys are located just either side of ridge.

The exterior construction of the building consists of a rock faced limestone base set in regular courses and capped by a dressed limestone flat arch consisting of five stones in a stepped pattern with a keystone rising above others. A covered stone belt course surrounds the building at a height of the second floor window sills. The corners of the first story are marked by a brick quoin pattern of the same brick as the field of the house from water table to belt course.

The facades are characterized by various patterns of window bays. On the southeast at the front entrance, a porch almost of a half octagon in shape, replacing an original porch of rectangular plan extends across the center three-quarters of the building and consists of a simple architrave supported by square columns set upon a stone rail. The porch shelters the front door. The front entrance extends in a shallow bay of three parts divided by four Ionic columns with the entrance door of glass and oak centered between. A similar bay occurs on the second floor except the columns now consist of alternating round and square elements, much like a Gibbs surround, a detail used by George W. Maher. The southwest facade contains a window bay on both the first and second floors. The first floor bay carries out the pattern of alternating square and round section on the columns that separate the windows, similar to that on the second floor of the front entrance. At the second floor level the bay is simple, in three parts. An oriel exists on the northeast side that contains the main stair. The rear or northwest facade contains a porch covered entrance to the building. Modifications have taken place here and the original porch, looking north to Lake Mendota, was considerably larger. Dormers occur on all four sides and project from the hipped roof with semicircular shaped roofs. The short wall section on either side of the dormer originates in a scroll pattern rising to a flat architrave from which the semicircular roof springs. These dormers contain three operable single pane lights below the level of the architrave and a series of small panes (about 22) above of fixed glass. The roof has a generous overhang indicating the feeling of shelter later associated with the Prairie School.

The interior has been sensitively remodeled into a new use. Present oak trim on the first floor remains, as does original wainscot in some select locations. A few partitions have been added.

The principal stair remains. Original dark stained oak for stairs, rails, balusters and wainscot remains. The stair originates from a cased opening, with a shallow wood

VI. (5) (continued)

arch springing from flat wood pilasters. The oriel occurs at the intermediate landing, and is glazed with "art glass".

Original floor plan from drawing by Claude and Starck indicate the layout of the first and second floors.

This building stems from the "Progressive" tradition in American Architecture as identified by David Gebhard in his unpublished dissertation of Purcell and Elmslie. The details of dormers, of alternating square and round column segments, the general feeling of massiveness and a disdain for traditional revival architecture can easily be seen in the works of George W. Maher, who at a later date did collaborate with Claude and Starck in the execution of a project in Madison.<sup>4</sup> Maher's influence at this period in Midwest architectural development was strong and undoubtedly influenced the design of this building.

The site also contains a brick garage that is not significant.

<sup>1</sup>David Gebhard's unpublished dissertation of 1957 at the University of Minnesota, speaks of the "Progressive Movement in American Architecture".

<sup>2</sup>See "Prairie School Review," Vol. I, No. 1, "George W. Maher, Architect of the Prairie School" by J. William Rudd, "The Prairie School" by H. Allen Brooks, and "Prairie School Architecture; Studies from "The Western Architect" by H. Allen Brooks for illustrations of Maher's work.

<sup>3</sup>Photograph in "Madison Past and Present 1852-1902, " would seem to indicate clay tile.

<sup>4</sup>Edward C. Elliott House, Madison Wisconsin (NRHP).



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

VII. Significance

(1) Original Owner Adolph H. Kayser	(2) Original Use Single family residence
(3) Architect or Builder Claude and Starck	(4) Architectural Style "Progressive"
(5) Date of Construction ca. 1902 (tax records)	(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. "Madison, Past and Present, 1852-1902" published by the Wisconsin State Journal.
2. Wisconsin Necrology, V. 22, pages 197-200, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.
3. Undated blueprints of first and second floor plans by Claude and Starck.
4. "A Partial List of Buildings, both Public and Private designed by Claude and Starck, Architects, Madison, Wisconsin", privately published by Claude and Starck,
5. about 1925.
6. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., FAIA, "Prairie Architecture in Madison, Wisconsin; Influences, Forms and Form-Givers," unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1971.
7. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., FAIA, "Louis W. Claude; Madison Architect of the Prairie School", manuscript in possession of the Prairie School Review, scheduled for 1980 publication.
8. Orr, Gordon D., Jr., FAIA, "The Collaboration of Claude and Starck with Chicago Architectural Firms", Prairie School Review, Vol. XII, No. 4, 1975.

