FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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### 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. Nam	10 Berno	end-Haane	~ Boath	bust	, ,		
historic Berr	nard Boathouse		· · ·		· · ·		
and/or common	Bernard-Hoover	Boathouse (p	referred)		· · ·		
2. Loca	ation			·	·	•	
street & number	622 E, Gorh	am Street			<b>ľ</b>	not for publicat	ion
city, town Ma	dison	vi	cinity of co	ongressional o	listrict Se	econd	
state WI	[	code 55	county Da	ane	· .	code 0	25
3. Clas	sification						
Category district L building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered	n Accessib yes: re	ied upied n progress le estricted nrestricted	Present Use agricultur commerc educatior entertainr governme industrial military	ial nal nent ent	museum park private resid religious scientific transportati x other: reco	on
4. Own	er of Prop	perty					· ·
name City	of Madison Park	s Department,	Mr, Daniel S	Stapay, Sur	erintende	ent	
street & number	704 E, Gorham	Street					
city, town Mad	ison	vi	cinity of		state V	VI 53703	
5. Loca	ntion of Le	egal Des	cription				
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Dane County	Register of	Deeds			
street & number	210 Monona Av	enue					
city, town	Madison				state <b>k</b>	VI 53709	
6. Repr	resentatio	on in Exi	sting Su	irveys			
title City of	Madison Landmar	k	has this property	y been determ	ined elegible	e? yes	X_no
date 11/18/7	6			federal _	state	county	

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison

state WI 53709

## 7. Description

Condition	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check ori
<u>x</u> good	ruins	altered	mo
fair	unexposed		

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, doublehung 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 conrete 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.

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## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

Madison

State

Wisconsin 53706

## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications			e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify) recreation
Specific dates	19151	Builder/Architect	Ν/Δ	recreation

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bernard-Hoover Boathouse is historically significant as the last rem ining building of the commercial pleasure boat and boat livery industry in Madison.<sup>2</sup> The boathouse is a reminder of the time when residents of Madison were more dependent on the lakes for travel and when large pleasure boats took city residents and the many vacationing tourists who visited Madison on recreational outings to resorts which once dotted the lakeshores.

Most of the commercial boating activity occurred on Lake Monona, the peaceful beauty of which appealed more to Victorian sensibilities than the larger and wilder Lake Mendota. On Lake Mendota, where the Bernards operated from 1855 to 1940, only two other boating concerns existed for more than five years: G. A. Hinrichs, boatbuilder from 1858 to 1883, next door to the Bernards, and the Tracy Boat Company, a boat building and livery business operating in the 1930s.<sup>3</sup> Eight boating businesses on Lake Monona were listed in the city directories for over five years, including one builder, many liveries and several steamboat companies that took Madisonians and visitors to such resorts as Schuetzen Park, Tonyawatha Springs, the Monona Assembly, and the Esther Beach Dane Pavilion. The boating industry lasted on Lake Monona from about 1886 to the early 1940s.

The Bernards owned the first major commercial boating concern in Madison. Harry Hoover operated the last such business until 1968 in Bernard's old boathouse.

Charles Bernard was born in Baden, Germany in 1824. He immigrated to the United States at the age of eight with his family. Before arriving in Madison in 1853, Bernard had served as a member of the U. S. Marine Band, a ship's carpenter in Brooklyn, New York, a soldier in the Mexican War, and for three years as a tailor in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He began his life in Madison as a tailor and a fisherman. In 1855 he bought the property at 622 E. Gorham for a fishing station, although he still listed himself as a tailor in some later city directories. His boating business was well established by 1875, when the city directory lists under his name "Charles Bernard Boat Delivery, First Class Pleasure and Fishing Boats and Fishing Material to Let, Landing Near Woolen Mill on Fourth Lake."

In 1890, Bernard built his first steamboat, which he named "Anne" after one of his daughters. In 1893 he built the "Columbia," and in 1905 he christened another steamer, the "Wisconsin." When Charles Bernard died in 1907 his son William took over the operation. At about the same time, the family bought land at Woodward's Grove on the northeast shore of Lake Mendota and opened Bernard's Pleasure Park. The Bernard steamers took people on holiday across the lake to the park which featured picnic grounds, a refreshment stand, swings and a large dancing pavilion. The Bernards also offered two hour excursions around the lake. At their peak, they operated six

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

for

10. 0	Geographical Data IIIM NOT VERIFIED	
Acreage of	of nominated property acre ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED gle_nameMadison West, Wis. Quadrangle	scale <u>1:24000</u>
	3 0 6 0 9 5 4 7 7 2 4 6 0 B    Easting Northing Zone Easting I  I  I  I  I  I  I I  I I I I  I  I	Northing
C   E   G		
of Lot	boundary description and justification Original Plat, Block 260, the t 4 and the northwest 22-1/2 feet of the northerly 2/3 of Lot 5 sponds approximately to the outside walls of the building.	. This description
List all sta	states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries	•
state	code county	code
state	terret and an entry of the second s	· code
11. F	Form Prepared By	
organization street & nur	tion Madison Landmarks Commission date February, 1 number 215 Monona Avenue telephone 608-266-	} / / · · · ·
city or town	wn Madison WI 5370	)9
12. S	<b>State Historic Preservation Officer Ce</b>	rtification
The evaluat	uated significance of this property within the state is:	
665), I hereb	esignated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act or reby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has g to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Regreation S	been evaluated
	toric Preservation Officer signature	4
title Dir	irector, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date	6/24/81
	RS use only	
i nere	ereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered in the	7-30-81
Keeper of	of the National Register date	1-20-81
Attest:	date	
	Registration	
بر فیک البی ، بین مثل المحمد ا		······

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

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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.

<sup>1</sup>Frank Custer, "Bernard Auction Sunday to End Mendota Beach Era," <u>Capital Times</u>, 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, <u>op. cit.</u>

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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," <u>Capital</u> 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.