

**City of Madison Landmarks Commission**  
**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (1)**

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**Name of Building or Site**

*Common Name:* Castle & Doyle Building

*Historic Name:* Madison Fire Engine House #2

**Location**

*Street Address:* 125 State Street

*Aldermanic District:* 4<sup>th</sup> District

**Classification**

*Type of Property:* Commercial

*Zoning District:* C4

*Present Use:* Commercial

**Current Owner of Property (available at City Assessor's Office)**

*Name(s):* 118 State Street Group (% Harold Langhammer)

*Street Address:* 18 N Carroll St., Madison, WI 53703-2707

*Telephone Number:*

**Legal Description (available at City Assessor's Office or online at [cityofmadison.org](http://cityofmadison.org))**

*Parcel Number:* 0709-231-0107-9

*Legal Description:* ORIGINAL PLAT. PART OF LOT 1 BLK 76 –BEG 41 FT E FROM W COR OF BLK, TH E ON STATE 20 FT, TH S 60 FT TO FAIRCHILD, TH NW ON SD ST 28 FT, TH N 40 FT TO BEG.

**Condition of Property**

*Physical Condition:* Excellent

*Altered or Unaltered:* Altered (see description for details)

*Moved or Original Site:*

Original site

*Wall Construction:*

Brick with stone foundation

**City of Madison**  
**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (2)**

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**Historical Data**

*Original Owner:* Madison Engine Company #2

*Original Use:* Fire Station

*Architect:* Original designer Stephen Vaughn Shipman  
1921 alteration designed by Claude and Starck

*Builder:* unknown

*Architectural Style:* Neo-Classical Revival

*Date of Construction:* 1856, storefront alteration in 1921

*Indigenous Materials Used:* None

**List of Bibliographical References Used**

- Levy, Hannah Heidi. 2004. *Famous Wisconsin Artists and Architects*. Badger Books, Inc.: Oregon, Wisconsin.
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- Mercantile Appraisal Card—Buildings; City of Madison; Record 113-2. Available at the Wisconsin Historical Society archives.
- Mollenhoff, David. 2003. *Madison: A History of the Formative Years*. The University of Wisconsin Press: Madison, Wisconsin.
- National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the State Street Historic District. Submitted November 12, 1997.
- Orr, Gordon D., Jr. FAIA, “Louis W. Claude, Madison Architect of the Prairie School.” *Prairie School Review*, v. XIV, 1981.
- Rankin, Katherine and Timothy Heggland, Untitled. Unpublished monographs on architects of Madison, Wisconsin and architectural styles of Madison, in the files of the City of Madison Department of Planning and Development.

--. July 31, 1985. Intensive Survey Form for 125 State Street. Historic Preservation Division. State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Tiller, de Teel Patterson. *Preservation Brief 7: The Preservation of Historic Glazed Architectural Terra-Cotta*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, U.S Department of the Interior, 1979.

Weinberger, Renee. 2002. State Street's Hidden History. *Wisconsin Engineer*. Vol. 106, No 3:4-5.

Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory (database maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation). Record #30050. Available online at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/ahi)

Wisconsin Historical Images (database of images maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society). Image IDs 23434, 25141, and 34478. Available online at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/>

**Form Prepared By:**

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*Organization Represented:* Madison Trust for Historic Preservation

*Address:* PO Box 296, Madison Wisconsin, 53701-0296

*Telephone Number:* NA

*Date Form Was Prepared:* December 2005

## **Landmarks Commission**

### **LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (3)**

Describe Present and Original Physical Construction and Appearance.

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#### **Exterior**

Madison Fire Engine House #2 (hereinafter referred to by its more commonly known name, the Castle and Doyle building) was built in 1856. It is a two-story, relatively narrow structure that stands on a triangular block between State St. and N. Fairchild St. Consequently, the building is trapezoid-shaped and presents two street elevations. The State St. façade is the building's decorated public face. The N. Fairchild St. elevation presents only a utilitarian face. The two side elevations abut adjacent buildings. The Castle and Doyle building stands on a foundation of cut limestone laid in seemingly random courses and fixed with mortar. The load-bearing structure of the building is constructed of brick.

