

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wisconsin	
COUNTY: Dane	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 14 1973	

1. NAME	
COMMON: Bashford, Robert M., House	Congressmen to be notified: Sen. William Proxmire
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lawrence, H. K., House	Sen. Gaylord Nelson Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier (2nd Cong. Dist.)

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 423 North Pinckney Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison			
STATE Wisconsin	CODE 55	COUNTY: Dane	CODE 025



3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments rooming house

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Milton Lefco [Property presently for sale (June, 1972)]			
STREET AND NUMBER: 136 Lathrop Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Dane County Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey of the Madison Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: City Planning Department, Room 414			
STREET AND NUMBER: City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Madison	STATE: Wisconsin	CODE 55	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Robert M. Bashford House is a graceful and cleanly-designed Italian Villa Style house built of indigenous sandstone. It stands across the street from the Pierce House, which has been nominated to the National Register by Wisconsin, and is a half-block from the Old Executive Mansion.

In plan, the building is linear along a northeast-southwest axis to fit a deep city lot. It is two stories high with an advancing wing to the left, in front elevation, wrapping around a square, three-story tower topped by a hipped roof. Visually, the main body of the house appears to be "L"-shaped and defined by two intersecting gable roofs. The linear wing of the house to the rear is subordinate to this larger mass, as it is lower and the street-elevation wall plane is set back several feet. In the gable end at the front of the house is a pair of small attic windows topped by semicircular stone arches. The rest of the windows in the main elevation have flat stone lintels, and the main entrance is bridged by a larger semicircular stone arch.

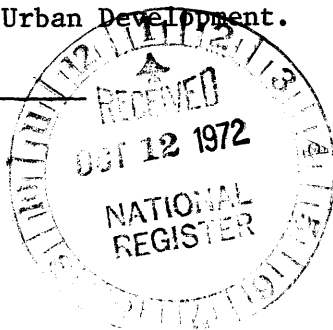
The three-story tower is the most striking architectural element in this house, with a third story only accessible by a most devious route. The tower places this design in the Italian Villa mode, a fact further reinforced by the paired, round-arched windows.¹ It is more restrained than a usual Italian Villa design, however, as evidenced by a lack of brackets under the eaves or any surface ornamentation. Its front porch is also a typical inclusion in an Italian Villa house. It is one of very few Italian Villa designs extant in Madison.

The vast interior of the Bashford House has been converted into a rooming house with thirteen separate units, of which the majority are single rental rooms. Since the house was not converted to full-fledged apartments, much of the original scale and spacial sense still exist, and many original materials survive, including the doors, brass hardware, oak floors, plaster ceiling moldings and marble fireplaces.²

The neighboring vicinity of the Bashford House is a well-known historic area centering on the four corners of North Pinckney and East Gilman Streets, one of which is occupied by this house. The other three corners are occupied by contemporary stone or brick houses of equal scale, one of which is the aforementioned Pierce House. This area was historically known as, among other things, "Big Bug Hill," intended to be a comment on the type of upper-class individuals who lived there. In 1971, the Old Synagogue was moved to a site adjacent to this area with the aid of a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

¹Whiffen, p. 69.

²Stoler, p. 2.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

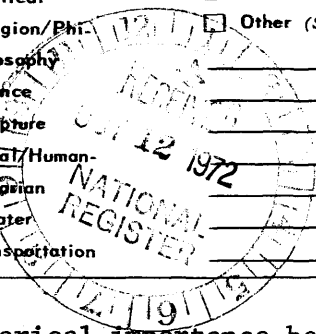
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Robert M. Bashford House has local historical importance because of its rather unique, for Madison, architectural style and its associations with political leaders at the state and local levels. Further, it is one of the major ingredients in the historical area of Madison known as "Big Bug Hill," and as such is well-known and appreciated by local citizens.

