

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

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

For NPS use only  
received AUG 22 1984  
date entered SEP 20 1984

**1. Name**

historic Agricultural Dean's Residence

and/or common Experimental Farms offices, 10 Babcock Drive

**2. Location**

street & number 10 Babcock Drive (~~University of Wisconsin campus~~) not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Leo M. Walsh, Dean, The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

street & number 140 Agriculture Hall, 1450 Linden Drive, University of Wisconsin

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin

**5. Location of Legal Description**

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

street & number 201 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Madison Campus Architecture,  
title Historical and Archaeological Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Department of Planning and Construction, University of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Located at 10 Babcock Drive on the campus of the University of Wisconsin, the Agricultural Dean's Residence is a two-story cream brick Queen Anne house with gothic details, set on a cut stone foundation. The asymmetrical exterior features a three-story round tower on the northeast corner, a two-story window bay to the south, a wide verandah across the east facade with a smaller second-story corner balcony above the main entrance, and a porch sheltering the back entrance to the west. The red-shingled, hipped roof is accented with white, gabled dormers which provide space and light to the attic. The gables to the east, south and west feature gothic-arched windows and applied "half-timber" style trim, while the north-facing gable forms a white shingled porch. A large gothic-arched window highlights the south facade; the other windows are simple, double-hung or single sash, spaced irregularly.

An outstanding feature of the house is its carved wood trim. The second-story porch over the entrance has a delicate tracery of gothic arches beneath its eaves, and a trefoil design in its balustrade. The entrance verandah is supported by double and triple columns set on sturdy cut stone bases. The back porch has shallow ogee arches detailing its roofline. At the entrance foyer, the outer doors feature carved muntins repeating the gothic motif. The foyer window and inner door are graced with leaded glass. Another large leaded glass window at the stairway landing is accented with carved woodwork in a double gothic arch. The brickwork of the house is in running bond, enhanced by a raised diamond pattern above the second floor windows and on the tall chimney. The house has been well maintained, and its external appearance has changed very little since it was built.<sup>1</sup>

Since 1980 the house has served as the offices of the Experimental Farms of the University of Wisconsin. In this capacity, the interior has been slightly modified, with modernized lighting and the addition of exit signs and a reception desk. No structural changes have been made, however, and the building retains its residential ambience inside as well as outside. A wide stairway with turned balusters and carved newel posts dominates the central hall. The first floor rooms have retained the original coved ceilings. The woodwork around the interior door and window frames is enhanced with a simple, but elegant rectilinear design. All of the interior hardware appears to be original; some of the brass doorknobs have an embossed design. The mantle of the brick fireplace in the living room (now the reception office) is supported by carved wooden brackets. The plainer fireplace in the room directly above is also intact. Curved window seats are built in beneath the windows in the engaged tower, both downstairs and upstairs.

The grounds surrounding the house contain many of the trees originally planted by Dean W.A. Henry, who aspired to have every native Wisconsin tree represented on the campus, as well as contributions by later deans.<sup>2</sup> Notable older trees have received identification markers from the Department of Horticulture. A curved driveway edged with boulders leads to a detached garage (non-contributing) behind the house. Wire fencing borders the yard on three sides, preventing its use as a short-cut to the nearby dormitories and tennis courts. A yew hedge on the south side and the established plantings on the north and west help to make the fence unobtrusive.

1. An early photograph of the house appears in Reuben Gold Thwaites, The University of Wisconsin: Its History and its Alumni. (Madison: J.N. Purcell, 1900) p. 198.

2. Kathleen Cruikshank, "10 Babcock Drive," Wisconsin Academy Review, 23: 3 (June, 1977) pp. 5, 7, 8.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Association with significant persons  
**Specific dates** 1896<sup>1</sup> (construction) **Builder/Architect** Allan D. Conover & Lew F. Porter.<sup>1</sup>  
 1896-1945  
 (period of significance)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Agricultural Dean's Residence is significant both architecturally and in association with significant persons. A product of the respected Madison architectural firm of Conover and Porter, the Queen Anne house is a prime example of their attention to detail and fine craftsmanship. It is one of the few extant residences designed by that team. Constructed especially for the first dean of the College of Agriculture, the house is thus intimately associated with the four deans who resided there, particularly W.A. Henry and H.L. Russell. The house stands as a symbol of the status of the College of Agriculture within the University of Wisconsin and as a reminder of that period of university history during which agriculture took its place as a full-fledged course of instruction and research.

