

**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 Quisling Towers Apartments

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 1 E. Gilman St. not for publication

city, town Madison vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Wisconsin code 55 county Dane code 025

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial (rental) <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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Max Miller

street & number 3738 Atwood Ave.

city, town Madison vicinity of state Wisconsin 53714

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dane County Courthouse

street & number 210 Monona Ave.

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53709

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin  
816 State St.

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Quisling Towers building is a five-story, 70 x 40-foot rectangular building of "buff-gray" pressed brick and Bedford stone trim.<sup>1</sup> Grouped corner windows are accentuated by projecting copings; above the third story, these "tiers" culminate in terra cotta-trimmed balconies, which fill voids between the two-story "towers." Terra cotta copings, marking the water table on the front (north) facade, are carried across the matching brick wall which "grows" from the building's northwest corner and "steps down" the slope of Wisconsin Avenue along the west side. There are no apparent alterations inside or out.

Twenty-six apartments (studios, one- and two-bedroom units) occupy the interior. Painted plaster surfaces conceal the fireproof construction of hollow structural tile anchored to face brick.<sup>2</sup> At the front door, a simple metal canopy shelters the full-length glazed double doors and sidelights; the oval vestibule inside retains its linoleum tile floor and sculptured plaster ceiling. Now as originally, hall floors and stairs are carpeted. Appointments in the rental units vary according to size, and except for minor improvements, remain unaltered. The three, two-story two-bedroom apartments located in the towers are most distinctive, with two-story window walls lighting living and dining areas; curved stairs, overlooking the living level, serving the upper-level bedrooms; a fireplace; and balconies. Most corners are curved or finished with metal corner beads. Kitchens, "of latest design"<sup>3</sup> in 1937, include the original painted white pine cabinetry; where the color scheme has been restored to the original, doors are white outside, red inside, with black trim, and red-scored brushed chrome pulls. Baths include the original black and white tile surfaces and porcelain fixtures. Call boxes are still in place, though non-functional. One-bedroom and studio apartments are simpler, with similar kitchens and baths, and period hardware, but no dramatic spaces or substantial appointments.

<sup>1-3</sup> Specifications, Apartment building for Dr. Abraham Quisling, Lawrence Monberg, architect, 1937 (City of Madison Building Inspection Records).

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

**Specific dates** 1937<sup>1</sup> **Builder/Architect** Lawrence Monberg<sup>1</sup>

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In its massive sculptural form and retention of period detail inside and out, the Quisling Towers Apartments is probably Madison's best example of the Art Moderne period of construction. Although the building is presently four years short of meeting the National Register's fifty-year age requirement, its local prominence, obvious period quality, and unaltered state establish its significance. Furthermore, the building is a pivotal element in the locally-certified Mansion Hill Historic District.

The Quisling Towers building was designed for Dr. Abraham Quisling by architect Lawrence Monberg, then of Chicago. Dr. Quisling sought out the young Danish-born architect on the recommendation of his father-in-law, a Chicago contractor. In exchange for redesigning the project that Quisling proposed, Monberg was given full control over details and execution of his design.<sup>2</sup> The result, with units of various sizes, levels, and period decor (balconies, stair towers, "modern" kitchens), was considered bold in the context of Depression-era construction, as well as its design. At the time, Monberg was in the last years of his employ as chief draftsman for the firm of L. G. Hallburg & Co., of Chicago, just prior to opening his own office in Kenosha, Wisconsin. From the 1940s through the '70s, Monberg designed a large number of schools in Wisconsin, as well as many public and commercial buildings. After leaving Wisconsin, Monberg continued to practice in Florida.

One of Madison's prestige apartment buildings, the Quisling Towers attracted "established" and long-term tenants. Current residents include a substantial proportion of students and young professionals who were attracted to the building because of its architectural distinction.

### Inclusion of Exempted Properties

Both in the context of other period construction and of the work of its architect, the Quisling Towers building can be evaluated. Although there are a number of buildings of "modern" design of the 1930s in Madison, few, if any, are as distinctive, substantial, and well-preserved as the Quisling Towers. Most comparable are two other commissions done a decade later for Dr. Quisling: a clinic (diagonally opposite the Towers) and a hotel (one block northwest). Both designed in the Art Moderne style and both of

(continued)

<sup>1</sup> City of Madison Building Inspection Records.

<sup>2</sup> "History of Quisling Towers Apartments," Written statement by Lawrence Monberg, undated, received by the Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, January 1983.

<sup>3</sup> George S. Koyl, ed., American Architects Directory, 1955, p. 386.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Koyl, George S., editor, American Architects Directory, American Institute of Architects, R. R. Bowker Company, New York, 1955.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	6	3	0	5	5	8	0	4	7	7	2	0	4	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

SW 90' of Lot 1, Block 93, original plat of Madison

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

state code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane H. Filipowicz/Architectural Historian

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date February 1983

street & number 816 State Street telephone 608/262-2732

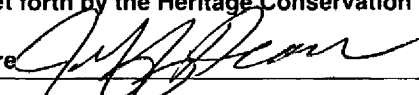
city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

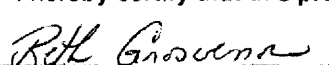
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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 

title Director, Historic Preservation Division, SHSW date Nov. 17, 1983

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>1/9/84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

Quisling Towers Apartments, Madison, Dane County, Wis.

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

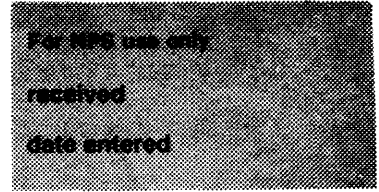
Page 1

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

the same gray brick, these large-scale buildings are also pivotal elements in the local Mansion Hill Historic District, but are less remarkable for their date and lack of distinctive interior features. The Quisling buildings are the earliest known Monberg works in Wisconsin, and his only known works in Madison.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

PROPERTY NAME Quisling Tower

8	4	0	0	3	6	4	8
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REFERENCE NUMBER

W	I
---	---

STATE

0	2	5
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COUNTY CODE

Correct name should be Quisling Towers

SIGNED, SELF OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE