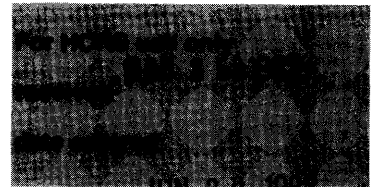


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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



JUN 30 1982

1. Name

historic Brittingham Park Boathouse

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number North Shore Drive not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Recreation

4. Owner of Property

name City of Madison Parks Department, Daniel Stapay, Superintendent

street & number 704 East Gorham 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 July 18, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

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

Situated on the shore of Monona Bay in Brittingham Park, the Brittingham Boathouse is a wooden, rectangular, one-story building originally consisting of a 53' x 26' central block of 5 bays, flanked by two identical 33' x 23' rectangular wings of 4 bays each, extending from the north and south sides of the central block. In 1921 the south wing was extended by a 52' x 23' 6 bay addition using the same design and materials as the original structure, thus altering the original symmetrical appearance, but in a manner in keeping with the earlier structure.

The whole of the building is of balloon-frame construction resting on concrete footings which are integral with the concrete slab foundation. The exterior walls are clapboard and the modified hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are 18 double doors on the east or lakeside of the building which give access to the boat storage within. On the west or streetside of the building there are thirteen identical windows.

Exterior ornament in this intentionally utilitarian structure is limited to the handling of various structural elements such as exposed rafter ends under the overhanging eaves and the notched post and beam arrangement used on the lake side of the central block. The primary ornamentation is the pointed-arch door which forms the street access and which is flanked by two globe wall light brackets.

The interior of the building, like the exterior, is in virtually original condition. The central block was originally used as an office and refreshment area and men's and women's locker rooms. The rest of the building was used for boat storage. All wall covering in the original building is of tongue and groove boards as is the ceiling. (There is wide cove moulding between wall and ceiling in all rooms in the original building, while the 1921 extension has open framing on both walls and ceiling). The metal lockers, plumbing and other fixtures are still extant though in deteriorated condition.

Structurally, the building is sound, the major problem being a 3°- 5° list due to settling of the building. The biggest problem is the unevenness of the floor caused by continual heaving of the floor slab. Other than the addition of 1921, the only alterations have been the removal of several of the early partitions in the office and refreshment areas of the central block and the addition of others so that more space could be given over to boat storage. In 1979 the City of Madison spent \$53,400 in stabilizing the building, adding a new roof, lighting and plumbing and exterior painting.

(Note: Attached floor plan and elevation are from the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association Annual Report of 1910 and represent the building as originally built).

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Brittingham Park Boathouse, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

Continuation sheet

Item number

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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	1909 - 1910 ¹	Builder/Architect	Ferry and Clas ¹	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brittingham Boathouse is the oldest surviving public park building in Madison. It is significant as an important physical reminder of the work of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, a citizen sponsored organization which hired some of the finest design firms practicing in the early years of this century to create what has become the nucleus of Madison's outstanding public park system.

Community Planning

The Brittingham Boathouse is primarily significant as the oldest of the few surviving buildings in Madison associated with the work of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, Madison's contribution to the turn of the century era of civic improvement sometimes called the "City Beautiful" movement. Progressive civic leaders in Madison joined together in 1894 to form this association as a means of enhancing the quality of life for Madison residents and also as a means of promoting Madison's development. The goal of the association was to create a systematic park and pleasure drive system for Madison through the purchase and development of marsh land and lakeshore frontage for public park lands and by constructing and planting boulevard and scenic drives. Under the guidance of its long-term president, John M. Olin, the association was responsible for adding Tenney, Vilas and Brittingham Parks, among its other works, to Madison's then virtually non-existent parklands. Recent survey work has determined that the Brittingham Boathouse is the oldest surviving building constructed for public park usage by the association. This same survey has also determined that no other design element in Brittingham Park retains sufficient integrity to merit consideration for National Register status.

Architecture

The Brittingham Boathouse is also significant for being the result of a collaboration between two distinguished design firms, John Nolen of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Ferry and Clas of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who joined in the creation of this modest yet representative park structure. The distinguished reputation of the members of this collaboration is characteristic of the Parks and Pleasure Drive Association whose work is notable for the employment of important design professionals of the period such as the previously mentioned firms and others such as O. C. Simmonds of Chicago.