Architecture

The architectural partnership of Conover and Porter was brief, lasting only 12 years, but it resulted in several significant contributions. The senior partner, Allan D. Conover (1854-1929) was born in Madison, Wisconsin, received his degree at the University of Wisconsin, and remained there to teach engineering from 1875 to 1890. Lew F. Porter (1862-1918) was born in LaSalle County, Illinois. He received his education at Beloit College and the University of Wisconsin. In 1886, during his junior year, Porter was recruited by Conover to aid in supervising the construction of the Dane County Courthouse. During their partnership, several well-known architects received some of their early training with the firm, including Louis Claude, John Flad, Alvan Small, and Frank Lloyd Wright.<sup>2</sup> Other major works designed by the firm for the University of Wisconsin were the Armory (now known as the Old Red Gym) and the old university boathouse (now destroyed). Old Science Hall (Conover and Koch) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Of the few residences designed by the firm that remain today, the Henry Fauerbach residence (1892), 938 Spaight Street, the Timothy McCarthy house (1896), 848 Jenifer Street, and the Cornelius Harper house, 610 Langdon Street, have lost much of their integrity by the removal of some of their original wood trim and the addition of modern siding. An addition to one side of the Judge Siebecker residence, 409 East Wilson, detracts from the neo-classical symmetry of the original design. Of the extant Conover-Porter houses in Madison, only the Buell house (1893), 115 Ely Place, compares with the Agricultural Dean's Residence in displaying the craftsmanship of the Conover-Porter team. Its gothic wood carving is not as extensive, however, appearing in only one window. Although the Buell house is currently undergoing renovation in which care is being taken to retain its integrity its overall condition is not as good as the Agricultural Dean's Residence.

In many respects the Agricultural Dean's Residence, with its generous proportions and welcoming aspect, is a typical house of its time. Its architectural significance lies in the fine details of its wood carving and the repetition of design motifs both inside and outside. It is a truly fine specimen of late 19th century residential design and workmanship in the Queen Anne style, and is an excellent example of the work of Conover and Porter.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Alexander, A.S., "William Arnon Henry: Educator--Seer--Farm Leader," Circular 151, Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1934.

Glover, W.H., Farm and College: The College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, A History. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1953.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Slightly less than 2 acres

Quadrangle name Madison West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 15, Township 7 N, Range 9 E, City of Madison, Wisconsin. A parcel of land on Babcock Drive beginning 150' north of the corner of Observatory and Babcock Drives, extending 182' N, 285' W, 162' S, 72' E, 10' S, and 205' E. (See sketch map)

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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

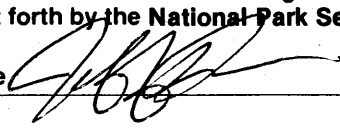
name/title Sharon Crawford  
 organization Department of Landscape Architecture  
University of Wisconsin-Madison date July, 1984  
 street & number (Home) 5 South Kenosha Drive telephone 608-233-5627  
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin, 53705

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature   
 title Director, Historic Preservation Division

date AUGUST 3, 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

9-20-84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Agricultural Dean's Residence, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Dane County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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Association With a Significant Person

The Agricultural Dean's Residence is closely associated with William Arnon Henry, the first dean of the College of Agriculture. It was at Dean Henry's request that the house was built, and he and Mrs. Henry had considerable input on the plan for the house. W.A. Henry was born in Norwalk, Ohio on June 16, 1850. Raised on a farm, he taught in public schools in Indiana and Colorado before attending university. He received a B.S. degree in agriculture from Cornell University in 1880, and was hired by the University of Wisconsin as professor of botany and agriculture and director of the university experimental farm. At that time there was no department of agriculture at the university, and Henry's major task was to develop one. He achieved that end by attending farm meetings around the state, using seeds and innovations from the experimental farm to gain acceptance of the state's farmers. At every opportunity he urged farmers to send their sons to study agriculture at the university. In 1883 Henry was named Professor of Agriculture, and in 1887 he became the first dean of the newly formed College of Agriculture, a position which he held until he resigned due to failing health in 1907.

