



Oscar Mayer Observatory

This small observatory, just off Fish Hatchery Road on property owned by Fitchburg Research Park Associates, was built about 1879-80 as a student observatory for UW-Madison. It was originally located on the shores of Lake Mendota, just east of the Washburn Observatory.

The University planned to tear down the observatory, but instead it was donated to the Madison Astronomical Society, a group of amateur astronomers. It was transported to its present site in 1960. Oscar Mayer Sr., an avid amateur astronomer, provided a large share of the moving costs, plus donated a telescope to equip the relocated observatory, and the building was renamed in his honor.

The building was used by the Madison Astronomical Society until the mid-1980's.