

ARTIST- IN- RESIDENCE HOUSE



Fig. 1. The Artist-in-residence house, looking toward Russell Labs, 1994. [Author Photo AP-1]



Fig. 2. The farm residence from an 1878 etching. This view is from the opposite side of the house from Fig. 1. [etching on wall in Archives]

This house was built in 1868 as a home for the superintendent of the experimental farm. At that time it stood just to the east of the horse barn. In 1900 Dean William Henry had the house moved to its current location, which at that time was called 438 Farm Place. It has since held the studio of artist-in-residence Aaron Bohrod and several other academic departments.

This building was built in 1868 as the residence for the experimental farm. The residence and the farm barn (now the horse barn) were built to provide the start of a College of Agriculture as required of the University by the Federal Morrill Act of 1862, which made land grants to states that founded colleges of Agriculture. The first director of the experimental farm was W. W. Daniels, who in his 1868 report to the regents says "A farm house 20 by 38 feet with a wing 22 by 24 feet to be finished the first of January 1869 is in process of erection."¹ The following year Daniels reports "The farm house, which was being built at the time of my last report, is completed, and has been occupied since January last by the farm superintendent."² The disbursements of the Experimental Farm Fund for 1869 show expenditures of \$2743 for construction of the house.³ The contractors were Sorenson and Fredrickson. Augustus Kutzbock, a pioneer architect of Wisconsin, was paid \$50 for plans and specifications.⁴

In the earliest days of the University farm this building was used to house the farm superintendent and farm laborers. When William Arnon Henry came to the University in 1880 and before he became a dean with a concomitant salary, he lived in the farm house at a rental rate of \$200 per year.⁵ An 1871 survey map shows the original location of the farm house as just to the east of the horse barn.⁶

In 1901, as dean of the College of Agriculture, Henry successfully petitioned the regents to move some of the old farm buildings to new locations.⁷ Among the buildings to be moved was the farm house. The house was moved to a lot on Farm Place, a small lane running west and north from Babcock Drive to Linden Drive. The farm house became 438 Farm Place. Farm Place although still (1995) marked with street signs serves mainly as a parking lot behind Babcock Hall. The removal of these small buildings left an area near the horse barn which "is reserved for future educational buildings, such as poultry, veterinary, etc."⁸

After the move to Farm Place professor G. C. Humphries lived at 438 Farm Place. Humphries lived in the old farm house until his retirement in July 1942. Other professors lived in the house until 1947 when it was taken over by the Home Economics Extension department, who stayed in the building until 1962. By this time Farm Place had been vacated and the new address of the house was 1645 Linden Drive.

In 1962 the University department of planning and construction remodelled the north side of the house to provide an artist's studio for the University artist in residence, Aaron Bohrod. This is the remodelling that added the half-timber trim on the house to match the adjoining Stock Pavilion. This and other remodellings, as well as artistic license, account for the differences in details between the etching in Fig. 2 and the photograph in Fig. 1.

From 1962 until his retirement in 1972, Bohrod used the studio at 1645 Linden Drive. In the years after Bohrod's retirement the house went through a steady stream of occupants: 1973 Agriculture and Extension, 1974-1981 Landscape Architecture; 1982-1991 Food Science. In 1993 a major interior remodelling prepared the house for its current occupant, the Center for Environmental Awareness.

1) Annual Report of the Regents 1868 p. 27.

2) Annual Report of the Regents 1869 p. 37.

3) Annual Report of the Regents 1869 p. 81.

4) Kutzbock did work on the old Madison City Hall, the second state capitol building, the Napoleon Van Slyke house on Mansion Hill and the Farwell octagon house. Despondent over personal matters, Kutzbock committed suicide by walking into Lake Mendota on November 1, 1868, while the farm house was under construction. One of the regent's payments to Kutzbock was written after his death.

5) Glover, *Farm and College* p. 135.

6) This map is bound into the 1871 Regents report, and was kindly analyzed by graduate civil engineering student Tod Hepworth.

7) 18th Report of Agriculture Experimental Station, 1901 p. 1-2 Steenbock Archives.

8) 18th Report of Agriculture Experimental Station, 1901 p. 1-2 Steenbock Archives.