

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 14 1985

date entered MAR 14 1985

**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 Agricultural Heating Station

and/or common Agricultural Bulletin Building

2. Location

street & number 1535 Observatory Drive (University of Wis. campus) not for publication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	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 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 University of Wisconsin, Board of Regents

street & number 1860 Van Hise Hall

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53706

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

title Madison Campus Architecture, 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 53706

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

Located at 1535 Observatory Drive on the University of Wisconsin Madison campus, the Agricultural Heating Station is a two-story polychromatic Richardsonian Romanesque structure, showing craftsman details and measuring thirty-five feet along the north and south facades and fifty feet along the east and west facades. The lower one-and-one-half stories are constructed of cream brick in running stretcher bond, the upper one-half story is of frame, and the foundation is coursed, rock-faced sandstone. The symmetrical exterior features brackets, a belt course and quoins of red brick, a hipped red tile roof, and on the south facade, an octagonal cream brick chimney stack with a corbelled chimney pot, set on a square base ornamented with red brick quoins. West of the chimney stack is the main entrance portal, consisting of three doors surmounted by a round-headed transom in a relieving round arch of red brick. East of the chimney stack is another door, set in a diminutive red brick round arch. A narrow door opening onto the fire escape appears on the north facade at second story level. The fenestration pattern is regular; at the first floor level are sets of four double-hung sash windows surmounted by fixed, round-headed panes, each group united under a red brick relieving round arch springing from the belt course. Three appear on the east and west facades, two on the north facade. On the upper floor, tucked under the eaves, narrow paired double-hung sash windows are arranged ribbon-like, each pair alternating with a rectangular stone panel set in frame.

Prior to 1937, steam and gasoline engines were located on the first floor of the Agricultural Heating Station, while a machine shop for student instruction was in operation upstairs. Since that time, the building has provided storage and mailing facilities for many of the publications of both the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Cooperative Extension. The only modifications made to the interior have been the removal of the machinery and the erection of temporary floor-to-ceiling shelves on the first floor, and dropped acoustical tile on the second story ceiling. Both the first and second floors are open bay with wood floors. The interior walls are finished with plaster and the wood ceiling on the first floor has been left exposed. An open newel staircase of dark wood in the southwest corner of the building ascends to the second floor. On each wall a band of windows, interspersed with interior wooden brackets, floods the upstairs with light and affords an excellent view of the surrounding area. The sandstone basement is thirty feet deep and marks the beginning of the University of Wisconsin's extensive service tunnel system. The Agricultural Heating Station is well-maintained and is essentially unaltered on both the interior and exterior.

Despite its proximity to Observatory Drive, the Agricultural Heating Station is screened from view by trees and shrubs. A curved driveway runs south from Observatory Drive around the building to a parking lot in the rear.

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/
<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	1901 ¹¹	Builder/Architect	John T. W. Jennings ¹¹
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The University of Wisconsin College of Agriculture was established in 1889,¹ and has earned an international reputation for excellence in many fields. The development of the College of Agriculture can be divided into two periods, the first associated with Dean William Arnon Henry, the second with Dean Harry Luman Russell. Henry was appointed first dean of the College of Agriculture in 1889.² His administration represents the pioneering era in the development of the college. During this era, research and extension were emphasized, and the college gained prominence in dairy science, agricultural physics, and horticulture. Research quickly became the basis of the university's contribution to agriculture, combining scientific investigations with practical applications in an effort to gain the confidence of the state's farmers. Extension served to disseminate the information gathered, through the Farmers' Institutes, highly popular two-day traveling workshops. Henry also initiated the Short Course in Agriculture (1886) and the Dairy Course (1890), each a twelve-week winter session, held during farming's slowest season to enable farmers to attend the university.³ Both courses were influential, attracting farm youth from all over the state, and were much imitated throughout the United States and abroad. The success of the courses demonstrated that in order to attract students, agricultural education needed to be practical, and geared toward the interests of farm youth. This experience led Dean Russell to reorganize the four-year Bachelor of Science course, which had suffered from a lack of students during Henry's tenure. Russell was appointed dean in 1907.⁴ Under his administration, the construction of buildings for the College of Agriculture diminished, while extension was enlarged, research diversified, and the teaching program grew steadily, with the addition of many new subjects and departments. New ground was broken in such fields as bacteriology, plant pathology, genetics, and the economic and social aspects of farming. Through Russell's efforts, the modern College of Agriculture was established.