IX. Form Prepared By:

(1) Name and Title Gordon D. Orr, Jr., FAIA	
(2) Organization Represented (if any) American Institute of Architects	
(3) Address 2729 Mason Street	(4) Telephone Number 238-1683
(5) Date Nomination Form Was Prepared May, 1980	

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

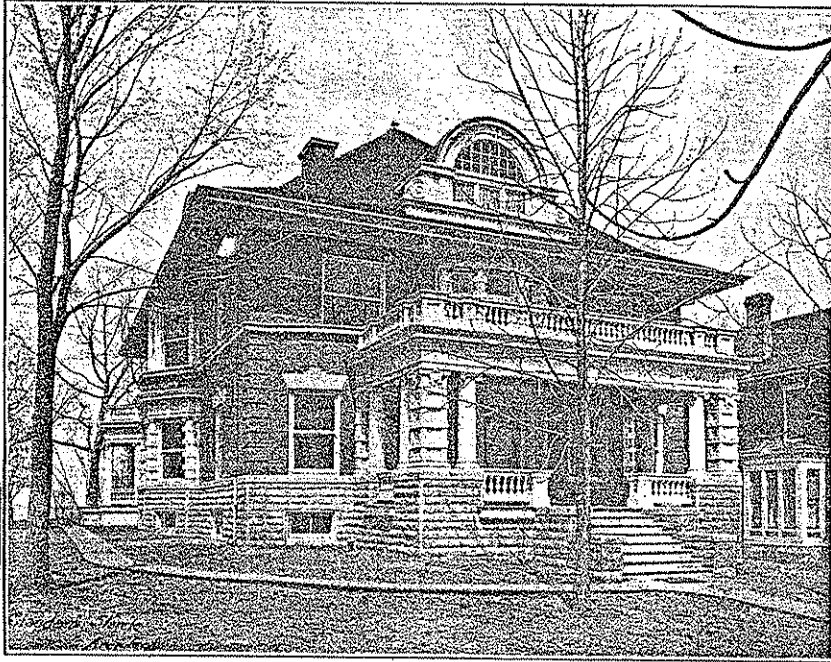
VII.(7) Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria:

Following statement of significance is from "Adolph H. Kayser House" by Gordon D. Orr, Jr., 1980, and is copyrighted 1980 by the author. It is used by permission.

The Adolph H. Kayser Residence built about 1902 is significant in that it represents a fine example of a large residence designed by an important regional architectural firm, Claude and Starck of Madison, Wisconsin, in the "progressive" manner emerging in the Midwest as opposed to the traditional revival types of architecture.

Perhaps four examples of this distinct form of architecture remain in Madison representing early attempts at a departure from more traditional architectural forms. Both members of the architectural firm had experience in Chicago and one member, Louis W. Claude, worked in the office of Louis H. Sullivan at the time when George Grant Elmslie and Frank Lloyd Wright were also employed there. Louis W. Claude was in the Chicago area when George W. Maher was beginning his practice and publishing some of his thoughts on architectural design in "The Western Architect". His work was also being published. This influence was brought back to Madison when Louis W. Claude returned in 1894 and his partnership with Edward F. Starck commenced about 1896. The Adolph H. Kayser House not only represents the finest survivor of these early homes, but it was built for a man important in both business and politics in the community. Mr. Kayser for many years maintained a lumber company and from 1914 through 1916 he was Mayor of the City of Madison.

The firm of Claude and Starck continued to practice in Madison until 1929 when the partnership dissolved. During the approximately 33 years of active practice the firm acquired a regional reputation in the design of small library buildings and one partner, Louis W. Claude, contributed to library journal articles on library design. The firm also designed a number of public school buildings, banks, and commercial structures throughout the state as well as many private residences. That portion of their work that expressed a progressive bent in architectural design is recognized today as noteworthy, and some of their buildings such as the libraries in Tomah, Jefferson and Merrill, Wisconsin and Rochelle, Illinois, and the William Collins House and George Lougee House both in Madison, and all on the National Register, clearly express their strong grasp of the Prairie School tradition. The Adolph H. Kayser House is a forerunner to this later expression, but clearly it is a departure from the more common revival architecture of the period.



A. H. KAYSER HOME, PLANS BY CLAUDE & STARCK.