

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Mrs. Josephine Crane Bradley Residence

AND/OR COMMON Harold C. Bradley House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 106 North Prospect Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison

___ VICINITY OF

___NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

STATE

Wisconsin 53705

CODE

COUNTY
Dane

CODE

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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 Alpha Chapter of Wisconsin of Sigma Phi Fraternity
c/o George Ketterer (608-233-0534)

STREET & NUMBER 666 Pickford Street

CITY, TOWN

Madison

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Wisconsin

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Register of Deeds
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

STREET & NUMBER City-County Building, 210 Monona Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Madison

STATE
Wisconsin

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

128

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 description given by Hugh Morrison is as follows: "it is T-shaped, with the main facade fronting south, and a long wing extending northward from the middle of the back. The south facade is a long, low mass,..(with) the horizontal lines...broken at intervals by strong vertical piers of brick, extending from foundation to cornice and projecting some eighteen inches from the wall surface. In the middle is a polygonal projecting bay,..one story in height. The two ends of this main block offer the most extraordinary features of the house: large overhanging porches on the second story, supported by steel cantilever beams, encased in wood, with projecting ends elaborately sawed. The gable at the west end overhangs an open porch enclosed by a brick parapet; the gable at the east end, exactly the same in form, overhangs a side entrance on to the lawn. The wing extending toward the back is quite wide, and the roof consists of two gables, presenting twin gable-ends side by side over the rear facade. The main entrance is from a porte-cochere at the back of this wing, from which one enters a long hall. Built for a large family of children, the house has numerous bedrooms, two sleeping porches, and large playrooms, and since the Bradley family left it, has served admirably for a fraternity house."¹

The house as it finally evolved was much larger than needed for a university professor and his family and the Bradleys finally found it too expensive to maintain. Although there was a serious fire several years ago a university alumnus generously donated the money to return it to its original condition.

The Bradley house became the prototype for the later residences designed by Purcell and Elmslie (1909-1920) which are now recognized as masterworks of American architecture.

¹Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture. W. W. Norton, N. Y. 1935, p. 204-205.

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/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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Louis Sullivan & George Grant Elmslie

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bradley house is one of two residences that Sullivan built in the years between his peak as a skyscraper designer in Buffalo, St. Louis and Chicago and the lean years before his death in 1924. The other was the Henry Babson residence in Riverside, Illinois. Wisconsin has two buildings by Sullivan: this house and the Columbus Farmers' and Merchants' Bank--both important architecturally.

Morrison discusses the Bradley and Babson houses in the context of Sullivan's career at that time: "Both commissions came at a time when Sullivan's practice and his business and personal affairs were at a low ebb. This is especially true of the Bradley commission, the only one Sullivan had to live on in 1909. Only the well-spring of his inventiveness never failed him. He drew a long low house with gigantic overhanging verandas, held up by cantilever supports which recalled the Biblical phrase 'everlasting arms.' Adversity, then, lay in the results of financial depression, personal misfortune and lack of commissions; there was no corresponding poverty in the architect's ability to produce another masterful work."¹

There has been considerable research since 1960 on the part played by George Elmslie as Sullivan's chief draftsman. David Gebhard writing in the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians has established that Elmslie was overshadowed by Frank Lloyd Wright and is due much more recognition (scholars have used Wright's own letters and books as a basis for this assumption). Working primarily from Sullivan's designs neither man had any independence until 1893. "After Wright's dismissal from the Adler and Sullivan firm in July 1893, and after the partnership with Adler dissolved in 1895, Elmslie's contribution became even more significant. Sullivan found it increasingly difficult to obtain and to hold commissions and even those which he did obtain, such as the Babson and Bradley dwellings, failed to hold his full interest....both of the late residences (Babson and Bradley) were designed by Elmslie with only occasional suggestions from Sullivan. All of the existing sketches, presentation and working drawings are from Elmslie's hand. Many of the design elements involved in these houses were continued by Elmslie when he joined in partnership with William Gray Purcell in 1909."²

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(Continued)

¹Morrison, Hugh. Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture. W. W. Norton Co., New York 1935, p. 202.

²Gebhard, David. Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie. Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, Vol. XIX, No. 2, May, 1960, pp. 63-65.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	6	3	0	2	8	8	0	4	7	7	1	0	9	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING								

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The University Heights lots 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10 and the east 41 1/2 feet of lot 7--all in Block 19.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

July 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Bradley House, Madison, Wisc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Bradley house also reflects the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs of the same period, particularly the Coonley House in Riverside, Illinois. As in Wright's houses, interiors were designed throughout-- furniture, lighting, draperies, accessories, etc were planned with great care. One can see, as well as Wright's influence, the strong impact of Gustave Stickley and the Arts and Crafts movement. Elmslie's talents were also undoubtedly used for the ornamental designs on the Guaranty building, the Condict, Gage and Carson, Pirie, Scott structures.

The most striking feature of the Bradley house are the cantilevered sleeping porches projecting from the second floor which were probably Sullivan's idea. This magnificent house functions today as a university fraternity and is beautifully maintained.

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Bradley House, Racine, Wisc.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Gebhard, David S. "Louis Sullivan and George Grant Elmslie." Journal of
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