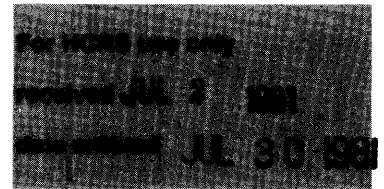


United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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** *Bernard-Hoover Boathouse*

historic **Bernard Boathouse**

and/or common **Bernard-Hoover Boathouse (preferred)**

## 2. Location

street & number **622 E. Gorham Street** \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

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

state **WI** 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 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, Mr. Daniel Stapay, Superintendent**

street & number **704 E. Gorham Street**

city, town **Madison** \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state **WI 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 **WI 53709**

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date **11/18/76** \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county  local

depository for survey records **Madison Landmarks Commission**

city, town **Madison** \_\_\_\_\_ state **WI 53709**

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

### Check one

unaltered

altered

### Check one

original site

moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Bernard-Hoover Boathouse is a large, frame structure on a concrete foundation overlooking Lake Mendota at the northeast end of James Madison Park. The main block is two stories in height with a gable roof. The lake (northwest) side of this section has two large openings with recently installed overhead doors which give access to the first floor boat storage area. On the second floor are three, evenly spaced, double-hung 2-over-2 windows with lintels capped by simple molding strips. Above in the gable end is a similar but smaller window. Three skylights in the southwest slope of the gable are probably original, because they are shown in a photograph taken shortly after construction. Projecting from each side of the main block are two story wings under shed roofs. Each wing on the lake side consists of a large garage-type opening under a shed roof on the first level with the front wall flush with the wall of the main block. Set back above are two double casement windows. The entire composition of the lake side of the building, therefore, is symmetrical. The old photograph shows a cantilevered pent roof wrapping around the westernmost bay and the west side of the building. This roof no longer exists.

The southwest side of the building is pierced by three double casement windows and two door openings placed asymmetrically on the first level. Above are five casement windows evenly spaced. The fenestration on the northeast side is similar. A stairway flanking the building leads up the slope away from the lake to the southeast side of the boathouse, which is one-story high at that end. In one riser of the concrete stairs is carved the name "Bernard." The one story southeast side is also basically symmetrical with a large central double-doored opening and attic light above flanked by a double hung window on each side. Each shed roofed wing contains two double casement windows. The westernmost wing also contains a doorway which leads to the residential unit on the top story.

With the exception of the lost overhanging pent roof, the exterior of the Bernard-Hoover Boathouse has been little changed since its construction. However, the interior boat storage area and two offices on the first floor and the private apartment and storage rooms above have been much altered through the years.

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

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



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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

Madison

Wisconsin 53706



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .22 acre

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>116</u>	<u>30160915</u>	<u>4772460</u>
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 Original Plat, Block 260, the northerly 2/3 of Lot 4 and the northwest 22-1/2 feet of the northerly 2/3 of Lot 5. This description corresponds approximately to the outside walls of the building.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill M. Corcoran 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 WI 53709

# 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 M. Mearns*

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

date 6/24/81

For HCERS use only

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

Entered in the National Register date 7-30-81

Keeper of the National Register

*Alfred Byers*

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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large pleasure boats at a time.

William Bernard and his son, Carl, were also avid boat racers. They specialized in building ice boats, including the Princess series, iceboats that were among the fastest in the nation in their day. The Bernards are said to have "made ice boats famous" in Madison,<sup>4</sup> Carl later also raced motor boats and won a national championship in 1928 with an old motor he had found in the boathouse.

By 1940, the automobile had cut down substantially on the boating business in Madison. William Bernard sold the boathouse, boats and docks to Berg's Sporting Company, which operated the business for three years. In 1943 the Bergs sold the property to Harry Hoover, who continued the business until 1968, when the City of Madison bought it as part of its plans to expand James Madison Park. The building is still in use as a boat livery.

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<sup>1</sup>Frank Custer, "Bernard Auction Sunday to End Mendota Beach Era," Capital Times, Nov. 1, 1963. Mr. Custer received his information from Carl Bernard, who said that an older building on the site was replaced in 1911 by a larger boathouse. That boathouse was destroyed by fire in 1915 and rebuilt.

<sup>2</sup>The old Bernard dance pavilion was moved and rebuilt as part of the administration building at Mendota State Hospital. Its historic integrity has been completely lost.

<sup>3</sup>Information from the city directories.

<sup>4</sup>Custer, op. cit.

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

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**Item #9, Major Bibliographic References:**

Biographical Review of Dane County, Wisconsin, Chicago: Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1893, pp. 456-457.

Building permit, no date, Department of Planning and Development, City of Madison.

City directories for the City of Madison, 1858-1950.

Custer, Frank, "Bernard Auction Sunday to End Mendota Beach Era," Capital Times, November 1, 1963.

Photograph of Bernard's Boat House, 1913, in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Sanborn-Perris Maps, 1898-1942, in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Tax assessment rolls for the City of Madison, 1900-1920, in the possession of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.