

**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

**1. Name**

historic Steensland, Halle, House

and/or common Bethel Parish Shoppe

**2. Location**

street & number 315 North Carroll Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Madison \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Second

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b> ___ district <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) ___ structure ___ site ___ object	<b>Ownership</b> ___ public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private ___ both <b>Public Acquisition</b> N/A ___ in process ___ being considered	<b>Status</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied ___ unoccupied ___ work in progress <b>Accessible</b> ___ yes: restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted ___ no	<b>Present Use</b> ___ agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial ___ educational ___ entertainment ___ government ___ industrial ___ military	___ museum ___ park ___ private residence ___ religious ___ scientific ___ transportation ___ other:
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**4. Owner of Property**

name Bethel Lutheran Church, c/o Dr. Robert G. Borgwardt, Senior Pastor

street & number 312 Wisconsin Avenue

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 (cont.)**

title City of Madison Landmark has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date May 20, 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53710

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Steensland house is located three blocks north of the Capitol Square in Mansion Hill, a locally designated historic district that contains many of Madison's finest Victorian residences. When the Steensland house was built, it was surrounded by large houses on a gracious tree-lined street. Now, it is surrounded on three sides by a parking lot owned by Bethel Lutheran Church, which also owns the Steensland house.

The house is a large, three-story structure constructed of wood frame with red brick veneer and stone trim, in a very eclectic adaption of the Queen Anne style. The shape of the building is typically complex. The main block is basically square under a moderately pitched hipped roof. Across the front of this block runs a steeply pitched gable parallel to the street. On each end of this gable, a full pediment is supported at each corner by wooden brackets over a three-sided, two-story bay. On the front (west side) a tall entrance tower protrudes slightly in the center of the facade. To its left a large gabled dormer projects perpendicular to the main gable. Echoing it on the right side of the tower is a small wooden dormer. Dormers also light the north (two) and south (one) sides of the building. In the rear is a two-story gable-roofed wing only inches lower than the main block. A wide veranda extends across the front facade of the building. Two small service porches give access to the rear.

The decorative exterior trim is as complex as the shape. The bricks are very hard and dark red in color and were laid up with very narrow mortar joints. Rusticated stone voisoirs decorate the windows, which are flat-arched or segmentally-arched. Most windows are double-hung, but specially shaped windows include, on the south side, a double staircase window under a colorful stained glass transom, a tiny, round-arched window and a band of four small windows glazed with tiny lights and heraldic symbols. On the front, the first floor is lit by two, large, segmentally-arched windows with beveled and leaded glass transoms in a symmetrical floral design. The dormer windows are round-arched with molded wood architraves. The dormers are further embellished by eave brackets.

A large Queen Anne chimney runs up the south face of the building and pierces the eaves and roofline. It is trimmed with inset terra cotta panels and bands of molded brickwork. A terra cotta panel of eight rosettes under a graceful Baroque pediment in stone embellishes a plain brick wall on the north side of the building.

A four-sided witches' cap roof crowns the front tower. Into each side of this roof is pierced a fully pedimented dormer. Eave brackets and a frieze decorated with swags ornaments the cornice of the tower. The front veranda rests on a high rusticated stone base many steps above the street. The front "rail" is made of stones staggered so that there are openings between them. Above, four fluted Ionic columns and two Ionic pilasters against the building support the flat roof of the porch. The entablature is trimmed with a very elaborate foliated scroll and a row of tiny dentils above. A similar entablature design decorates the cornice of the entire building, which helps to tie the multitude of design elements together. Belt courses of molded brick demarcating the first and second stories further tie the composition together. A photo taken sometime around 1902 shows that the house is virtually intact. Only iron cresting on the main hipped roof and the tower have been lost.

The interior floor plan is basically unchanged since the date of construction. The first floor is rather formal in plan. Inside a small vestibule, which has a floor of painted tiles, is a double door which features large, sparkling, leaded glass windows of clear bevelled and etched glass. The large central hallway has embossed paper on the walls

(continued)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1896-1897<sup>1</sup> (construction) **Builder/Architect** Gordon and Paunack<sup>2</sup> association with locally significant individual  
 1896-1910 period of significance

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Steensland house is significant for two reasons: designed by the local architectural firm of Gordon and Paunack, it is one of the best Queen Anne houses in the City of Madison, and it was built by a locally prominent individual, Halle Steensland.

History

Halle Steensland was born in 1832 on a farm in Norway. His story, like that of many other successful Madison businessmen in the 19th century, is a rags to riches tale. In 1854, at the age of 22, Steensland left Norway and settled in Rock County, where he clerked in a rural store. In 1855 he moved to Madison and studied English and German while he continued to work as a clerk. In 1857 he married Sophia Halvorsdatter. By 1859 he had saved enough money to establish a grocery business in partnership with a Mr. Huntley. Five years later he bought out Huntley and seven years after that he sold the business to become the Secretary and Manager of the new Hekla Fire Insurance Company, which he had helped to organize. He eventually rose to be President of the company. In 1890 he formed another company, the Savings Loan and Trust Company (now the Bank of Madison), for which he served as President and Treasurer until 1910 when he died of old age.

