

Landmarks Commission 10/05/09

Report of buildings proposed to be demolished:

1010 Northport Dr Madison, WI 53704 – Single Family House

Applicant's Comments: This building is an unoccupied, 1947, "quonset" hut of 720 sq. ft. located between two raised ranch homes. City of Madison notification for needed repairs has been posted on property. Contact person will propose to remove house and detached garage and build a new 1500 sq ft raised ranch over a two car garage similar to neighbor's.



617 and 619 Mendota Court:

According to an e-mail dated Oct 27, 2008, Ms Katherine Rankin did not object to the demolition of these two houses, but she did pass along a previous analysis of the two houses. Staff has attached both the e-mail and the write-up.

617 Mendota Ct Madison, WI 53703 – Wood frame multi-family building



619 Mendota Ct Madison, WI 53703 – Wood frame multi-family building



617 Mendota Court

The 1890s marked a period of explosive growth for the University of Wisconsin. Female students were required to live on campus at the time, but male students were free to find housing off campus. Langdon Street, which had been a street of large single-family houses, became known as the "Latin Quarter" due to the invasion of male university students. Many owners in the area began renting out rooms in their own houses to increase their income and male student groups, namely, fraternities, began to rent whole houses and soon build their own houses in the area.

One of the families that took advantage of this new need for housing were the Frawleys. I did not have time to trace down all of their activity in this area, but it is known that they built a large Queen Anne/Shingle Style home at 620 Langdon Street (gone) as their own residence and also as a boarding house. The property that they owned there had been the site of the Madison Manufacturing Company and soon they were building more houses along Mendota Court, which they may have developed themselves.

The house at 617 Mendota Court was built by the Frawleys as an investment property ca. 1895. It is a simple, frame Queen Anne house that has been much altered on the exterior by removing the front porch and changing the front entrance. It has little in the way of exterior features beyond a denticulated cornice. The interior retains some original woodwork, which is unremarkable and ubiquitous for mid-priced housing of the era. It also retains its original stairway, which is intact and worth retaining. At some point in the past a thick stucco finish was added to the walls. The house is in poor condition.

619 Mendota Court

Frawley building, 619 Mendota Court, 1893-1895. This house is one of the first examples of a simpler mass composed of a hipped roof with a smaller dormer projecting toward the front. The front two-story bay is still evident, but it is now less decorative, with shingles replacing the large central window on the second floor. The porch has a simple shed roof with pared down posts. The overhangs are wide with long thin brackets, and show that designers were beginning to experiment with details that would soon develop into the prairie school. Note also the pedestals for the front porch posts that are plain blocks of shingle siding. This is a shingle style element used often from this time onward.

10/27/2008 12:59 PM

Rankin, Katherine

From: patrickproperties [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 27, 2008 9:35 AM
To: Rankin, Katherine
Subject: Re: 617 and 619 Mendota Court

Thanks Kitty.
It was nice to see you again.

Ptrick J Corcoran

----- "Rankin wrote:
> Hi, Patrick -
>
> Here is the write-up I have done about these two houses. I do not
> object to their demolition.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Kitty