

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Wisconsin

COUNTY:
Dunn

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JUL 18 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Tainter, Louis Smith, House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway at Crescent, East corner

CITY OR TOWN:
Menomonie

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Third Congressional District

STATE: **Wisconsin** CODE: **55** COUNTY: **Dunn** CODE: **033**

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 Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
University of Wisconsin-Stout, Robert S. Swanson, Chancellor

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Menomonie

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City of Menomonie, County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
800 Wilson

CITY OR TOWN:
Menomonie

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
1973 Summer Architectural Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1973** Federal State County

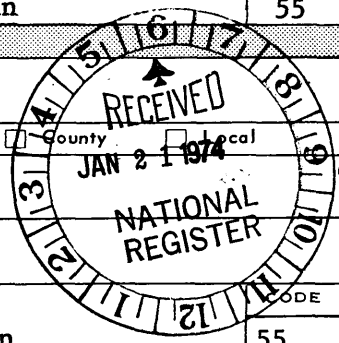
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Madison

STATE:
Wisconsin

CODE:
55



STATE: **Wisconsin**

COUNTY: **Dunn**

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: **JUL 18 1974**

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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 type="checkbox"/> Altered | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Louis Tainter house is a two-and-one-half story, rectangular plan structure with a rock-faced rusticated stone exterior. The first floor, west facade has flat-arched windows with exaggerated voussoirs; the second floor windows are similar, but are topped by lintels. The central mass of the building projects and is crowned by a high hipped roof with a band of geometric ornament under the eaves. In the center of the hip is a tall chimney and at the left side of the projecting wall and hip is a large, round tower with a conical roof. There is an ornamental gable over the third floor windows of the tower. From this central mass extends various hipped-roofed parts, two on each side; however, this facade is by no means symmetrical. It carries on the picturesque tradition of irregularly placed dormers, chimneys, and windows. The main entry is at the northwest corner. Along the north side of the building and around each corner is a one-story arcade. The rounded arches have heavy voussoirs and along the top of the east side is a band of Sullivanesque ornament. The ornament is a fanciful pattern of foliate spirals alternating with masks peeking from the foliage. The entry arch is marked with an ornamental gable similar to the one on the west tower. The east side of the building has a shape and pattern of windows similar to the west. The roof line is less picturesque with a low, rounded dormer of clapboard, lower chimneys, and symmetrically-placed dormers. This house is an example of the Richardsonian Romanesque.

The exterior remains the same as built and will continue in its present condition because the University of Wisconsin--Stout has taken great care to make minimal changes and will continue the policy. During its various uses as a dormitory and as a vocational rehabilitation center, only superficial changes were made on the interior and none on the exterior. The community has great interest in the building because of its relationship to the Mabel Tainter Memorial, an important landmark for the city.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1889** (date on architectural rendering)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Local history</u> |
| <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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1889-1890 Harvey Ellis, while working for LeRoy Buffington in Minneapolis, designed two buildings for the Tainter family of Menomonie, Wisconsin. One was a memorial to Mabel Tainter, which serves as a theater and library for the city. And the other was a residence for Louis Tainter, the brother of Mabel. (The memorial is a major architectural monument and an application for the National Register has been filed.) The Tainter residence has secondary architectural importance and primary local historical significance.

Architecturally the building is noteworthy because it is by Harvey Ellis, an architect who had major influence on midwestern architects in the nineties. His buildings are fine examples of Richardsonian Romanesque and this is one of the few residences in that style to be found in central Wisconsin. Stylistically, it is quite similar to the Mabel Tainter Memorial and together the buildings are important for the study of Harvey Ellis. A rock-face rusticated stone exterior on a residence has precedent in H.H. Richardson's work. Richardson's houses are less picturesque, less ornamented and composed of simpler forms. Ellis and Richardson used many of the same motifs such as ornamented gables and window groupings. Ellis's ornament is unique and possibly has roots in Gothic foliate patterns. The band of ornament on the north side of the building indicates this well with the alternating spirals and masks. The Tainter residence is a good example of Ellis's work in the upper Midwest.

Louis Tainter was the son of Andrew Tainter, a prominent figure in Knapp, Stout and Co. Louis was born in Menomonie in 1862 and immediately upon completing his education entered the Knapp, Stout and Company ranks. By the early eighties he was in charge of logging operations on the Hay River and then the Red Cedar River. In 1898 he was promoted to secretary of the company and in 1899 he succeeded his father as vice-president of the firm. This was a short-lived position because the company closed down in 1901. Louis Tainter then went on to an illustrious business career in California and Boston. Upon his death in 1920 he was president and general manager of a large logging operation in New England. The younger Tainter was considered one of Menomonie's foremost citizens because of his contributions to Knapp, Stout, and Company, his membership in a prominent family, and his distinguished residence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. F. Curtis-Wedge and George Jones, History of Dunn County, Wisconsin, H.C. Cooper, Jr. and Co. Minneapolis-Minnesota, 1925. p. 254.
2. A collection of Buffington's records and drawings is at the University of Minnesota Libraries—Archives; the Mabel Tainter Memorial and Louis Tainter residence are in the collection. Both were signed by Ellis for Buffington's firm.

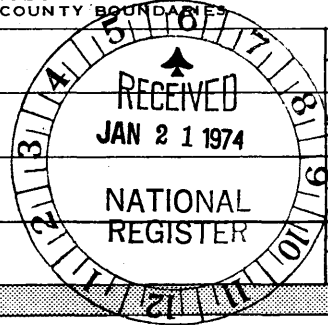
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | ° ' " | ° ' " | | N 44° 52' 45" | W 91° 55' 43" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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 |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ellen Threinen, 1973 Summer Architectural Survey Team

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: 8-6-73

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 11, 1974

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

A. B. Worles
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 7/18/74

ATTEST:
Corey M. Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7-17-74