

PH 0662399

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY **DATA SHEET**  
RECEIVED **FEB 8 1978**  
DATE ENTERED **AUG 11 1978**

**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  
Elliott, Edward C., House  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
137 North Prospect Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Madison  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53705  
VICINITY OF  
CODE  
55  
COUNTY  
Dane  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second  
NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CODE  
025 ✓

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Professor and Mrs. John D. Ferry  
STREET & NUMBER  
137 North Prospect Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Madison  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53705

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds, Dane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue  
CITY, TOWN  
Madison  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53705

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
City of Madison Landmark

DATE  
July 15, 1974  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS City of Madison, Planning Dept.

CITY, TOWN  
Madison  
STATE  
Wisconsin 53709

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

The Edward C. Elliott House is rectangular in plan with the length being but slightly in excess of the width. A rectangular porch is located on the east side of the house and is presently enclosed and used as a sun room. The porch of the second floor is five sided and thus gives the appearance of a partial octagon in plan. This also is now enclosed as a studio. Modest dormers are located on either end and in the rear of a low pitched roof with generous overhangs. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles although it is very likely that it was originally covered with cedar shingles.

The exterior walls are all stucco on a wood frame and the front and rear walls extend at either end in a battered configuration. This is not at all unlike other George W. Maher designs in the Chicago area. A horizontal emphasis is given to the house by a dark painted wood belt course that surrounds the house at the second floor window-sill height. Additional horizontal trim is evenly spaced and surrounds the house between the wood belt course and the roof soffit. It is painted the light sand color of the walls and casts shadows providing an additional horizontal emphasis. A planter box is placed beneath the center windows, again emphasizing the horizontal elements, a design theme common to the Prairie School.

Like many of George W. Maher's designs, the entrance is an important design element. A graceful segmental arch roof with short flat wings shelters the door and is supported on strong wooden cantilevered beams. These, in turn, project from battered pilasters at either side of the entrance. Leaded glass window sidelights in lilac pattern are on either side of the entrance door and a similar design pattern is found in the glazing of the second floor windows directly over the entrance. Windows in the rear at the stair landing of the house bear a similar handsome glass pattern. This design retains all of its original beauty.

The interior has seen only minimal alterations during its life. The original wood-work is intact and a handsome barrel vaulted ceiling in the front entrance hall remains, reflecting the hood at the front entrance. A large brick fireplace is on the east wall of the living room and its design also has the battered side wall effect of the exterior.

The house is very similar to George W. Maher's home for Henry W. Schultz, 19 Warwick Road, Winnetka, Illinois, of 1907.<sup>1</sup> Variations do occur: the horizontal belt course and the horizontal trim members do not appear on the Schultz House but rather the horizontal emphasis of the second floor is obtained through the use of group windows and a much longer horizontal planting box. Other similarities can be found in the Frank G. Ely residence, 305 Kennilworth Road, Kennilworth, Illinois also by George W. Maher of 1910.

The house is an excellent example of the "compact cubical" type of the Prairie School style of architecture, a popular form. The house is located next door to Frank Lloyd Wright's Eugene Gilmore House and two blocks from Louis H. Sullivan's Harold C. Bradley House, creating a cluster of three excellent Prairie School designs by three significant architects of the period.

<sup>1</sup>The Henry W. Schultz House was first published in the November 1909 issue of the Western Architect although incorrectly titled "A Residence at Lake Forest Illinois, George W. Maher Architect, Chicago, Illinois."

# 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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910<sup>1</sup>

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George W. Maher; Claude & Starck

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward C. Elliott House is important in that it represents the work of a nationally prominent architect, George W. Maher, and possess high architectural values.

While the attribution of the architect cannot be established through building permits or existing drawings, records in the Account Journal of the original owners indicate payments to Architect George W. Maher during the time of design of this house. The Madison architectural firm of Claude and Starck evidently was retained by the owners to fulfill the need for on-site supervision of the project.<sup>2</sup> Additional correspondence with the family has indicated strong friendships existed with families whose roots were in the Winnetka area and who were most likely familiar with the work of George W. Maher.

George W. Maher (1864-1926) has been cited by H. Allen Brooks as one of the most significant architects of his time, perhaps as influential as Frank Lloyd Wright.<sup>3</sup> Maher had established his own practice in Chicago in 1888, a time when Wright was still with Louis H. Sullivan. Maher, Wright and Elmslie had all worked in the office of Joseph Lyman Silsbee, also in Chicago, prior to moving into Sullivan's office, or in Maher's case, establishing his own architectural practice. Maher was remarkable in that his formal education extended only to the eighth grade. He developed as a capable practitioner and a frequent contributor to the Western Architect. His published articles were not self-laudatory discussions of his own work but rather passionate pleas for his colleagues to abandon architectural forms that were mimics of the past and instead to seek new forms representative of a "democratic" nation. In this way his voice was similar to that of Sullivan's writings in such important essays as his "Kindergarten Chats." A few buildings designed by George W. Maher exist in the state of Wisconsin and the Edward C. Elliott House is the only known example in Madison. It stands as one of the most significant examples of Prairie School architecture within the community.

<sup>1</sup>Madison City Directory of 1911 and Gordon D. Orr, Jr., AIA, "The Collaboration of Claude and Starck with Chicago Architectural Firms," The Prairie School Review, Volume XII, Number 4, Fourth Quarter, 1975.

<sup>2</sup>Gordon D. Orr, Jr., Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Brooks, H. Allen, The Prairie School, Frank Lloyd Wright and His Midwest Contemporaries, Toronto, 1972, page 330, and

Brooks, H. Allen, Prairie Architecture, Studies from the "Western Architect," Toronto, 1975, Introduction page xv.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "The Collaboration of Claude and Starck with Chicago Architectural Firms, "The Prairie School Review," Vol. XII, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 1975.
- Orr, Gordon D., Jr., "Prairie Architecture in Madison, Wisconsin; Influences, Forms and Form-Givers," unpublished M.A. thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1971.
- Landmarks and Landmark Sites Nomination Form (1), City of Madison Landmarks Commission, dated September 23, 1973 (Author: Jeffrey M. Dean). Note: Landmark nomination was based on information contained Ref. No. 2, which has been supplemented and corrected

by more recent information in Reference No. 1.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.25

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 303080 4771310  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 2, Block 16, Original plat of University Heights subdivision, City of Madison

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

Gordon D. Orr, Jr., A.I.A.

17 May 1977

ORGANIZATION

American Institute of Architects; Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

2729 Mason Street

TELEPHONE

(608) 238-1683

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 X

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

*Richard O. Emery*

TITLE Director  
 State Historical Society of Wisconsin

DATE 10/24/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE 8/11/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 1/1/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