The Brittingham Boathouse came into being in response to the desire of John M. Olin, a prominent Madison Attorney and the President of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, to serve the needs of the residents in the largely working-class neighborhood bordering the newly created Brittingham Park. In the Annual Report of 1908 of the Association, Olin spoke of the need in Brittingham Park for a public bathhouse and boathouse to both serve the neighborhood residents and to compensate for the many private boathouses in the area which were destroyed for creation of the park. In response to this article, Thomas E. Brittingham, a prominent Madison Lumberman and philanthropist and the donor of Brittingham Park, made an offer to the City, on April 15, 1908 that he would give \$7,500 to the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive

FORM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Alfred C. Clas, Architect, Dies," Milwaukee Journal, July 9, 1942.
Annual Reports, Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association, 1908, pp. 40-43; 1909, pp. 40-45; 1910, pp. 28-29; 1913; frontispiece.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Madison, West, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	0	5	5	2	0	4	7	7	0	6	2	0
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											

The boundary of the nominated property is described thus:
Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point about 110 feet south of the midpoint of intersection of N. Shore Drive and S. Bedford Street, then continuing southeasterly about 55 feet to the Monona Bay shoreline, then southwesterly about 192 feet along said shoreline, then northwesterly about 55 feet, then northeasterly about 192 feet to point of beginning, (continued)

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 Timothy F. Heggland, Preservation Assistant, and Katherine H. Rankin, Secretary

organization Madison Landmarks Commission

date February 18, 1981

street & number 215 Monona Avenue

telephone 608-266-6552

city or town Madison

state WI 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

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 2/18/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 6/30/82

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**

Brittingham Park Boathouse, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

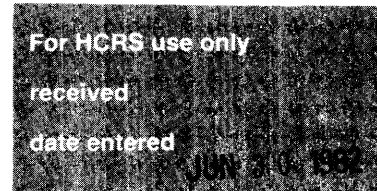
Continuation sheet

Significance

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Association for erection of a public bathhouse if the City would donate \$5,000 for erection of a public boathouse. The City agreed to this arrangement, and Olin had the newly hired landscape architect of the Association, John Nolen of Cambridge, Mass., draw up a sketch plan and site arrangement for each building. Nolen was then in the early stages of a career that would make him one of the most prominent landscape architects and urban designers in the generation after Frederick Law Olmstead, and that would include his plan for the City of Madison published in his book, Madison, a Model City (1911). Nolen sent his sketches for the bath and boathouses to Olin, who in turn sent them to the prominent Milwaukee architectural firm of Ferry (George B.) and Clas (Alfred C.) for the final designs. This firm, formed in 1890, was among the foremost of Wisconsin's architectural offices at the turn of the century. They were responsible for the design of many of Wisconsin's most important public buildings and residences, including the State Historical Society (NRHP) in Madison. In addition, Clas became known as the father of Milwaukee's City and County Park System, designing many of Milwaukee's famed boulevards, and most of the park layouts and buildings in the City, including the Washington Park Zoo. Ferry and Clas designed other park improvements for the City of Madison, as well, including bridges in Vilas Park and the Steensland Bridge, and the Prairie style bathhouse (demolished) and restrooms (still extant) of 1914 in Tenney Park.

By late 1909 the finished plans for the Brittingham buildings were completed, and by early 1910 the buildings had been erected. The bathhouse was demolished in the 1960s, but the boathouse has continued in use as a public boathouse since its erection. A recent renewal of public interest in the building resulted in designation of the building as a City of Madison Landmark in 1977, which was followed by a \$53,000 stabilization program completed by the City of Madison in 1979.

¹John Myers Olin Letter Books, 1879-1916, in the collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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

Brittingham Park Boathouse, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

Continuation sheet

Bibliographical

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received

date entered

Gregory, John, History of Milwaukee, v. III, pp. 188-192

Hancock, John L., "John Nolen, Landscape Architect, Town, City and Regional Planner, " private manuscript, 1976.

