Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET FOR NPS USE ONLY FEB 2 0 1976 RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED DEC 1 2 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME HISTORIC 6LD Ozaukee County Courthouse AND/OR COMMON Ozaukee County Courthouse LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 109 West Main Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT City of Port Washington VICINITY OF 9th COUNTY CODE STATE CODE 55 Ozaukee 089 Wisconsin 53074 CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** DISTRICT **WOUBLIC** AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM ___PRIVATE ___COMMERCIAL ___PARK __STRUCTURE ___ВОТН **__WORK IN PROGRESS** __EDUCATIONAL **___PRIVATE RESIDENCE** ___SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE _ENTERTAINMENT __.RELIGIOUS __OBJECT __IN PROCESS XYES: RESTRICTED X_GOVERNMENT __SCIENTIFIC ___YES: UNRESTRICTED __BEING CONSIDERED _INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION <u>__NO</u> ___MILITARY __OTHER: **OWNER OF PROPERTY** NAME Ozaukee County STREET & NUMBER 109 West Main Street CITY, TOWN STATE 53074 Port Washington Wisconsin VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ozaukee County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER 109 West Main Street CITY, TOWN STATE 53074 Port Washington Wisconsin **6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS** TITLE Volume II, The Inventory Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan: DATE 1975 __FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Historical Society of Wisconsin CITY, TOWN STATE Madison Wisconsin 53706



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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ozaukee County Courthouse, built in 1902, is a late example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The principal building material is gray, rock-faced limestone from the near-by Cedarburg quarry, hand-tooled with a chisel and laid in randomly alternating bands of narrow and wide blocks. The architectural trim is smooth-faced Bedford, Indiana limestone. The roof is covered with Pennsylvania slate.

This hipped-roof structure is two-and-one-half stories high with the main facade facing north. This facade is symmetrical in design. A central square bell-tower projects a few inches out from the facade and rises to a height of five stories. It features large, open, semicircular arches at the fourthstory level surmounted by clock faces on each side. Above this a golden eagle crowns a pyramidal spire with an octagonal turret at each corner. The tower is flanked on both sides by parapet-gabled corner pavilions, with first floor rectangular windows and second floor round-arched windows set in two story reveals. In each gable is a window motif consisting of three round-arched lancets joined by stringcourses.

The secondary facade is on the east. Here the central motif is a projecting parapet-gabled pavilion which also has an arcade of three round-arched lancets in the gable. Below, on the second story level, three joined round-arches echo the gable motif, except in this case the central window is a bit higher than those flanking it. A similar configuration was used by Richardson twenty-five years earlier in his design for the much-publicized Trinity Church.

Both the north and east facades have central entrance porches. Massive corner piers are constructed of rock-faced masonry with monolithic inner piers of the smooth Bedford stone. Ionic volutes and acanthus decorate the capitals. Above a rock-faced frieze on each porch is a wooden modillioned cornice surmounted by a very heavy smooth-stone balustrade. The porch on the north side has been glazed. A modern one-story passage across the front of the northwest pavilion connects the north porch with the large four-story wing which was added to the west in 1969, and is of unexceptional contemporary design. For purposes of this nomination, this addition is not considered to be significant. Its future demolition would not cause an adverse effect upon the original building.

The interior of the courthouse features paneled oak wainscoting and a monumental oak staircase with turned balusters. The ceiling above the stairwell is painted in pastel tones with a classically-draped female figure in a roundel of stars. The offices have been renovated somewhat through the years.

The Ozaukee County Courthouse stands imposingly elevated above the street near the center of Port Washington, and is surrounded by trees and many of the same buildings which were there when it was built.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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| SPECIFIC DAT | es 1902 | BUILDER/ARCH | HITECT Frederick A. | Graf |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the most imposing buildings in the city of Port Washington, the Ozaukee County Courthouse is locally significant as a late, handsome example of the Richardsonian Romanesque and the only building in the style in the county. The seat of county justice since it was built in 1902, its location, size and function make it significant also as an historical landmark.

In 1854 Port Washington was named the seat of newly-formed Ozaukee County. Shortly thereafter the county built a three-story brick yourthouse containing a jail, living quarters for the jailor, offices and a courtroom. In 1867 an adjacent building was erected for offices of the Register of Deeds, the Clerk of Circuit Court, the County Clerk and the County Treasurer.

The Ozaukee County Board decided in 1899 that these facilities had become inadequate, and in November they asked Frederick A. Graf, an architect from Milwaukee, to prepare plans for a new courthouse at the same location. It has been suggested by a descendant of the architect that Graf received the commission because his bride was the daughter of the county board chairman, William H. Horn.¹

Graf was born in South Germantown, Wisconsin, in 1859. After working as a carpenter and then as a draughtsman for the architect James Douglas, he opened his own architectural office in 1892. The Ozaukee County Courthouse was one of the major commissions of his forty-six year career. He also designed several houses in Port Washington and some churches in Milwaukee, and he formed the Fred Graf Building Co. in 1937, which his wife and sons continued after his death on April 27, 1938.

Graf submitted plans and specifications for the Ozaukee County Courthouse on February 20, 1901. Shortly thereafter the firm of Wurthman and Vollmer was selected as the contractor with a low bid of \$48,897. The courthouse was built in 1902 at a cost of \$58,014.

Although outdated in fashionable architectural circles by 1901, the Richardsonian Romanesque style was a good medium for showing off the fine gray-blue limestone of the near-by Cedarburg quarry. This stone had been used since the 1840's for Ozaukee County's most substantial buildings.

¹Interview with Viola and Anna Ubbink, local historians, December 11, 1975.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Fred Graf," The Milwaukee Journal, April 29, 1938, p. 8.

Ubbink, Anna and Viola, letter to State Historical Society of Wisconsin, August 15, 1975; and interviews on December 8, 1975 and December 11, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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| Katherine E. Hundt | | | |
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| State Historical Societ | cy of Wisconsin | | December 19, 1975 |
| STREET & NUMBER | | <u> </u> | TELEPHONE |
| 816 State Street | | | 608-262-2970 |
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