



Recent photograph courtesy of current owner.

Albert James Strang House, 255 S. Sheldon Street.

The Albert James Strang home, which is located near downtown, is one of the town's original homes in one of the first neighborhoods platted by Ira Haseltine. A perfect and well-preserved example of American Foursquare architecture, it holds a valuable glimpse into the life of yesteryear, its former residents, and the history of Richland Center.

Ira Haseltine (1821 – 1899) was born in Vermont and moved to the Wisconsin Territory along with his elders in the 1830's. In 1851 he, along with Robert Field, began to survey, plat, and eventually sell lots in what would become Richland Center. The Strang Family was one of the first to buy and develop land in the newly platted city.

The Strangs played a very important role in Richland Center's rich history. George H Strang (1850 – 1917) constructed his home at the corner of Sheldon and Haseltine Streets. George founded and operated the Strang Hardware Store downtown for many years. He also helped construct the city's first electric power plant. George was a very prominent businessman but also served as mayor of the city, served on the county board, and had been elected third ward alderman.



Albert J Strang (1876 – 1939), one of George's sons, joined his father in operating Strang Hardware. He was very active in the business and became sole proprietor after his father's death in 1917. Albert constructed his home right next to his parents in 1894, just to the north on Sheldon Street. Albert, like his father, was also a prominent businessman in the community. One of his many notable achievements was working as an electrician installing the first electrical lighting system in town. He also helped install the first electrical plant in Viroqua as well as worked on the installation of the first plants in other towns of southwest Wisconsin.


Architects Honor Allen J. Strang

Allen J. Strang, 60, 3958 Plymouth Circle, was recently advanced to fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

Fellowship is one of the highest honors the institute can award to members.

Strang was one of 82 architects in the country to receive the honor. He is a partner in Weiler, Strang, McMullin and Associates, a Madison architectural firm.

Strang has been a pioneer in adapting a regional variation to the international style for residential designs.



STRANG

Wisconsin State Journal, Madison.

Allen J Strang (1906 – 1996), one of Albert’s sons, was born and raised in Richland Center. He studied civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin and University of Pennsylvania. In 1935 he moved to Madison to establish the architectural firm Beatty & Strang. The firm, and Strang himself, were recognized for having designed a prized collection of modernist International Style homes in Monona in the late 1930’s and early 1940’s. He was both president and director of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and was instrumental in establishing an architectural school at UW Milwaukee. Allen designed many notable buildings and homes, and in 1967 was advanced to Fellowship status at the AIA, its highest honor, bestowed upon only 3% of its architects for their exceptional work and contributions to architecture and society. In retirement, he illustrated two books: *Barns of Wisconsin* and *Mills of Wisconsin*. Strang Inc., is still a thriving Madison architectural firm to this day.

The Strang home has endured very limited remodeling over the years, having been owned by only a handful of families that wished to retain its original character. The home has four bedrooms, two fireplaces, and is adorned with ornate woodwork and pristine hardwood floors throughout. The basement, like many historic homes, has a defunct cistern, along with the skeleton of a gravitational water system that is still hiding behind the attic’s walls.



Strang Hardware downtown Richland Center.

PURITAN

OIL COOK STOVES ARE GOOD PARTNERS FOR GOOD COOKS

Good cooks like the Puritan. It cooks like gas—keeps the kitchen so clean and comfortable. You set the utensil in a clean hot flame—just like gas. An indicator on every burner tells you just where the flame is set—low, medium or high.

The handy reversible glass reservoir makes you appreciate what ideal cooking fuel kerosene oil is—it’s so clean and easy to refill.

You’ll like the Puritan, too. Next time you pass this way drop in and see it.

Geo. H. Strang Hdw. Company

Strang Hardware ad circa 1919.

A. J. Strang Succumbs to Long Illness

A. J. Strang, one of Richland Center's best known business men, passed away at his home on South Sheldon street Monday night of this week following an illness of several months.

Mr. Strang, who was familiarly known as Bert throughout the city and county, was a native of Richland Center, a son of George H. and Lizzie James Strang. He was born in the year 1876 and was 62 years, five months and 23 days of age. He received his education in the schools of this city, took up electrical engineering as a profession and worked as an electrician on the job of installing the first electric lighting system in Richland Center and he also helped install the first electric plant in Viroqua and other towns of southwest Wisconsin.

Later he became associated with his father, the late George H. Strang, in the conduct of the Strang Hardware store in which business he remained throughout the rest of his life.

Mr. Strang was a much respected citizen who frequently gave freely of both his time and means to undertakings of civic concern. He was a highly esteemed member of a number of groups who worked together for the good of the community. He was a Kiwanian, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, of the Country Club and of the Masonic lodge as well as a member of the Presbyterian church.

Mr. Strang is survived by his wife, Ariel Hart Strang; one daughter, Mrs. Hubert Clausius, of this city, and two sons, Thomas, of Richland Center, and Allen, of Madison.

Funeral services are being held at the home this Thursday afternoon at three o'clock, the Rev. W. C. Emig-holz, of Cincinnati, Ohio, delivering the sermon. Committal services will be conducted by the Masonic fraternity at the Richland Center cemetery.



Strang, Allen J.

MADISON — Allen J. Strang, age 89, passed away on Thursday, February 29, 1996 at Middleton Village. He was born on December 31, 1906 in Richland Center, Wisconsin, a son of Albert J. and Lottie G. Strang. He married Alice Rose Parfrey of Richland Center on August 31, 1935. He studied civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin for a year and then moved to the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1930. As the winner of the John Stewardson Scholarship, he studied in Europe for a year. He returned to Wisconsin and began a small individual practice in Richland Center and Platteville. In 1935, he moved to Madison and with Hamilton Beatty, formed the Beatty and Strang firm. Later, he was a principal in the firm Weiler, Strang, McMullin and Associates, now organized as Strang, Inc. He was past president and director of the the Wisconsin chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He was made a Fellow of the A.A. in 1967. He was on a three person committee which worked to establish an architectural school at U.W. Milwaukee. He served on the City Plan Commission and the boards of directors of the Madison Chamber of Commerce and Wisconsin Life Insurance Company. He belonged to Kiwanis Club, Chi Phi fraternity, Hiram Masonic Lodge and was former director of Madison Art Association and trustee of the First Baptist Church. Among the Madison structures designed by his firm are Madison General Hospital, Ohio Medical building, Union South, Harry Steenbock Memorial Library, headquarters of the State Medical Society, home office of Wisconsin Life Insurance Company, Engineering Library, Our Lady of Peace and First Baptist churches. When he retired he conceived the idea of producing a book, Barns of Wisconsin, which he illustrated and Jerry Apps, researched and wrote. A second book, Mills of Wisconsin, was also pro-

duced on the same basis with Apps. The chance to sketch and paint at the close of his career was immensely satisfying to him. Samples of his artwork were recently featured in the January - February issue of Wisconsin Architect. Allen is survived by his children, Betsy (Robert) Willis of Sheboygan and William (Audrey) Strang of Madison; six grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice, in 1984. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, 1996 at the FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 518 North Franklin Avenue, Madison. The Reverend Mark Glinger will officiate. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church Memorial Fund.
Cress Funeral Home
3610 Speedway Road
238-3434

Richland County History Room, 325 N Central Ave, Richland Center, WI 53581, richlandhistory@gmail.com, (608) 647-6033

Albert James Strang obituary (May 29th, 1939).

Allen J Strang obituary (February 29th, 1996).
The Capitol Times, Madison.