

**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 Dean, Nathaniel W., House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 4718 Monona Drive not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Madison

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53709

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Courthouse

street & number 210 Monona Avenue

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wis. Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town 816 State Street, Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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 appearanceDescription

The Nathaniel Dean House is a two-story rectangular residence constructed of yellow brick. The house is covered with a flat, tar roof which is framed by a wooden cornice on all but the rear of the building. Other decorative elements on the exterior include wooden dentils, brick lintels over and stone sills under the narrow 4/4 windows. At one time, a one-story covered porch ran the length of the front of the building; this was removed sometime in the past so that only flashing marks remain under the second story windows. More recently, a wrap-around wood and metal covered porch was added to the rear and half of the south facade of the first story. The interior of the house has also been remodeled by the addition of a concrete floor, new walls on the first floor, toilet facilities and store-rooms. The original wooden winding staircase to the second floor has been left intact, as has an old wood burning stove in the downstairs kitchen. One room of the second floor contains old furniture left in the house when it was acquired by the city. While further remodeling of the house's interior is planned, the intent is to utilize the original elements and room arrangement as much as possible, particularly on the upper floor where the old furniture may be restored to create room settings representative of Nathaniel Dean's era. The lower floor will house a pioneer crafts exhibit/school/museum where school children can experience the chores of frontier life.

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 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)
				Assoc. w/significant person.

Specific dates 1857-1858¹ **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dean House is significant as the residence of Nathaniel Dean, a leader in the development of 19th century Madison. As both a private investor and public figure, Dean did much to contribute to the emergence of Madison as a major Wisconsin city. Today, the Dean House, which was designated a Madison Landmark in 1972, is part of the Monona Golf Course grounds and the interior is being converted from a clubhouse into a museum. The house is the only remaining residence still extant from the early years of Blooming Grove (now Monona area) history.

Association with a Significant Person. Born in Massachusetts, Nathaniel Dean (1817-1880) came to Madison in 1842, when the state's capital contained fewer than 1000 people. He quickly earned a reputation for sound business judgment, first as co-owner of a drygoods business that grew to be the city's largest, then as a real estate agent. A brisk speculator in lands throughout his life, he was able to amass considerable wealth advising others on where and when to invest in Wisconsin real estate.²

Dean also had a small but notable political career, beginning in 1846 with his election as clerk to the Dane County Board of Supervisors. As a Whig, and later a Republican, Dean's sentiments followed the big businesses of the day, including railroads. While a State Assemblyman between 1857-1859, Dean introduced numerous bills for chartering railroads and other enterprises.³ He also played a role in the campaign to build the second state capitol building (which was destroyed by fire in 1904), and supported Negro suffrage.⁴

It was in other capacities, however, that Dean most aided the growth of Madison. As treasurer of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, he helped plan the financing of the school's enlargement through land sales (from which he personally benefitted), and together with the other members of the Board planned the construction of North, South, and Bascom Hall, and the establishing of the College of Letters and Science.⁵

Dean purchased university land for his own home, buying all of the southwest quarter of Section 16 in Blooming Grove around 1855. The land here was but part of extensive land owned by him in Dane and other Wisconsin counties, but it was on this piece of property he erected his house in the late 1850s. Although the surrounding land was cultivated, Dean apparently paid little interest to it as an investment property; his self-proclaimed designation as a "farmer" in the 1870 census can probably best be taken in the then fashionable context of a gentleman with a country estate.⁶ Indeed, Dean's interests in Madison grew to such an extent after 1865, it seems unlikely he could have devoted much time to farming. He built at the corner of King and Pinckney Streets a brick office block, named Dean's Block, which subsequently held his own real estate office. In 1870 he became the largest stockholder in the Park Hotel, built at Carroll and Main Streets on land he owned and the most impressive hotel then in the city.⁷ Since Dean maintained a rented room in Madison during this period, it can be conjectured that he lived inside the city during part of the year to watch over his investments, and used his home in Blooming Grove as a retreat.⁸ Nonetheless, he accepted the town as his home and donated land for the site of Blooming Grove's first town hall.⁹

