

# DISTRICT SURVEY FORM

1	<u>District</u> Sylvan Avenue-Ridge Road Historic District		<u>Surveyor</u> Timothy F. Hegglund	<u>SHSW Staff</u>
	<u>City</u> Madison	<u>County</u> Dane	<u>Survey</u> Near West Side Neighborhoods Intensive Survey	<u>Date</u> 2012
<u>Streets</u>		<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Streets</u>	<u>Numbers</u>
S. Franklin Avenue		30	Sylvan Avenue	2801, 2805, 2809, 2816, 2817, 2828, 2829
Glenway Street		16, 21, 24, 25, 36, 40		
Ridge Road		2801, 2802, 2803, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2810, 2811, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821		

2	<p><b><u>Boundary Description</u></b></p> <p>The district boundaries begin at a point on the W curbline of S. Franklin Ave. that corresponds to the NE corner of the lot associated with 2801 Sylvan Ave. The line then continues W along the S curbline of Sylvan Ave. to a point that corresponds to the NW corner of the lot associated with 2809 Sylvan Ave. The line then turns 90° and continues N Across Sylvan Ave. to a point on the N curbline of said street that corresponds to the SE corner of the lot associated with 2816 Sylvan Ave. The line then continues N along the E lot line of 2816 Sylvan Ave. until reaching the NE corner of said lot. The line then turns 90° and</p>
3	<p><b><u>Boundary Justification</u></b></p> <p>The boundaries of the district enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the district's resources.</p>

4	<p><b><u>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</u></b></p> <p>A. City of Madison Assessor's Office</p> <p>B. City of Madison Building Permits</p> <p>C. Madison City Directories (various issues)</p> <p>D. <i>Wisconsin State Journal</i> (various issues)</p> <p>E.</p>
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DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HP-02-66 (7/16/98)

5	<p><b><u>MAP REFERENCE</u></b></p> <p>USGS quad: <u>Madison West</u> scale: <u>1-24,000</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>UTM References</td> <td>H.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A.16/301540/4770870</td> <td>I.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.</td> <td>J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C.</td> <td>K.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D.</td> <td>L.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.</td> <td>M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F.</td> <td>N.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G.</td> <td>O.</td> </tr> </table>	UTM References	H.	A.16/301540/4770870	I.	B.	J.	C.	K.	D.	L.	E.	M.	F.	N.	G.	O.
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6	<p><b><u>Opinion of National Register Eligibility</u></b></p> <p>date: _____ initials: _____          _____ eligible _____ not eligible _____ unknown          _____ national _____ state _____ local</p>																

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**7 DESCRIPTION**

General character, building types, styles, environment, important natural and man-made features, qualities that distinguish district from surroundings, nature of intrusions, and generally excepted properties.

The Sylvan Avenue-Ridge Road Historic District is a small residential district comprised of 29 single family residences and it is located on the near west side of the city of Madison. These residences are situated on hilly, heavily wooded lots and the district itself is located adjacent to Resurrection Catholic Cemetery to the east, to the City of Madison's Reservoir Park to the west, and it is located one block south of Hoyt Park. The two earliest houses in the district are fine examples of the Period Revival styles, but most of the houses in the district are excellent examples of either the International Style or else they illustrate various aspects of the Contemporary Style, and these houses were all built between 1935 and 1965.

Houses in the district are of medium size, they are either one or two-stories in height, and most of them are clad in wood clapboards, wood boards, or even plywood, although some are clad in stucco or other materials. Most of these houses were architect-designed and these include an especially notable group of flat-roofed International Style houses that were designed by the important Madison architectural firm of Beatty & Strang. There are also, however, two excellent houses designed by equally important local architect Herb Fritz, Jr. and another district house was designed by Madison designer and interior decorator Don Reppen as his own house. These houses are notable for their excellent modern designs and most of them still retain a high degree of integrity today, although a few have now been altered or resided.

What distinguishes the houses in the district from the houses that surround them is primarily their designs. Most of the surrounding plats contain houses of similar vintage that are either examples of the Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles or else they are examples of the Ranch Style. In contrast, the houses in the district display individualistic modern designs that are mostly the work of prominent architects, and these houses, while not large, are still larger than those in the surrounding area.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

The

Areas of significance

Architecture: International Style History: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contemporary Style \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance: 1907-1965

Historical Development and Statement of Significance.

