

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Wisconsin	
COUNTY:	Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 11 1972	DATE

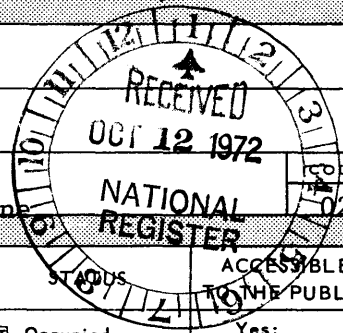
1. NAME

COMMON: Old Executive Mansion
AND/OR HISTORIC: White, Julius T., House

Congressmen to be notified:
Sen. William Proxmire
Sen. Gaylord Nelson
Rep. Robert Kastenmeier, 2nd Cong. Dist.

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 130 East Gilman Street
CITY OR TOWN: Madison
STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55 COUNTY: Dane CODE: 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered (clarified in text)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	U.W. grad residence hall.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: University of Wisconsin Board of Regents
STREET AND NUMBER: Van Hise Hall
CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dane County Register of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building, 210 Monona Ave.
CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of the City of Madison Landmarks Commission
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: City Planning Department
STREET AND NUMBER: 414 City-County Building, 210 Monona Ave.
CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

STATE: Wisconsin
COUNTY: Dane
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1972
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The appearance of this house today is most likely very similar to its original appearance. During the years three porches have adorned the house, starting in the 1850's with a small front porch flanked by a bay window to the left which no longer exists. Around 1898 a rambling porch was added which swept across the front of the building and down its southwest facade. In turn, this porch was removed more recently and replaced with the present small porch supported by two Ionic columns in front of two Ionic pilasters.

The house is built of indigenous sandstone from the Westport quarry, as are many of Madison's other aristocratic mid-19th century houses. Unlike the others, however, this house has an asymmetric facade composed of three blocky masses. To the right of the entrance is a one-story, flat-roofed stone projection with a pair of deeply-recessed windows which are unadorned by hooded moldings. Other windows in the facade are also deeply-recessed, but have generous hood moldings with keystone motifs. These richly-formed windows, casting marked shadows, are the most striking feature of the main elevation, closely followed by the generous eaves of the roof which are supported on large brackets. These brackets are paired at corners, which are further embellished by recessed panels under the eaves. On the northeast elevation is a white, one-story bay window.

Attached to the rear of the main body of the house is a subordinate stone wing which is less elaborately executed. The roof is lowered and walls planes recessed, and the windows are smaller with only plain lintels and sills. Roof brackets are also smaller, and are paired.

The house has a very gently-sloped hipped roof topped by a widow's walk. Four centrally-located chimneys penetrate the roof.

The design of the house is unusually restrained for the mid-19th century, making it appealing to one with contemporary taste. Assigning the proper "style" to a midwestern building of this period is often hazardous because of the way styles quickly came and went, and because designers had no qualms about combining styles which had been regarded as incompatible previously. This house is a Victorian design with Italianate influences, a "style" shared with many other Madison residences of the period.

Toward the end of the last century, a Norwegian formal terraced garden was built on the northwestern lawn of this house. Though this garden is no longer preserved, traces of it can be found today. The spacious lawns on this side of the house run down to the shore of Lake Mendota, where a University of Wisconsin bathhouse has been built only recently.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

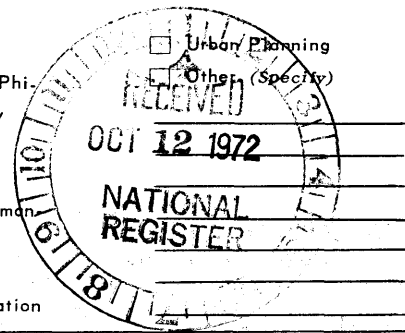
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1854-1856

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Executive Mansion is of statewide historical importance because it served as the governors' residence for seventeen chiefs of state from 1883 to 1950. It is of local architectural importance because of its exceptionally handsome Victorian design and its use of indigenous sandstone materials.