In 1885 Dean Henry initiated the twelve-week winter session Short Course in Agriculture, enabling young farmers to attend the university during the slowest season for farming. Another innovation in 1885 was the programming of Farmers' Institutes, for which educators from the university traveled to rural communities throughout the state to hold one- or two-day conferences on topics relevant to farmers. These institutes were very popular with farmers, drawing an attendance of 50,000 statewide during the first year. It was largely at Dean Henry's urging that Dr. S.M. Babcock developed the test for butterfat content of milk in 1890, an achievement which established the University of Wisconsin as a leader in dairy research. Henry's own research concerned the feeding of livestock; his textbook, Feeds and Feeding, was widely used through many editions.

One of Dean Henry's greatest assets to the university was his ability to relate to both the farmers and the legislators of Wisconsin. With his friendly, unassuming manner, he gained the trust of people, and his directness and honesty were respected by all who knew him. By bringing legislators to the campus to show them the inadequacy of his facilities, he was granted funding for many of the buildings which still dominate the agriculture campus, including Hiram Smith Hall, Agriculture Hall, and the Stock Pavilion.

When Henry began work at the university, he and his wife shared a modest frame farm house on campus with the workmen of the university farm. In 1891, Henry's reputation as an educator and administrator had spread, and he received job offers from both Iowa State College and Stanford University. In 1894 another offer came, to become director of the New York State Experiment Station. In order to keep Dean Henry at Wisconsin, his request for a salary increase, vacation time, and a house was granted. In October, 1895 the Board of Regents authorized an appropriation of \$8,000 for the house. Another \$2,000 was needed before the house was completed, but after he and his family took occupancy, Dean Henry assumed responsibility for all further expenses for the house.

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Continuation sheet

Dane County, Wisconsin

Item number

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Since Dean Henry's retirement in 1907, three other deans of the College of Agriculture have lived in the house, each of whom contributed significantly to the University of Wisconsin. Dean Harry L. Russell was born in Poynette, Wisconsin in 1866. He received his undergraduate and M.S. degrees at the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University, returning to Wisconsin in 1893 as a bacteriologist for the Agricultural Experiment Station. Russell's significant contributions in medical bacteriology include the development of tests for the detection of bovine tuberculosis and studies of the typhoid bacillus. He was one of the instigators for the establishment of a state tuberculosis sanatorium and a state hygiene laboratory. Other work included the discovery with Stephen M. Babcock of a cold-curing process for cheesemaking and the development of time and temperature standards for the pea canning industry. During Russell's tenure as Dean (1907-1931) he established the agricultural agent system in University Extension and initiated programs in forestry and wildlife management. Russell was involved in the establishment of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, resigning his deanship to become the first WARF director.<sup>10</sup>

A major contribution of Dean C.L. Christensen (1931-1943) was the revitalization and upgrading of the agricultural short course, after its decline during the First World War and the Depression. When E.B. Fred (1943-1945) resigned his deanship to become president of the University, the new agriculture dean did not wish to move his family onto campus, so the Freds were allowed to remain in the house. Thier occupancy continued into President Fred's emeritus years, until 1980, when the house was assigned its present function.<sup>11</sup>

1. Gordon D. Orr, Perspectives of a University (Planning and Construction: University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1978), pp. 76-77.

2. Ibid.

3. A.S. Alexander, "William Arnon Henry: Educator--Seer--Farm Leader," Stencil Circular #151 (Extension Service, College of Agriculture, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1934), p. 3.

4. W.H. Glover, Farm and College: The College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin, A History. (Madison: University of Wisconsin, 1952), p. 3.