The Sylvan Avenue-Ridge Road Historic District is believed to be of architectural significance under NRHP Criterion C (architecture) because it contains one of Madison's earliest concentrations of single family houses that display modern design principles. Most of these houses are the work of prominent local architects, they were built between 1935 and 1965, and they include a notable group of International Style houses designed by the important local architectural firm of Beatty & Strang and others, and an equally notable group of later Contemporary Style houses that include important works by prominent Madison architect Herb Fritz, Jr.

The two earliest houses in the district are fine examples of the Period Revival styles. The oldest of these is the fine Dutch Colonial Revival style house located at 2818 Ridge Rd. that was built in 1907 for University of Wisconsin Professor A. S. Alexander. When this house was built, the few houses that were located in what was then still a rural area all occupied large multi-acre lots that at that time were located well outside the boundaries of the city, and it was only the fact that the already existing Franklin Ave. and Regent St. were located nearby that allowed these residents to access the city. The next house to be built in the district was the very fine stone-clad Tudor Revival style house of John and Gertrude Knudsen, which is located at 2816 Sylvan Ave. This house was built in 1926, and it, like the Alexander house, was almost certainly architect-designed.

No other houses were built in the district until 1935, however, when two notable International Style houses were built on lots that had been created out of the large land holdings that characterized the district originally. These were the Robert and Marian Dudley House, located at 2820 Ridge Rd., and the Prof. Helen C. Clarke house located at 21 Glenway St. The Dudley house is a rare example of a steel-frame prefabricated house that was designed and fabricated by the Harnischfeger Corp. of Milwaukee, while the Clarke house is an early work of the firm of Beatty & Strang. Both of these houses received prominent mention in the local press at the time and Beatty & Strang subsequently designed five more houses in the district between 1935 and 1940. One other house was also built in the district in 1940 as well, this being the Contemporary Style house that is located at 2810 Ridge, but no others were built there until after World War II ended. Once the war was over, however, building in the district started again and almost all of the houses that were subsequently built there are excellent examples of the various architectural trends that combine to make up what is now called the Contemporary Style. Why this is so is not known but it seems likely that the new owners were inspired by the modernistic houses that had already been built in the district. Certainly it is true that the district has always been especially popular with members of the UW faculty; seven of the houses in the district were built for them and other members have been later owners.

By 1965 the district was complete and it is still largely intact today and constitutes one of Madison's finest assemblages of modern residential design.

**2. Boundary Description, Continued**

and continues W along the rear lot lines of 2816 and 2828 Sylvan Ave. until reaching the NW corner of the lot associated with 2828 Sylvan Ave. The line then turns 90° and continues S along the W lot line of said 2828 Sylvan Ave. until reaching the SW corner of said lot. The line then turns 90° and continues W to the NW corner of the lot associated with 2829 Sylvan Ave., then turns 90° and continues S along the W lot line of said 2829 Sylvan Ave. to the NE corner of the lot associated with 21 Glenway St. The line then turns 90° and continues W along the N lot line of said 21 Glenway St and across Glenway St. to a point on the W curblineline of Glenway St. The line then turns 90° and continues N to the NE corner of the lot associated with 16 Glenway St. The line then turns 90° and continues W along the N lot line of said 16 Glenway St. to the NW corner of the lot, then turns 90° and continues S along the rear lot lines of 16, 25, 36, and 40 Glenway St. until reaching the SW corner of the lot associated with 40 Glenway St. The line then turns 90° and continues W along the S lot line of said 40 Glenway St. and across Glenway St. to a point that corresponds to the E curblineline of Glenway St. The line then turns 90° and continues S along said E curblineline to a point that corresponds to the SW corner of the lot associated with 2821 Ridge Rd. The line then turns 90° and continues E along the rear lot lines of 2821, 2819, 2815, 2813, 2811, 2807, 2805, 2803, and 2801 Ridge Rd. until reaching a point on the W curblineline of S. Franklin Ave. that corresponds to the SE corner of the lot associated with 2801 Ridge Rd. The line then turns 90° and continues N along said W curblineline and across Ridge Rd. to the POB.