Olin, John Myers, Letter Books, 1879-1916, in the Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Architects File, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

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

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

Brittingham Park Boathouse, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10

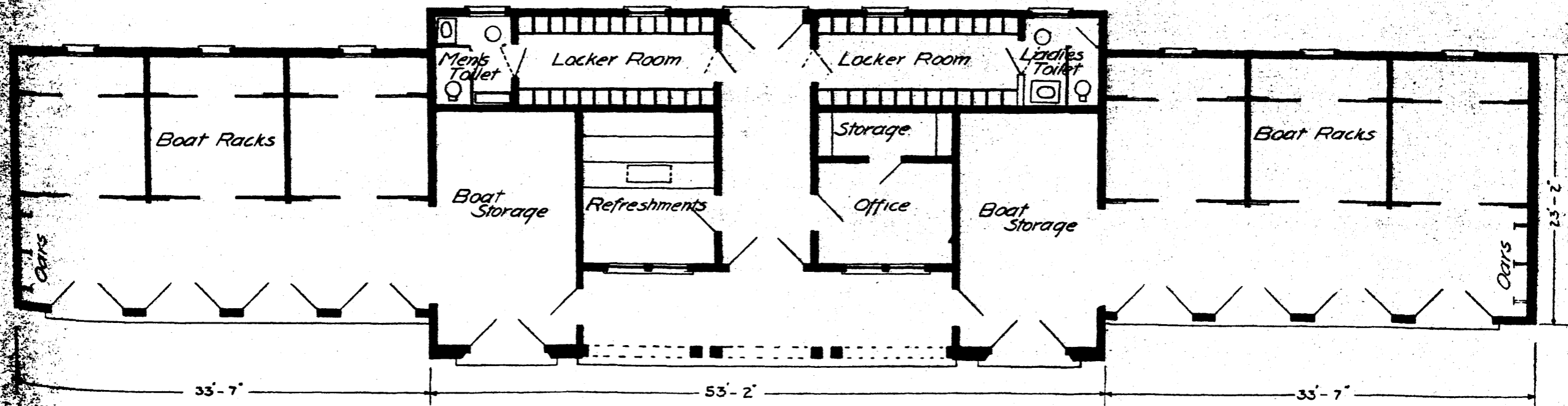
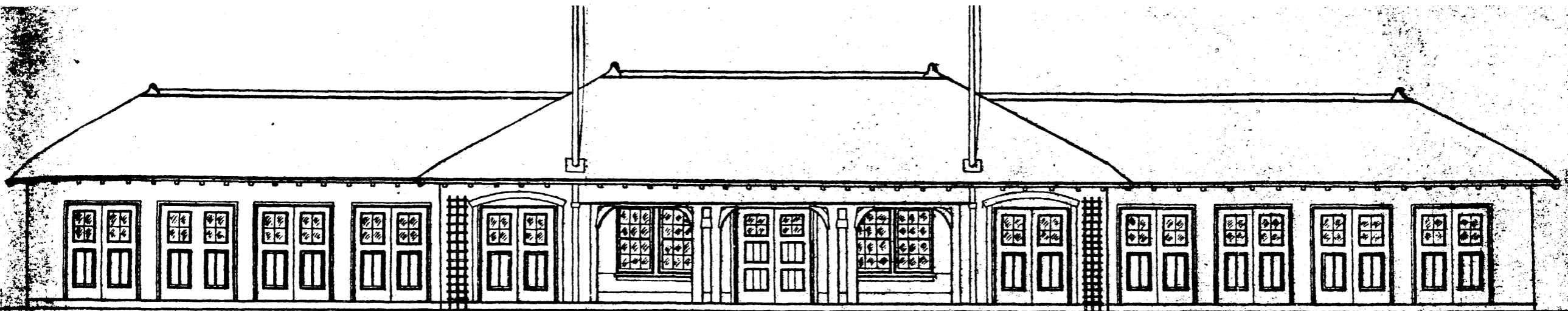
Page 1

Verbal boundary description and justification continued:

being a part of section 23, Town 7 North, Range 9 East, in the City of Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin.

The area bounded includes the boathouse proper, concrete boat launching apron between the boathouse and the shoreline, and a 10 foot perimeter of land around same.