The N. Fairchild St. elevation shows the original, minimally decorated red brick structural wall. The bricks are various shades of red and there is evidence of sporadic repointing. There are ten window openings of various sizes. Apparently these are the original openings as none show evidence of infilling or resizing. One second-story opening has been converted to a doorway to comply with fire codes. Outside this door, attached to the wall is a small steel platform. All ten openings have arched lintels above them and limestone sills below. Aside from the doorway the window openings are filled with replacement double-hung sashes.

The main façade – the State St. elevation – no longer presents its original design. Instead it bears the face of a redesign effort that was undertaken when the building's use was converted from a fire station to commercial space in 1920. That year the Madison Engine Company #2 was relocated to a newer station on Broom St. and 125 State St. was sold to a local coal and fuel oil concern for use as their downtown business office.

The Castle and Doyle Fuel Company, upon taking possession of the building, commissioned a redesign of the State St. façade which was completed in 1921. Today the building exhibits the result of that redesign. The State St. façade of the Castle and Doyle building is faced with glazed architectural terra cotta tiles. The tiles feature a low-relief, neoclassical urn-and-foliage pattern in white on a background of green, and bordered in white.

The ground floor of the building features a relatively large, centrally placed display window with a large prism glass transom above it. Above the transom is a sign in terra cotta that reads "CASTLE & DOYLE." On either side of the display window is a pedestrian entrance, each with a terra cotta lintel featuring a stern, mustachioed mascarón. Above each lintel is a prism glass transom as tall as the one over the display window, and above each transom is a terra cotta sign that reads "COAL." Surrounding these features are the glazed terra cotta tiles described earlier.

The second story façade features openings in the same positions and proportions as those on the ground floor, but all the openings are windows - a large central window flanked by narrower ones. The second story windows are surrounded by terra cotta tiles with a pattern similar to those on the ground floor.

Above the second story windows is a frieze featuring a stylized wave pattern. Above that is a bracketed modillion with an acanthus leaf pattern, an eggs-and-darts pattern and a meander pattern – all within the neoclassical vocabulary. The façade is topped with a parapet ornamented with neoclassical patterns similar to those below it and finished with terra cotta coping.

The origin of the tiles and their patterns was not determined, but the tiles themselves offer a hint. The tiles used for the “CASTLE & DOYLE” and “COAL” signs appear to have a green background that was painted after the tiles were manufactured. The paint shows signs of fading and cracking. The patterned tiles, on the other hand, were colored by the standard method of coloring terra cotta - pigment was applied to the tiles before baking the glaze permanently onto them. This suggests that the patterned tiles were a stock pattern and that the tiles used in the sign had to be custom-made for the project.

The side elevations abut adjacent buildings, contain no fenestration and, presumably, are undecorated.

## **Interior**

The interior of the ground floor is one undivided room, currently used as retail commercial space. Crown molding around the top of the interior walls carry on the neoclassical vocabulary featured on the exterior. On one side of the space is an enclosed stairway that leads to the second floor. The stairway is accessible only from the exterior of the building.

The second floor is used as private office space.

**City of Madison Landmarks Commission**  
**LANDMARKS AND LANDMARK SITES NOMINATION FORM (4)**

*Significance of Nominated Property and Conformance to Designation Criteria.*

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The Castle and Doyle Building is being nominated as a City of Madison Landmark under criterion 3 of section 33.01(4) of the City of Madison Code of Ordinances as a rare local example of the use of glazed architectural terra cotta in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is also interesting as a singular example of a form of nineteenth century civic architecture – a fire station for a horse-drawn firefighting company.

**Architectural history**

The fire station was originally designed by Stephen V. Shipman. According to historic photos, the building was originally built in the Italianate style, popular in Madison between the 1840s and about 1900. The building's most prominent stylistic feature was an arcade of four round-arched windows on the second story. The ground floor originally featured a central bay entrance flanked by pedestrian entrances.