5. Glover, p. 118.

6. Alexander, p. 5.

7. Alexander, p. 1.

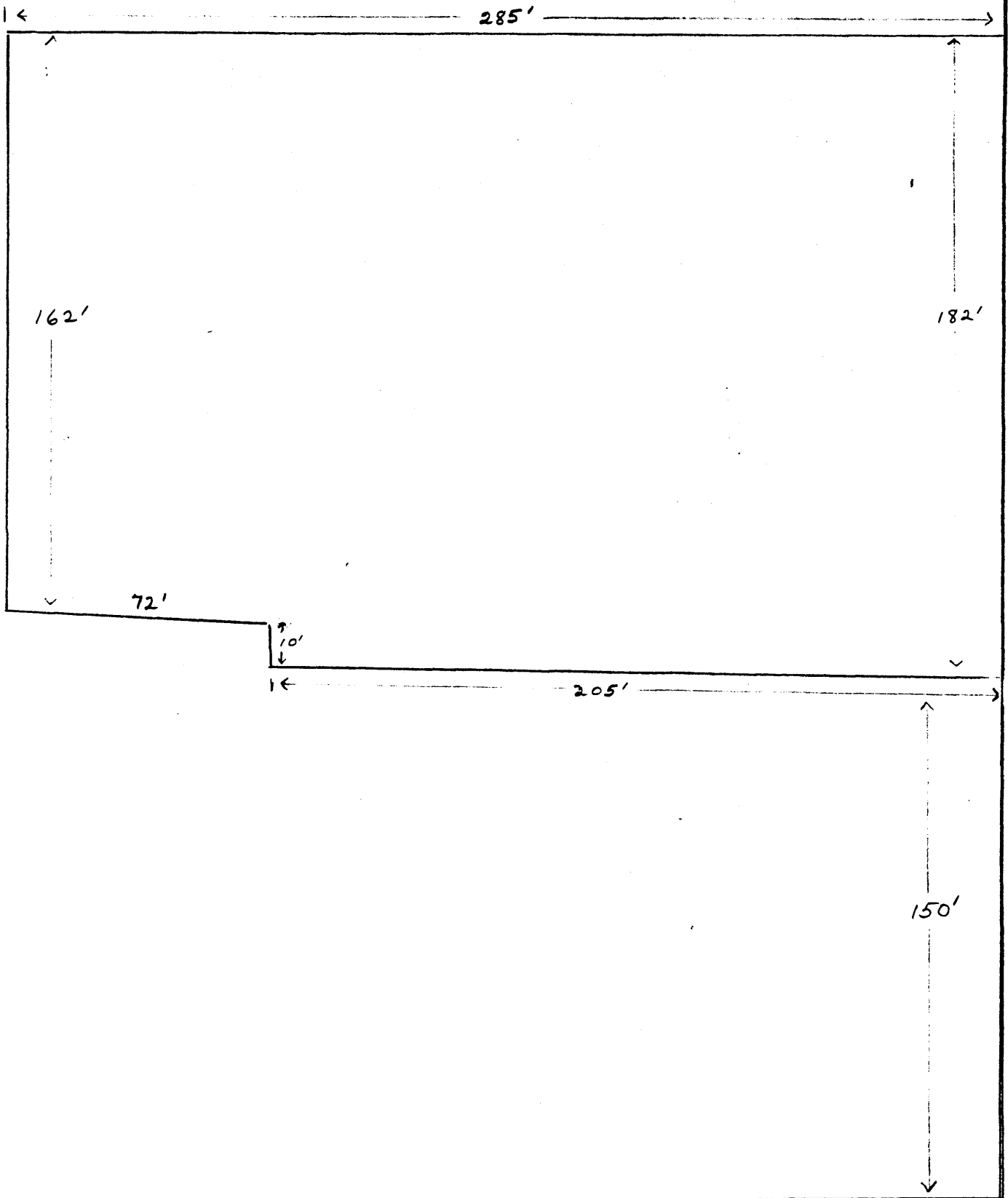
8. Glover, p. 136.

9. Minutes of Board of Regents Meetings: July 23, 1894, October 8, 1895, October 24, 1895, April 21, 1896; Letter from W.A. Henry to Board of Regents: December 3, 1896.

10. Glover, pp. 293-296, 265-268; Elizabeth McCoy, Edwin B. Fred, Eleanore Oimoen, Seeing the University of Wisconsin-Madison Today. (Madison: University of Wisconsin Foundation, 1978), p. 24; Kathleen Cruikshank, "10 Babcock Drive," Wisconsin Academy Review, 23: 3 (June, 1977), pp. 6-10.

11. Ibid.

Sketch MAP  
AGRICULTURE DEAN'S RESIDENCE  
10 BABCOCK DRIVE  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
MADISON, DANE CO.



OBSERVATORY DRIVE