9. Major Bibliographical References

Daniel S. Burke, A History of Madison and the Four Lake Country, Madison, 1874.
 Michael Conzen, Frontier Farming in an Urban Shadow, Madison, 1971.
 Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: A History, Madison, 1949.
 Madison Democrat; Wisconsin State Journal
 Irvin G. Wylie, "Land and Learning," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 30, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 0.1
 Quadrangle name Madison East, Wis. UTM NOT VERIFIED
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>310650</u>	<u>4770810</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Nathaniel Dean House is part of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 16, Town 7 north, Range 10 east of old Blooming Grove Township in Madison, Wisconsin. The house is located about 100 feet northeast of the junction of Monona Drive and Dean Avenue, on the north corner of the Monona Golf Course. The nominated property

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry L. Shoptaugh, Historian, Historic Preservation Division
 organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date May 24, 1980
 street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-8904 (B. Wyatt)
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

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 Ruthven Murray
 title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 18/28/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>John W. Ray Luce</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>11/7/80</u>
Attest: <u>Laura Elvett McClelland</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>11-6-80</u>

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National Register of Historic Places

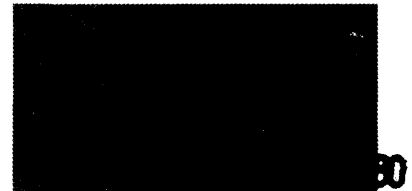
Inventory—Nomination Form

Dean, Nathaniel W., House, Madison, Wisconsin

Continuation sheet

Item number 8, 10

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8. Significance

- 1) The Dean House appears on the 1861 Plat map of Dane County, while tax records for Blooming Grove suggest that the house was built between 1857 and 1858.
- 2) Brief biographies of Dean appear in Butterfield, History of Dane County, p. 557-558; Wisconsin State Journal, Feb. 28, 1880.
- 3) Wisconsin State Assembly Journal of 1857, p. 383-393, contains several references to bills presented by Dean. For a discussion of Dean in the assembly, see Larry Martin, "Nathaniel W. Dean," a paper written for the Blooming Grove Historical Society. A copy of this paper is with this office and portions of it appeared in the Monona Community Herald, September 29, 1978.
- 4) Ibid.
- 5) Merle Curti and Vernon Carstensen, The University of Wisconsin: A History, Vol. I, p. 104, 111. For evidence that Dean used the University's land sale program for his own benefit, see footnote 6.
- 6) Dane County tax records for Blooming Grove list Nathaniel Dean as a resident owner as early as 1861, and the 1868 city directory of Madison notes him as residing in Blooming Grove. However, Dean is known to have rented property in Madison, and after 1872 he is listed in Madison city directories as boarding at the Park Hotel. It is likely, therefore, that Dean used his Blooming Grove residence as a part-time home and a country estate. See also U.S. Census schedules for Dane County, 1870, Vol. 1, p. 95, which lists Dean as a farmer living in Blooming Grove. For Dean's other holdings in Wisconsin, see Irvin G. Wyllie, "Land and Learning," Wisconsin Magazine of History, Vol. 30, p. 165n. Finally, Michael Conzen, Frontier Farming in an Urban Shadow, p. 50-51, 136, 140, notes Dean's reputation as a speculator and his lack of interest in farming.
- 7) A description of the Park Hotel, as well as Dean's role in the building of it, is contained in Daniel S. Burke, A History of Madison and the Four Lake Country, p. 328, 338-340; Madison Democrat, Feb. 29, 1880.
- 8) Madison City Directory, 1872, 1875, 1877.
- 9) Madison Landmarks Commission, nomination form of the Nathaniel W. Dean House, Aug. 11, 1972.
10. Geographical Data cont.
 is a parcel of land measuring 72 feet in length(W-E) by 61 feet in width(S-N), commencing from that point 100 feet northeast of the intersection of Monona Drive and Dean Avenue.