Some time between 1902 and 1915 the building underwent a major redesign of its State St. façade, influenced by the Chicago School designs of that period. The building was still being used as a fire station and the redesign retained its ground-floor bay entrance and one of the flanking pedestrian entrances. The other was converted to a window. The second-story round-arched windows were replaced by a large, centrally placed set of three double-hung windows with a continuous flat-arched lintel above them.

In 1920 the building was sold to the Castle and Doyle Fuel Company for use as a commercial building. At that time Claude and Starck were appointed to redesign the State St. façade again. They used architectural terra cotta for the entire two-story front facade. That redesign converted the first floor fenestration in an interesting way. The bay entrance was converted to a display window that dominates the first floor, and the pedestrian entrance to the right of the bay – the entrance that was converted to a window during the first redesign – back to a pedestrian entrance. The building today displays the result of Claude and Starck's 1920 redesign.

Both Stephen V. Shipman and the Claude and Starck firm are considered “master” architects for purposes of evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places and for the Madison Landmarks program.

**Claude and Starck**

Although the building is not being nominated for its role in the Claude and Starck omnibus, it is notable that the Castle and Doyle building represents the general practice work of the Madison firm of Claude and Starck at a time when their Prairie-School-influenced residential commissions were declining in frequency in favor of other new styles. Aside from their more ubiquitous residential work, which peaked around 1915, their general practice consisted of commercial buildings, banks, fire stations, hospitals,

libraries, churches, and other non-residential building types. The Fred Herschleder Furs Building at 529 State St. is a later (1928) redesign of a small commercial building by the Claude and Starck firm using glazed architectural terra cotta.

### **Terra Cotta**

Glazed architectural terra-cotta was a key component in the development of important architectural idioms in the United States. Grand facades of the Beaux Arts movement made occasional use of the material, but it was the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Chicago School that embraced the material. Terra cotta's low cost, light weight and fire resistance made it an ideal facade material for the high rise, steel-framed buildings pioneered by Chicago School architects. It also offered a modular approach to wall and floor construction, and was particularly adaptable to vigorous and rich ornamental detailing.

America's terra cotta industry began in the 1870s and grew slowly. Then, between 1900 to 1912 national production of terra cotta quadrupled, and the industry prospered throughout the 1920s. In the 1930s the poor U.S. economy, rising production costs of terra cotta, and changing preferences in materials and architectural styles combined to push the material out of favor. By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was virtually unused.

Glazed architectural terra cotta was never widely used in Madison. Other examples include the Wells Printing Co. at 121 W. Main Street (designated landmark), the Mifflin Arcade (117-125 W Mifflin St.), the Strand Theater (demolished) which stood at 16 East Mifflin St., the Fred Herschleder Furs Building at 529 State St. and the Schlinggen Monuments building at 1333 University Avenue (currently slated for demolition by the University of Wisconsin).

### **Fire Station**

Adding to its significance under Criterion 3 is the building's form. Although altered, it exhibits the basic form of a nineteenth-century fire station designed for a company of firefighters using a horse-drawn wagon – a narrow, centrally located building with a central bay entrance flanked by two pedestrian entrances.

The city organized two volunteer fire companies in 1856. Madison Engine Company #2, made up of nearly 70 German men, was housed at 125 State Street. This company lasted until 1866 and then was reorganized as the Andrew Proudfit Steam Fire Co. #2 in 1870. Proudfit was Madison's ninth mayor and a key sponsor of the second steam engine purchased by the city. That decade marked the city's increased control over fire fighting. This company was further reorganized between 1875 and 1888. A new station on Broom Street replaced the one on State Street in 1920 and the building was sold to the Castle and Doyle Fuel Company.





WEST JOHNSON STREET

WEST DAYTON STREET

NORTH CARROLL STREET

STATE STREET

125 STATE STREET

NORTH FAIRCHILD STREET

WEST MIFFLIN STREET

NORTH HENRY STREET

