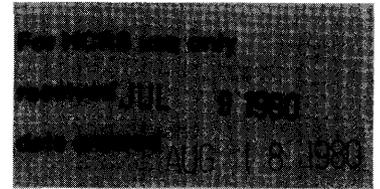


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 American Exchange Bank

historic Mason-Baker Block

and/or common American Exchange Bank (preferred name)

2. Location

street & number 1 North Pinckney Street _____ not for publication

city, town Madison _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Second

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name American Exchange Bank

street & number 1 North Pinckney Street

city, town Madison, _____ vicinity of _____ state Wisconsin 53703

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 Designated Madison Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 8, 1975 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Madison Landmarks Commission

city, town Madison _____ state Wisconsin 53709

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This three-story building should be classified as Italian Renaissance Revival. Its Madison Sandstone facade displays a massive cornice, originally decorated with urns, finials and small gables. Rusticated pilasters separate double window bays at the first and second floor. The entire first floor shows a rusticated treatment.

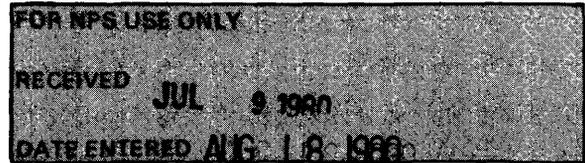
Windows linked horizontally by string courses feature pronounced plinths at each floor line and are treated differently at each floor. They are grouped in pairs, groups separated by pilasters. At the first floor a semicircular arch with a protruding keystone is used. The second floor windows display a segmented arch with a slightly less protruding keystone. The third floor windows are treated with a flat arch, again using a protruding keystone.

The south corner of the building has been treated differently than the remainder. Here windows with semicircular arches occur also on the second floor. One of the entrances was originally located at this corner.

In 1911 significant alterations took place. The southeast facade facing East Washington was extended to the east by 7 more window bays. While the treatment was identical, which makes it impossible to detect the point where existing building and the addition meet, it destroyed the symmetry existing before. At this time, the decorative elements above the cornice were removed and the frieze below the cornice received a more elaborate treatment. The main entrance was relocated at the west corner of the building facing Pinckney Street. Much of the interior detail in the main banking room appears to date from this time also. Wainscoting and teller's booths are of gold colored marble. Small brass electric fixtures on the wainscoting and large brass chandeliers, which appear more recent, light the room. The ceiling is coppered, with bands of classical ornament.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



American Exchange Bank, Madison, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places

1973

State

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Madison

Wisconsin 53706

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1871¹ Builder/Architect Stephen V. Shipman¹

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The American Exchange Bank building is locally significant for several reasons. It is located on the site of the third session of the Wisconsin legislature.² Its occupants through the years, the Park Savings Bank, the First National Bank and the American Exchange Bank, were pioneer banking establishments which contributed greatly to the growth and development of the community. Its architecture is significant as a fine example of the Italian Renaissance Revival, displaying excellent craftsmanship in sandstone, a local material used frequently for the highest quality 19th century Madison buildings. It was designed by Stephen V. Shipman, one of the best of Madison's pioneer architects. And, finally, it is one of the last remnants of the large three or more story sandstone blocks which dominated the Capitol Square from the 1850s to the 1950s.

The site, lots 7 and 8 of block 101 facing East Washington and North Pinckney Street, has played an important part in the history of downtown Madison.

It was the original site of the American Hotel built in 1838; destroyed by fire on September 5, 1868. The first session of the Wisconsin legislature in Madison took place in this building on November 26, 1838. Dr. J.E. Baker commissioned Architect Colonel Stephan Vaughan Shipman (January 26, 1825 - November 13, 1905) to design the \$30,000 building. Completed and opened November 7, 1871, it housed two stores on North Pinckney Street, the Park Savings Bank on East Washington, and insurance and other offices above the stores on North Pinckney Street. Shipman had been the architect of the Central State Hospital for the Insane at Mendota, he designed the dome and rotunda of the State Capitol, the Madison Post Office, the Dane County Court house and the Park Hotel.

The present owner and occupant of the building, the American Exchange Bank, has been an important element in the Madison community for more than a hundred years. The bank was founded in September, 1871 as the Deutsche Bank or German Bank by John J. Suhr, born in Bremen, Germany on May 27, 1836. The Suhr family made many contributions to the cultural and economic life of the community. One of its visible remaining examples is the Suhr house at 121 Langdon Street. Before acquiring the building it now occupies, the German-American Bank occupied the building at the corner of Main and King Street.

¹ Contemporary newspaper accounts, see bibliographic references.

² Two previous sessions were held in Belmont; this was the first session in Madison.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"American Exchange Bank, 1871 - 1971" ., Madison and the Four Lake Country, 1874, Daniel Durrie
Dictionary of Wisconsin Biography, Page 326, 1960,
Madison Daily Democrat, Nov. 3, 1871; April 21, 1871; Oct. 16, 1871.
Wisconsin State Journal, Nov. 7, 1871
Madison Tax Rolls.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 0.13
 Quadrangle name Madison West, Wis. **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>306000</u>	<u>4771770</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SW 22 feet of Lots 7 and 8, Block 101, Original Plat, City of Madison

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Horst Lobe and Katherine H. Rankin
 organization Madison Landmarks Commission date December 17, 1979
 street & number 351 West Wilson Street telephone 608-266-6552
 city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53703

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 Rubena Muey
 title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 2/1/80

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 for W. Ray Luce date 8/18/80
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: Kristin T.O'Connell date 8/8/80
 Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 9 1980
DATE ENTERED	AUG 18 1980

American Exchange Bank, Madison, Wisconsin

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

On July 6, 1881 the First National Bank purchased the building at North Pinckney Street and East Washington from the Park Savings Bank, the original occupants.

On December 7, 1921 the American Exchange Bank, which had changed its name from German-American Bank on May 15, 1918, purchased the building, while the First National Bank moved into its new quarters across East Washington Street.

The American Exchange Bank is a good example of the Italian Renaissance Revival period and, if a more precise definition is desired, could be classified as belonging to the Romano-Tuscan Mode. It displays all of the elements typical of this style from the massive cornice to the window treatment and rusticated first floor.