

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000641

Date Listed: 5/3/90

Wisconsin State Reformatory
Property Name

Brown
County

WI
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Pete Boland

Signature of the Keeper

5/3/90

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #3, Classification: There are 7 contributing buildings, 1 contributing structure, and 9 non-contributing buildings (the "nine contributing buildings" referenced in the statement of significance include the two cell houses added to the Administration Building).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8/86)
Wisconsin Word Processor Format (1331D)
(Approved 3/87)

OMB No. 1024-0018
MAR 19 1990

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printer in 12 pitch, using an 85 space line and a 10 space left margin. Use only archival paper (20 pound, acid free paper with a 2% alkaline reserve).

1. Name of Property

historic name Wisconsin State Reformatory
other names/site number Green Bay Correctional Institution

2. Location

street & number SE corner of Riverside Drive (Hwy 57) and HWY 172
N/A Not for Publication
city, town Village of Allouez N/A vicinity _____
state Wisconsin code WI county Brown code 009 zip code 54301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u>9</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature]

2/21/90

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer-WI
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. ___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet

Beth Boland

5/3/90

___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet

___ determined not eligible for the National Register.

___ removed from the National Register.

___ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Government/Correctional Facility

Government/Correctional Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque
Italianate

foundation concrete
walls granite
brick
roof asphalt
other steel
wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION

The Wisconsin State Reformatory is laid out on a French lot* stretching from what is now Riverside Drive near the Fox River, east to the East River in the Village of Allouez south of Green Bay. The Reformatory boundaries contains a compact complex of 21 inter-related buildings. The complex is designed with the administration building and flanking north and south cell houses form one side of the enclosing walls. The administration building acts as the hub from which admittance and circulation to the cell houses, dining center and vocational school takes place. The remaining buildings are all freestanding and are mostly clustered behind the main structure. The prison yard extends eastward behind the reformatory buildings and is enclosed by a 22 foot high concrete wall that features regularly spaced guard towers.

The landscaped grounds in front of the reformatory are an important landscape feature of the overall design of the reformatory. They were landscape architect-designed in a popular style of the period. The naturalistic plan features curvilinear walks, a circular drive and mature trees including white oaks, shagbark hickories and other large ornamental species. The areas adjacent to the buildings are planted with newer shrubbery and grass.

The following is a discussion of individual buildings. Contributing buildings were chosen based on their similar age, style and massing.

Administration Building 1906-1912

The administration building is the dominant and most impressive building in the complex. This building (#1) was built in two phases in response to institutional needs and funding by the State legislature. The front (west) portion of the massive Romanesque Style building is three stories tall. It was built between 1908 and 1912 and housed the rotunda, administrative offices and an assembly hall. The rear (east), one-story section was constructed between 1906 and 1908 and originally housed the kitchen, and dining room. Connecting the front and rear sections of the building is a 2-story rectangular painted brick building. This section houses the classrooms, recreation areas and drill hall.

*A French lot is a system of land subdivision used by early french settlers in Wisconsin and is characterized by a long narrow strip of land with river frontage.

X See continuation sheet

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The front of the building is basically rectangular in shape with an impressive entrance pavillion set off by a stone and concrete stairway, smooth, cut stone detailing and the forbidding steel bar-covered romanesque arched window group above. The massive staircase was remodeled in 1951 as part of a security upgrade, but it still retains the character of the original, including the original eagles guarding each side of the door and heavy stone rustication (WI State Reformatory 1952 p. 8). The door has a transom above and bar-covered sidelights to the right and left. The surround consists of a plain, polished granite lintel supported by engaged pilasters with simple cornice capitals. The words "Wisconsin State" are applied to the entablature; "Reformatory" is centered below.

The building is constructed of brick and the principal facades are sheathed in dark gray Amberg granite. The rusticated granite blocks are larger in the basement and first story levels and become smaller above the beltcourse under the second story windows. All windows are covered with steel bars. The third story windows are topped by round romanesque arches. The center bay contains the large arched window which is flanked by tall thin windows. The gable contains a small narrow window. Each of the window openings have heavily rusticated stone sills and flat lintels. The original glass panes have been replaced with aluminum frames infilled with fiberboard and one small rectangular window. The roof is multi-gabled, covered with asphalt shingles and topped by a small cupola with a conical roof. The gable and parapet end walls are capped with smooth granite coping.

The east end of the first floor contains eight rooms, seven of which were used as classrooms. The room on the northeast corner was originally used as an officers' dining room and opened directly off the kitchen. Beyond the classrooms at the far end of the first floor is a large open barrel vaulted space supported by a series of metal trusses which originally functioned as a dining hall, but is now used as dormitory space. The upper portion of the east wall is covered by a massive mural. The floor is highly polished terrazzo. The kitchen space was located directly north of the dining hall.

The western portion of the main block's first floor consists of a series of small rooms which originally functioned as offices and included a chaplain's office, board room, general office, vault, guards' room and assistant superintendent and superintendent's offices. A central corridor leads through a series of security doors to the central rotunda.