During his lifetime Steensland travelled all over the world. He wrote extensively for the Norwegian press both in the United States and in Norway, and wrote a book entitled Bibeleus Laude. In 1892 Steensland was named Wisconsin's vice-consul for Sweden and Norway. He represented both countries until they separated in 1905, after which he represented Sweden until his death. In his later years he was well-known as a philanthropist. Among his many "generous" contributions, he gave the funds to build a library at St. Olaf's College, and he paid for the Steensland Bridge over the Yahara River on East Washington Avenue in Madison to commemorate his fifty years as a Madison businessman. He was a director of the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association and took a deep interest in the Norwegian Lutheran Church (now Bethel Lutheran). According to an obituary, Steensland was "for many years one of the most foremost representatives of the Norse race in this country." <sup>3</sup>

Around the year 1860 the Steenslands moved to a farm in the country-side in what is now suburban Maple Bluff. The farm was eventually sold to the LaFollette family and the farmhouse has become a National Historic Landmark for its association with "Fighting Bob" LaFollette. In 1892 the Steenslands moved back to Madison and built a house on Langdon overlooking Lake Mendota. This house still survives but it has been so altered by later additions that its historical integrity has been lost.

In 1896 the Steenslands built the house at 315 N. Carroll in order to be closer to the Square. After Steensland's death, his son, Edward B., lived in the house. The family sold it in 1938, after which it served as offices for several businesses before becoming the Bethel Lutheran Parish Shoppe in 1958.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .123 acre

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

1	6	3	0	5	5	7	0	4	7	7	1	8	6	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								

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The SE 32 ft. of Lot 1, the SE 32 ft. of the SW half of Lot 2, the NW 22 ft. of the SW half of Lot 9, and the NW 22 ft. of Lot 10. This description conforms to the legal description when the house was built, but not including a portion of the lot on which the carriage house once stood.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lois Stoler and Katherine H. Rankin, Secretary

organization Madison Landmarks Commission date February, 1981

street & number 215 Monona Avenue telephone 608-266-6552

city or town Madison state Wisconsin, 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 Richard Muey

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 10/13/82

For HCERS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for Melissa Byers</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>11/30/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

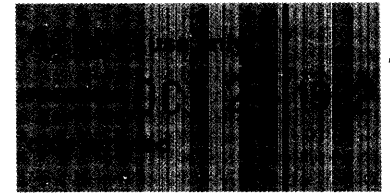
State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

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7. Description (continued)

and ceiling and waist-high wainscoting. To the left of the hall is a large double parlor with a corner fireplace in a very simple design with green tile surrounds. To the right is a small library which also has a fireplace the mantel of which is more elaborate with free-standing columns and a neo-classical frieze. Tiles of golden marble surround the opening which is fitted with a cast iron grate. The walls in this room are also papered in an embossed design. Behind the library is a wide stairway with a Queen Anne stair rail. Behind the stairwell is the dining room. The rear wing contains the large kitchen and a pantry. The original pantry and kitchen cupboards and porcelain kitchen sink remain, although more cabinets were added to the kitchen at a later date. Everything in the house has been painted white, including the wallpaper. Only the wainscoting in the hall and the stair rails retain their original varnished finish. Window and door lintels in the main rooms on the first floor are heavy and neo-classical in design with carved acanthus leaf trim.

The second floor contains six bedrooms, the largest of which is connected by a heavy oak sliding door to a small sitting room. The bathroom sink is original and the wallpaper in the bathroom is embossed. On the third floor are three servants' rooms and a large room which historically served as a game and music room.

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8. Significance (continued)Architecture

The Steensland house is one of the finest brick Queen Anne houses in Madison. A very eclectic and late version of the style, its design is not particularly graceful. Yet, with its multiplicity of materials and decorative elements which remain intact on both its interior and exterior, the Steensland house is one of the best representatives of Victorian architecture remaining in Madison. The designer of the Steensland house was the local architectural firm, Gordon and Paunack. The firm was established by J. O. Gordon in 1890. He formed a partnership with F. W. Paunack in 1892 which lasted until about 1903. The firm designed several commercial buildings in downtown Madison in a simplified and well-proportioned version of the neo-classical revival style. They designed several of Madison's school buildings, as well as public schools in other communities. Their domestic work included many houses in the Queen Anne style. Their residential designs were typically eclectic and somewhat old-fashioned, but with an abundance of finely executed decorative details in brick, wood and glass. Of their known house designs, only the Curtis-Kittleson house (NRHP) and the Steensland houses remain intact.

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<sup>1</sup>Madison Democrat, March 28, 1907.

<sup>2</sup>Madison Past and Present, 1852-1902, p. 172.

<sup>3</sup>"Alderman Halle Steensland Dies", Madison Democrat, August 21, 1910.

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9. Major Bibliographic References:Wisconsin State Journal, September 2, 1908; August 22, August 23, and August 30, 1910.Norwegian American, Northfield, Minn., August 26, 1910.Madison Democrat, March 28, 1907, and August 21, 1910.Biographical Review of Dane Co., Wisconsin, Chicago:  
Biographical Review Publishing Co., 1893, pp. 189-190.

Conversations with Louise Steensland Payton, Halburta Steensland and Luarentine Steensland Greene, by Lois Stoler, January, 1974.

City Directories for Madison, 1890 to present.

Sanborn-Perris Insurance Maps, 1885 to 1942.

Madison Past and Present, 1852-1902, Madison:  
Wisconsin State Journal, 1902, p. 172 and p. 27.