There is some discrepancy between secondary sources which date the construction of this house as 1854¹, and City of Madison tax rolls which indicate that major construction on this site probably took place ca. 1856. It can only be assumed, therefore, that the house was built ca. 1854-1856. The original owner was Julius T. White, a prominent businessman and later a Union general, causing the house originally to be known as the "White House." White was an avid art collector and presided over the social and artistic life of the community until he left Madison in 1857, selling the house to George P. Delaplaine, private secretary to the first and second governors of Wisconsin. White and Delaplaine established a reputation for the house for lavish parties and entertainment, a reputation which future owners carried into the 20th century.

A major chapter in the life of this house, more important for social than political history, began when multimillionaire lumber baron J.G. Thorp purchased it in 1868 to move his social-climbing wife to Madison from Eau Claire, where her considerable social talents were withering. Mrs. Thorp ruled Madison's social community from this house until 1883, a reign whose crowning achievement was the marriage of the Thorp daughter, Sara, then 20-years-old, to world-famous violinist Ole Bull, then 60-years-old. Ole Bull made his American home at this house thereafter, and made various landscaping and site changes to the property to suit his Norwegian taste.²

In 1883 Gov. Jeremiah "Uncle Jerry" Rusk bought the house for \$15,000 from the Thorps, and continued its reputation for lavish social activity. In 1885, Gov. Rusk sold the house to the State of Wisconsin for a sum "not to exceed \$20,000."³ Rusk left the governorship in 1889 and went to Washington to serve as Secretary of Agriculture under President Benjamin Harrison. In 1905 the name of Gates County was changed to Rusk County in his honor.⁴ In 1898 or 1899, Gov Edward Scofield added a rambling porch to the house, which has since been removed.

To establish the importance of the later history of this house would merely require the listing of all the Wisconsin governors who lived there and their accomplishments. In 1950 the house was sold to the University of Wisconsin and since then it has served, with one

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1] Dean, Jeffrey, and Custer, Frank, Sandstone and Buffalo Robes: a walking-tour guide to Madison's historic downtown buildings, City Planning Department, Madison, Wis.; August, 1969. Bldg. #10.
- 2] Raney, William F., Wisconsin: A Story of Progress, Perin Press, Appleton, Wis.: 1963. P. 271.
- 3] Wisconsin, State of, The Wisconsin Blue Book, 1960, Madison, 1960, p. 129.
- 4] Mattern, Carolyn J., Madison Landmark Commission Site Nomination Form, Nov. 16, 1971.
- 5] La Follette, Isabel Bacon, "Early History of the Wisconsin Executive Residence," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Dec., 1937; pp. 139-150.

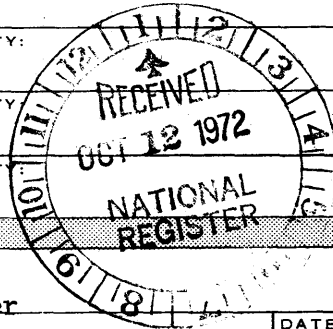
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N43° 04' 47"	W89° 23' 12"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeffrey Dean, State Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE:
June 21, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin 53706

CODE:
55

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date OCT 6 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/11/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4-3-73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 1 1973

(Number all entries)

Old Executive Mansion

[8] exception, as the residence hall for Knapp Scholarship students. The exception came in 1966 when Gov. Warren P. Knowles and his wife resided in this house for a short time while the present executive mansion was being remodeled.⁵

At the present time, a movement is under way, under the guidance of the wife of Gov. Patrick Lucey, to require the Old Executive Mansion for the State of Wisconsin and restore it and convert it to a state museum open to the public.

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- 1-La Follette, p. 140; Dean and Custer, Bldg. #10.
 - 2-La Follette, pp. 142-148.
 - 3-Ibid, p. 148
 - 4-1960 Blue Book, p. 130
 - 5-Dean and Custer, Bldg. #10.