Currently only one building associated with the College of Agriculture is listed in the National Register; the Agricultural Dean's Residence (1897). Eight others are in the process of being nominated; six from Henry's administration, and two from Russell's. These buildings are Hiram Smith Hall (1892), King Hall (1894), the Dairy Barn (1897), the Horse Barn (1899), the Agricultural Heating Station (1901, also known as the Agricultural Bulletin Building), Agriculture Hall (1903), the Stock Pavilion (1908), and Agricultural Chemistry (1912, also known as Biochemistry).

Architecture

The Agricultural Heating Station has architectural significance at the local level. Designed by John T. W. Jennings, the first professionally educated Supervising Architect of the University of Wisconsin, it is one of half a dozen extant on campus by Jennings, and is essentially unaltered. In addition, it is one of only five university structures in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, and represents an unusual example of that style.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Madison Past and Present, 1852-1902. Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Journal, 1902.

Curti, Merle and Vernon Carstensen. The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madison West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	3	0	3	6	7	0	4	7	7	1	8	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification Part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 15, township 7N, range 9E, city of Madison, Wisconsin. A parcel of land on Observatory Drive beginning at a point 225 feet east of the southeast curb at the intersection of Babcock and Observatory Drives, proceed south 83 feet, turn east 105 feet, then north 75 feet, then west 28 feet, turn north 62 feet, and then west 95 feet along Observatory Dr. to point of origin.

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 E. L. Miller, Research Technician

organization Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date September, 1984

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2971

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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 OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

date JAN. 22, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 3-14-85

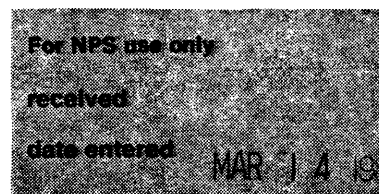
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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



Agricultural Heating Station, Madison, Dane County, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

John T. W. Jennings (1856-?) was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at New York University in civil engineering, graduating in 1877.⁵ Jennings was first employed in the architect's office of the Astor Estate, and later briefly served as Chief Engineer of the New York Suburban Transit Road.⁶ He acted as Assistant Engineer of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad in Chicago from 1883 until 1885, and as Architect of the railroad from 1885 to 1893.⁷ Jennings conducted a private practice in Chicago from 1893 until 1899, when he moved to Madison to take up the post of Supervising Architect of the University of Wisconsin.⁸ His prior employment with the University was part-time, initiated through the College of Agriculture. Jennings was the first professionally educated person to act as Supervising Architect, a position in which he continued until 1905, when he resigned and established an architectural partnership with Ferdinand Kronenberg in Madison.⁹

The Agricultural Heating Station, built in 1901, is a fine example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, incorporating such elements as brick polychromy, a corbelled chimney pot, a ribbon-like window arrangement on the upper story, and relieving round arches above the main entrance and the first floor windows.¹⁰ During the twelve years of his association with the university, Jennings designed some one dozen buildings and supervised many additions and alterations to earlier structures.¹¹ Other campus buildings designed by Jennings include Horticulture and Agricultural Physics (1893, now King Hall), the Dairy Barn (1897), the Horse Barn (1899), and the Chemistry building (1905, now Chamberlin Hall).¹² The Agricultural Heating Station is the only one among these structures whose exterior is unaltered, retaining its architectural integrity. Two structures designed by Jennings are currently listed in the National Register: the Janesville Public Library (1902), and the Delafield Fish Hatchery.

¹ Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: The History 1848-1925, (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1949), II:376.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., II:375.

⁴ Ibid., II:400.

⁵ Madison Past Present, 1852-1902, (Madison, WI: Wisconsin State Journal, 1902).

⁶ Ibid.

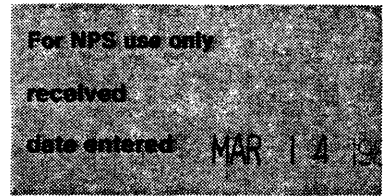
⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Gordon D. Orr to Diane Filipowicz and Barbara Wyatt, 24 November 1981.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

- 10 Alden Aust, "A Tabular History of the Buildings of the University of Wisconsin," 1937.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

Date : 1979

Depository: State Historical Society of Wisconsin

City: Madison

Det. Eligible: NO

State survey

State: Wisconsin 53706

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON, WISCONSIN

SCALE: ONE INCH = 100 FEET

