

## 617 and 619 Mendota Court

The 1890s marked a period of explosive growth for the University of Wisconsin. 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 and professors and their families. 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 on their property along Mendota Court.

The house at 617 Mendota Court was built by the Frawleys as an investment property ca. 1894. 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 preserving. At some point in the past a thick stucco finish was added to the walls. The house is in poor condition and the remodeling that took place several decades ago was done to a minimal standard. Early residents appeared to be younger professors' families.

The house at 619 Mendota Court was also built by the Frawleys as an investment, probably about ten to fifteen years after they built the house next door at 617. It is a two-story frame house of a simple four-square design. It also appears to have housed professors' families in the early years. The exterior was sided about 15 years ago and the interior completely gutted and no original interior features remain, except for the plain brickwork of the original fireplace. It has lost all of its historic integrity.

Parenthetically, in 1905 the Frawleys also built the Frawley Apartments, which still exists at 625 Mendota Court. At the time of construction, the building was described as "the first modern flats built in Madison, with steam heat and all modern improvements (in other words, indoor plumbing with sinks and bathtubs).

Although the two houses are located in the Langdon Street National Register Historic District, neither 617 nor 619 Mendota Court are of known historic or architectural significance.

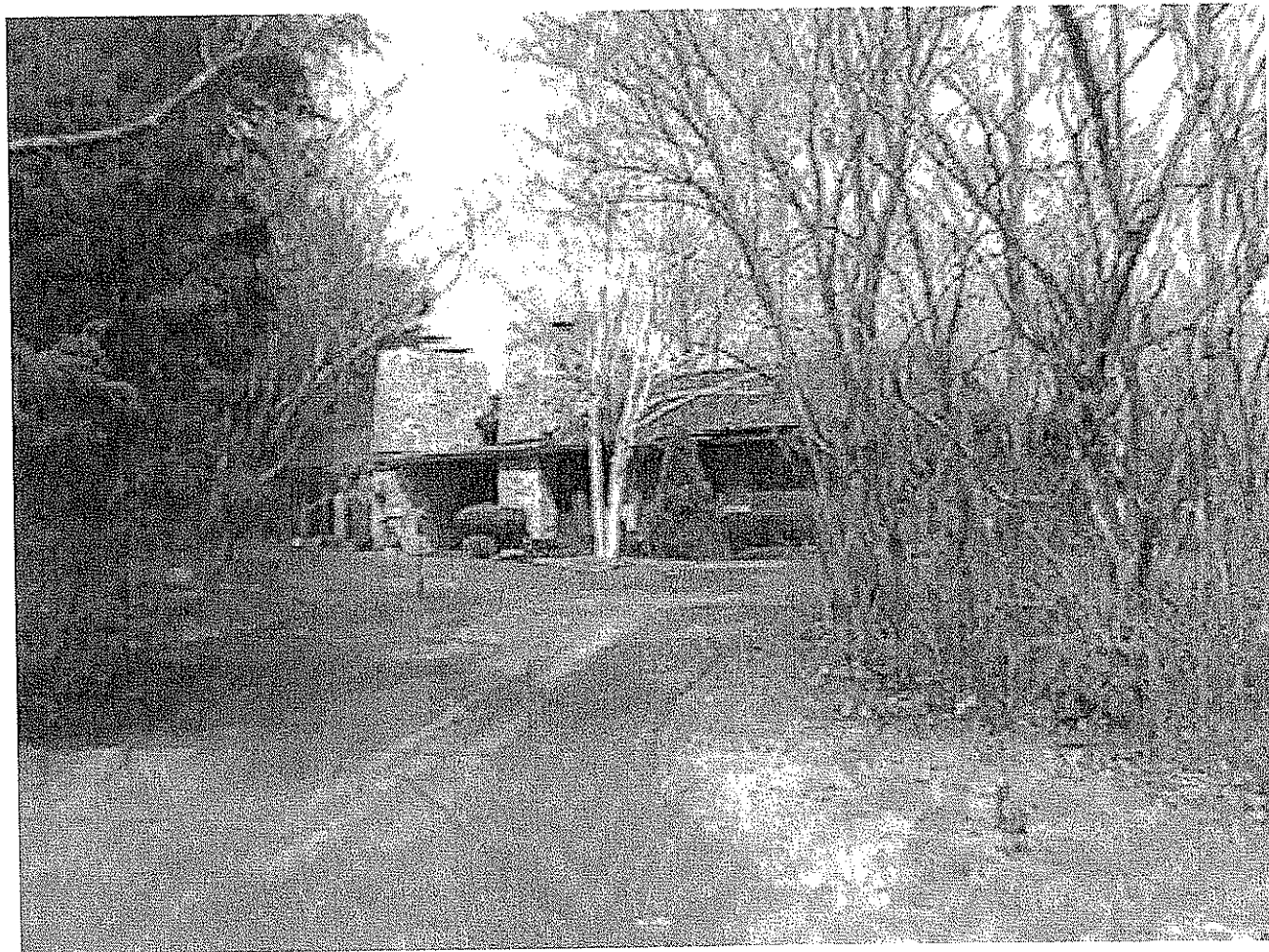


617 Mendota Court

This is the assessor's photo. It is taken from the rear. The front facade is only slightly more detailed.



619 Mendota Court



### 6018 N. Highlands Avenue - draft

This 3456 square foot, one-story house is proposed for demolition for a new single-family residence. It was built for Mr. and Mrs. Alex Temkin in 1978 and designed by architect Klaus Feller, about whom nothing is known. The building contractor was Bruce Nichols. The building is of frame construction with imposing stone elements rising from the ground to above the roof. The building has no known historic significance. A quick search of Google indicates that Mr. Temkin was a lawyer and was active in Jewish affairs. The architectural significance of the house is unknown due to its fairly recent date of construction.