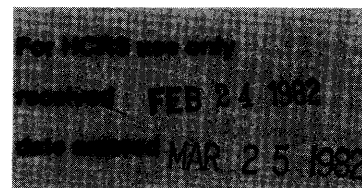


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Biederstaedt Grocery

and/or common Biederstaedt-Breitenbach Grocery (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 851-853 Williamson Street ___ not for publication

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

Category ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	Ownership ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both Public Acquisition ___ in process ___ being considered	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress Accessible ___ yes: restricted ___ yes: unrestricted ___ no	Present Use ___ agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military ___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
---	--	--	---

4. Owner of Property

name Daniel Yopack

street & number 851 Williamson Street

city, town Madison ___ vicinity of state Wisconsin 53703

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Register of Deeds

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title City of Madison Landmark has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date September 19, 1977 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53710

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Biederstaedt-Breitenbach Grocery is a simple double store commercial building in the Italianate style. The two-story building is constructed of load-bearing brick with sand-stone trim. The brick is local red brick, which, because of its softness, was coated with a thin concretinous substance sometime in the past. The front (north) facade has a straight parapet rising above a shallowly sloped gable roof to the east and a shed roofed section to the west. The parapet cornice is of wood with decorative brackets. Pilasters at each corner and a decorative frieze of corbelled bricks are the only embellishments on the plain brick walls, except for the window trim. On the second level, the original fenestration consisted of six windows with louvered shutters and thin stone sills. The segmentally arched tops have stone keystones on the double brick stilted arches. Because the 853 storefront is wider than the 851 front, the three windows over the 853 front are further spaced than the other three. One of the windows was recently made into a door to accommodate a fire platform. Four windows contain the original four-over-four glazing and one is blind with permanently closed shutters.

Stone pilasters on the first floor support a bracketed and denticulated cornice, a section of which was cut out when the second story fire exit was added. The windows between the pilasters originally contained nine lights but early in the twentieth century were changed to plate glass with transoms above. The 851 front has the same configuration as the original, but the stone pilasters between the display windows and the door on the 853 front have been removed. In addition an original pent roof structure on iron brackets which sheltered the stonefronts was removed many years ago.

The Patterson Street side of the building contains five windows on the second story which imitate the front windows except that they lack keystones. On the first floor level are one window and one door with plain stone lintels. Both have been boarded over with plywood but remain underneath. An old neon sign remains on this side from the time the building housed the Pharo Grocery. Below, a billboard has been applied over an old painted sign advertising King Midas Flour. The west side of the building is pierced by segmentally arched windows with stilted arches. The rear (south) side of the building has been altered many times. Originally, the building was L-shaped but in 1897 the "el" was filled in with a brick addition to make the building rectangular. Over the years frame sheds and porches were added and subtracted from the rear facade. By the summer of 1980, all of the remaining wood structures had become extremely dilapidated and were removed.

As could be expected for a commercial building, many alterations have occurred on the interior, particularly in the 853 store section. The 851 storefront is currently being rehabilitated, but the remaining historic features will be retained. These include a waist-high wainscoting on each side wall, maple flooring, and wide arches between rooms, which date to the time the rear wing was added. The original layout upstairs has been retained. A hall which extends from the front to the back of the building separates the living spaces from the bedrooms. The original painted woodwork remains around doors and windows. In some rooms the floors are wide planks and in other rooms a floor of narrower boards of hardwood has been added on top of the original. In the front living room, a Georgian Revival fireplace has been added. The building has suffered from neglect for many years. The new owner is slowly rehabilitating it. He hopes to return the storefronts to their historic appearance as funds permit.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 24 1982
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

Item #6, Representation in Existing Surveys, continued

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

state

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

WI 53706

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1874¹

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Biederstaedt-Breitenbach Grocery is significant as a representation of an important, and rapidly disappearing historical phenomenon, the corner grocery.