The house was most likely built in 1858¹ by Napoleon Bonaparte Van Slyke,² a local banker and entrepreneur responsible for the construction of many of the finer midnineteenth-century houses in Madison. It was first occupied by H. K. Lawrence, another banker and a friend of Van Slyke. The most famous occupant of the house was Gov. Edward Salomon, who lived here during his tenure as the state's chief executive, 1862-64.

German-born Salomon was never elected governor, but was elected lieutenant governor under Governor Louis P. Harvey, who was drowned near Savannah, Tennessee, while leading an expedition to bring relief to suffering Wisconsin Civil War troops, and after serving only a few months in office. It was said that Salomon was added to the ticket to attract Wisconsin's heavy German vote. He assumed the state's highest office by proclamation on April 22, 1862, and his term was strongly colored by the Civil War, which had ceased being a novelty and against which state sentiment was quickly rising. Salomon dealt firmly with draft riots in Ozaukee and Door counties, enabling Wisconsin to meet its draft quota, but destroying his own political career. Three of his brothers served in this conflict. At the end of 1863, Salomon wanted to have a term in office in his own right, but the Republican convention ignored his candidacy. In 1869 he sought a U.S. senatorial seat, but was unsuccessful. That same year he moved to New York City, and in 1882 sought a post as justice in the New York Supreme Court and lost. In 1894 he moved back to Germany, where his wife died in 1899. Governor Salomon stayed there, blind and lonely, until his death in 1909 at the age of 81.³

Robert M. Bashford, from whom this house received its enduring name, was a very prominent figure in Madison from 1876 until his death in 1911. He was a University of Wisconsin law school graduate who was part-owner of the Madison Democrat newspaper. He studied law in the office of Robert M. La Follette, and was private secretary to Governor William Taylor, whose daughter he married. Bashford was city attorney from 1881 to 1886 and the mayor of Madison in 1890. He was a state senator from 1891 to

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1] Dean, Jeffrey, and Custer, Frank, Sandstone and Buffalo Robes: a walking-tour guide to Madison's historic downtown buildings, City Planning Dept., Madison, Wis.; Aug., 1969. Bldg. #13.
- 2] Wisconsin, State of, The Wisconsin Blue Book, 1960, Madison, Wis.; 1960. Pp. 99-102.
- 3] Stoler, Mrs. Norton, City of Madison Landmarks Commission Site Nomination Form, Dec., 1971.
- 4] Madison, City of, Tax Assessment Records, 1856-1859; State Historical Society of Wisconsin Archives.
- 5] Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, MIT Press, Cambridge,

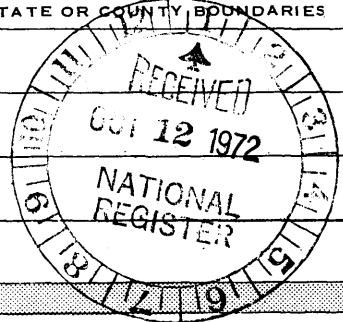
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA 1969. Pp. 69-72.

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		N43 ° 04 ' 44 "	W89 ° 23 ' 13 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/6th acre (.165)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Jeffrey M. Dean, State Preservation Planner

ORGANIZATION: **State Historical Society of Wisconsin** DATE: **July 11, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Madison** STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name James Morton Smith
James Morton Smith

Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date OCT 06 1972

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

Roberton Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/14/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3-9-73

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wisconsin	
COUNTY	
Dane	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
14	MAR 14 1973

(Number all entries) 8.

Bashford, Robert M., House

1895, and served on the State Supreme Court in 1908. In 1911, Bashford died in this house.⁴

Architecturally, the house is most likely Madison's finest Italian Villa Style structure. It is one of a steadily-decreasing number of buildings constructed with local sandstone, of which it has been estimated less than a dozen-and-a-half remain. With the Victorian Gothic house and two French Victorian houses on the other three corners across from it, this house has a strong architectural identity in the minds of local residents.

¹Madison Tax Records, 1858 and 1859, Block 96, Lots 1 and 2.

²Dean and Custer, Bldg. #13.

³Wisconsin Blue Book, 1960, pp. 100-102.

⁴Stoler, p. 4.