Brittingham Park Boathouse, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin



Boat House, Brittingham Park

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: PROPOSED MOVE

PROPERTY NAME: Brittingham Park Boathouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Dane

DATE RECEIVED: 3/13/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/27/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 82000649

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Approve Move

REVIEWER Poland

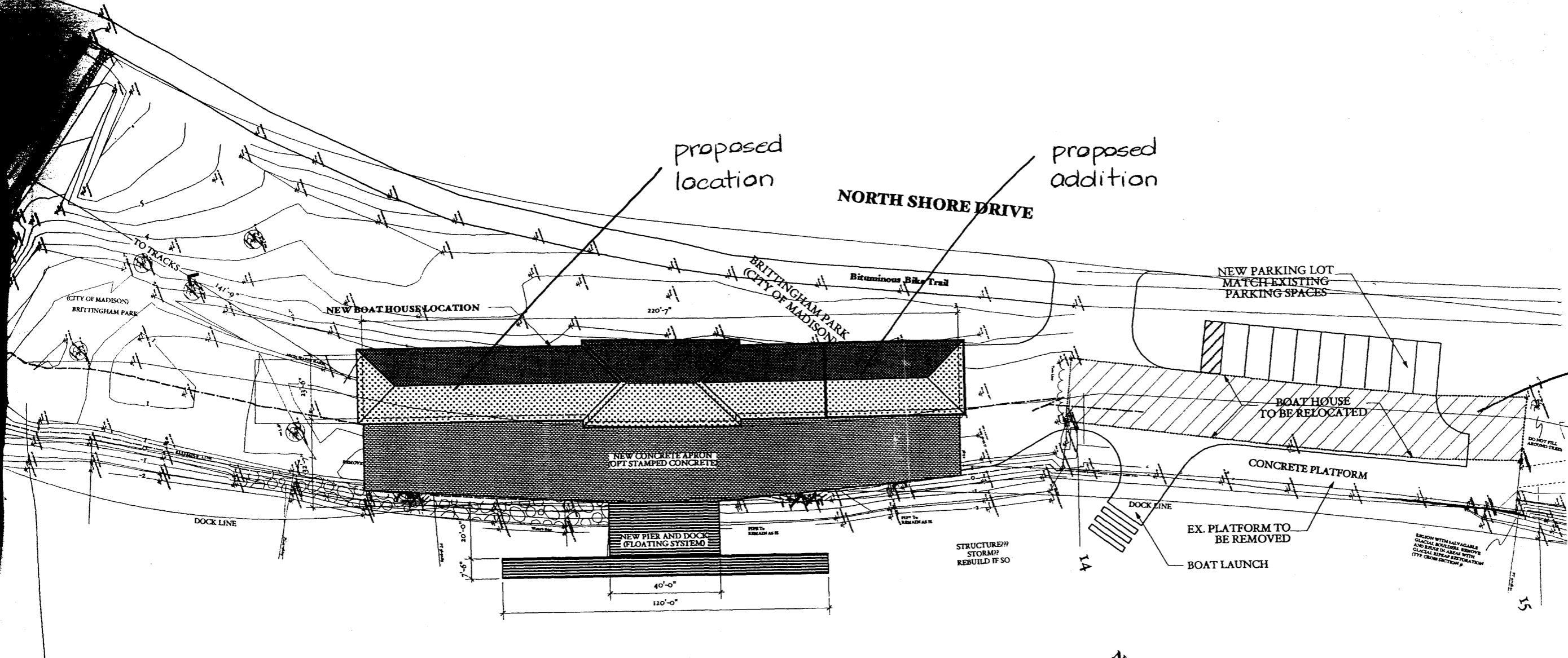
DISCIPLINE Historia

TELEPHONE

DATE 4/25/02

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N





SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 20 FT

existing location

proposed location

proposed addition

PROJECT:
**RESTORATION/
ADDITION**
to the
**BRITTINGHAM
PARK
BOAT HOUSE**

NORTH SHORE DR.
MADISON WI

REVISIONS:

DATE: 10 OCT. 2001
SCALE: AS NOTED
PROJECT: K0125
DRAWN BY: J.PEKSTROM
DRAWING NAME:
SITE PLAN

DRAWING NUMBER:

A1.0