It is located nine blocks east of the Capitol Square in the heart of one of Madison's oldest ethnic neighborhoods. The property at the corner of Williamson and Patterson has been the site of a corner grocery since the beginnings of the major ethnic immigration in the 1850s. Sometime in the late 1850s, Otto Hinrichs built a small frame structure at this corner to house his dry goods and grocery business. In 1866 he sold his building to Charles F. Biederstaedt. Biederstaedt continued the business until 1874 when he leased the space to Martin Joachim, a man who had previously clerked in other grocery stores in Madison. Just as Joachim was getting settled, a fire broke out on a Saturday night in August at Hyer's Hotel next door. The fire consumed the frame wing of Hyer's Hotel, and all Biederstaedt's building, including Joachim's stock. Joachim returned to clerking in stores owned by others.

Shortly after the fire Biederstaedt built the large brick building that exists today. He resumed a grocery business in the 853 storefront and opened a saloon in the smaller 851 section. He and his family moved into the second floor. After Charles Biederstaedt died in 1890, the family leased the building to George C. Breitenbach and his son, George F. Breitenbach. George C. Breitenbach immigrated to the United States from Bavaria in 1846. His family arrived in Madison in 1850 when he was seven years old and settled in a house on Williamson Street just a few doors away from the grocery. George worked as a wagonmaker and plowmaker before leasing the Biederstaedt store. In 1898 or 1899 the Breitenbachs bought the store building and the Biederstaedt family moved into a new house they had just completed next door. The Breitenbachs operated the grocery and lived above the store until 1951, a total of over sixty years. The building continued to house a grocery store at 853 until 1960.

A 1949 article in the Capital Times discusses the importance of the building in the every day lives of the people in the neighborhood: "Williamson Street in the old days was a very important thoroughfare. It is yet for that matter. But I can well remember the time when it was by far the best (and under certain weather conditions, the only) street that tapped the rich farming country to the east and even the northeast of Madison. And Breitenbach's corner, as it came to be called, was the busiest spot on the street.

The hitching posts and curb rings always tethered a full quota of farm wagons or bob sleds. In the winter the street was a heaven for us neighboring kids who spent our Saturdays "hitching bobs." ...The candy counter in the store was a popular place, too, for us youngsters. George Breitenbach was very fond of children and he had a free and open handed disposition. He always gave us double value for our nickels and pennies and as often as not refused to take our money. I am afraid we often took advantage of his generosity."

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .206 acre

Quadrangle name Madison East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

NE 2 ft. of Lot 8 and all of Lot 9, Block 148, Original Plat.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jacquelyn Star, Lance Neckar, and Katherine H. Rankin, Secretary

organization Madison Landmarks Commission

date February, 1981

street & number 215 Monona Avenue

telephone 608-266-6552

city or town Madison

state Wisconsin 53710

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Richard Murray

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/10/82

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

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8. Significance

The building served many functions: it was not only the place to buy dry goods, food and liquor, but also a community gathering place for children at the candy counter, mothers at the grocery store, and men at the saloon. In Madison in the 19th century establishments like this were proliferous in every neighborhood. But now few remain. A study of 19th century commercial establishments undertaken by the Madison Planning Department in 1977 reveals that only about nine corner grocery stores remain in Madison from the 19th century. Of these nine, only one (located at 502 W. Main) rivals the Biederstaedt-Breitenbach Grocery in age and in continuous service to the neighborhood as a grocery. Unfortunately, that building has been extensively altered and does not retain its historic integrity. The Biederstaedt-Breitenbach Grocery, therefore, is the best example of this once important neighborhood institution remaining in Madison.

¹Tax rolls for the City of Madison, 1870-1880, in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

²"Grocery on Williamson Street In Breitenbach Family Since 1890," Capital Times, February 19, 1949.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories for Madison, 1858-1965.

Commercial Survey Maps, City of Madison Department of Planning and Development, 1977.

"Fire Saturday Night," Wisconsin State Journal, Aug. 17, 1874.

"Grocery on Williamson Street In Breitenbach Family Since 1890," Capital Times,
February 19, 1949.

Historic photographs of the building, in the collection of the City of Madison
Department of Planning and Development.

History of Dane County: Biographical and Geneological, Madison, 1906, p. 108.

Maps of Madison, 1855 and 1872, in the collections of the State Historical Society
of Wisconsin.

Sanborn-Perris Insurance Maps of the City of Madison, 1892, 1898, 1902 in the collections
of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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Society of Wisconsin.