

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Browne Law Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 202 East Union Street not for publication

city, town Waupaca vicinity of congressional district 8th

state Wisconsin code 55 county Waupaca code 135

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard E. Paterson

street & number Route 1, Box 67

city, town Weyauwega vicinity of state Wisconsin 54983

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waupaca County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Waupaca state Wisconsin 54981

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wisconsin Inventory of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Browne Law Office is a rectangular, one-story plus attic building with a gable roof. It is of frame construction and is topped with two brick chimneys, one centrally located, the other at the rear end of the building. The rear of the building is adjoined with a small storage shed covered by a pent roof. Although exterior design features are sparse, the entrance (south facade) of the building is fronted by an extending neoclassical pediment and porch, with four simple rectangular pillars. Aside from the addition of windows on the west side, the exterior has changed little over the years. The interior of the office has four rooms, and has been periodically updated and rearranged, but some of the 19th century furnishings and fixtures, including restored Lincoln desks, are still in use. At the present time, it is the plan of the new occupants to restore the building as closely as possible to its original appearance, with most of the alteration taking place inside the office. The painted pine trim about the windows and doors will be redone, but the maple hardwood floors that have been placed over the original pine floors will be retained. An old cast iron stove, resembling one of the original stoves, has been placed in the reception room and it is intended to use this for heating.¹

1. For details on the recent restoration of the office, see the Appleton Post-Crescent, March 23, 1980.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1854¹ Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Browne Law Office is significant as being one of the oldest buildings still in use as a law office in the state of Wisconsin. Edward E. Browne, whose father established and built the office maintained his private legal practice here throughout his life, and from the reputation he earned became one of the state's most eminent lawmakers.

Law. The man who opened the Browne Law Office, Edward L. Browne, was born in 1830 in New York. In 1845, his family migrated to Milwaukee, where he trained in the law and was admitted to the bar. In 1852, Browne established his office in Waupaca, building the present structure two years later. During Browne's forty year legal career in Waupaca, he "accumulated a considerable fortune," and was twice elected to the Wisconsin Senate. When Browne retired in 1890, his office was still one of only two in the Waupaca area.² Browne's son, Edward E. Browne, followed his father's pathway into the law, receiving a law degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1892. In addition to his private practice, the younger Browne was district attorney for Waupaca from 1898 to 1905, served in the state Senate and was elected to nine terms in the United States House of Representatives. After his retirement from public life, Browne returned to private practice at the Browne Law Office until his death in 1945.³ The Browne Law Office has continued in use, first by a third generation Browne and his partner, and recently by the firm of Franzoi and Franzoi. The building has long been recognized as a local landmark by the people of Waupaca.⁴

Architecture. The Browne Law Office is a well preserved example of mid 19th century Greek Revival design. Greek Revival commercial structures are uncommon in Wisconsin, a fact that makes this building all the more significant to the Waupaca area. The building was constructed of simple materials by an unknown craftsman, who eschewed elaborate decoration in favor of a regular geometric design. The entranceway, for example, with its well defined Greek pediment supported by four simple rectangular columns, suggests a restraint and economy appropriate to a "temple" of business. In similar vein, both the windows and interior rooms were arranged to suit the compactness of the building. The interior still contains portions of the original decorative trim and furniture, all of which is in very good condition. Thus, original design and careful maintenance combine to keep the office both functional and esthetically pleasing.

NOTES

1. The Wisconsin Bar Bulletin, August, 1964, p. 10; Ibid., July, 1978, p. 38.

2. A sketch of Edward L. Browne is contained in John M. Ware, ed., A Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin (1917), p. 249, 419-420.

3. For Edward E. Browne, see the Biographical Dictionary of the American Congress, 1774-1971 (1971), p. 653.

4. Waupaca County Post, October 18, November 15, 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971, Washington, 1971.
 Wisconsin Bar Bulletin.

John M. Ware, ed., A Standard History of Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Chicago, 1917.
 Waupaca County Post.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 0.125

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Waupaca, WI

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	3	3	3	9	7	0	4	9	1	3	4	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The west 61 feet of lots 1 and 2 of Block P of the original plat of Waupaca, Wisconsin.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry L. Shoptaugh, Historican, Historic Preservation Division

organization State Historical Society of Wisconsin date March 15, 1980

street & number 816 State Street telephone (608) 262-3390

city or town Madison state Wisconsin 53706

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Richard Mearns

title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin date 6/27/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Richard W. Ray</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>8/18/80</u>
Attest: <u>Kristen J. O'Connell</u>	date <u>8/8/80</u>
Chief of Registration	