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The Rotunda is an open rectangle with polygonal bays on the north and south elevations. It is two stories in height and approximately 70 feet by 70 feet. Ceilings in the rotunda are coffered and have dentil molding in the coffers. The most dramatic feature of the rotunda are four giant order terrazzo columns in the center of the room spaced fifteen feet apart. The columns are set on raised plinths. The walls are wainscotted for approximately the lower 10 feet by the use of ashlar blocks with chamfered edges which are likely constructed of poured concrete.

Floors, baseboards, wainscoting and columns in the rotunda are all clad with a rose colored terrazzo. The terrazzo appears to have been laid in forms and later applied to surfaces. Surrounds are rectilinear, sharp-edged and severe. Baseboards are approximately 10" high and have a simple profile. The stairwell in the northwest portion of the main block is entered through a colonnade with terrazzo columns set on high terrazzo plinths. The staircase has terrazzo treads, risers and balustrades. The wide cornices are classically-derived and in most places have been partially covered by acoustical tile inserts which have dropped ceiling height approximately four inches.

The upper portion of the rotunda walls are ornamented with monumental paintings depicting various scenes painted and refurbished by inmates.

North wall: Fort Howard, Green Bay; unknown artist, ca. 1924
Bridal Veil Falls, Rocky Mountains; E. Hubbard, 1924.
The Jaws, Wisconsin Dells; E. Hubbard, 1924
West Wall: Stand Rock, Wisconsin Dells; E. Hubbard, 1924
Mt. McKinley, Alaska; E. Hubbard, 1924
Mountain of Holy Cross, Rocky Mountains; unknown artist and date
South Wall: Cotton House, Allouez; C. Waite, ca. 1964
Nicolet Memorial, Red Banks; C. Waite, July 1964
East Wall: Lake Park, Fond du Lac; unknown artist, ca. 1965
Wisconsin Winter; C. Waites, ca. 1965

In 1964, Charles Waite refurbished The Jaws, Stand Rock, Mt. McKinley, and Bridal Veil Falls (Clusen, 1989). There is also a Robert Cassidy (1959) in the Superintendent's office.

The floor is a large aggregate terrazzo. The east end of the rotunda is dramatized by a massive poured concrete staircase which is attached to the east wall and gives access to the classroom and cafeteria spaces at the east end of the main block. The staircase has bracketing and balustrade spindles which are Craftsman-inspired.

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The third floor above the rotunda contained an octagonal space which was originally divided into two rooms of unspecified use but is now a single exercise space. The rear (east) of the main block has a barrel-vaulted metal truss roof, hardwood floors and paired 1/1 double hung windows. This area was originally used as a drill hall and later as a chapel. It is now used for passive recreation.

The west side of the second floor on the main block originally contained 10 bedroom chambers for reformatory staff and is currently used for visitation and conference space. Door surrounds are rectilinear and wooden and have five panel doors with transoms. The rooms are rectangular with small closet enclosures and all open off a central east/west corridor leading from a central sitting room. The second floor on the rear (east) end of the main block contains eight classrooms of similar size to those on the first floor.

An assembly hall, known as the George Washington Memorial Hall, is located on the west end of the third floor. The space is 72 by 120 feet and contains raised theater seating on the west end and originally had a stage on the east wall. The north, south and west walls have large arched window openings which retain their original glazing on the west end but have been bricked on the other elevations. The room was remodelled in 1932 as a WPA project and maple gymnasium flooring was added. The refurbished hall was dedicated on May 24, 1932.

The basement of the main block contains staff recreational, training and locker space on the west end and on the east contains the gang showers, functional spaces and at the far east end contains a swimming pool, locker room and other recreational space. The far east portion is no longer in use.

The rear (east) portion of the building is a one-story rectangular painted brick structure. The asphalt shingled roof is gabled and the eaves are marked by small pediments. The windows of the raised basement and the first floor have segmentally arched openings. The window group in the gable end has been infilled from the interior. The first story and gable end windows have stone sills. All of the windows are covered with steel bars. Between the east portion of the building and the rotunda is a 2-story rectangular painted brick building. This section houses the classrooms and drill hall.

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North Cell House 1898-1903

The North Cell House (#2) is the earliest building in the complex. It was begun in 1898 and completed in 1903. The long two story, rectangular Romanesque Revival style building is directly attached to the main building and has a projecting pavillion at the end furthest from the Administration Building. It is constructed of cream brick and the principal facades are sheathed in heavily rusticated dark gray Amberg granite. The raised basement is clad with large stone blocks and slopes outward at the base to support the weight of the walls. The shallow gable roof of the main corridor is broken by the cross gable of the end pavillion. Arched windows puncture the walls in groupings of three. The basement windows are rectangular and have been bricked in leaving a generous reveal which better simulates the presence of windows. The first and second floor windows are separated by narrow stone sills which make them appear as double height windows. The second story windows have Romanesque arches detailed with heavy stone voussoirs. All the window openings are covered with steel bars. The original window panes have been replaced by aluminum frames infilled with fiberboard and one small rectangular window. Inside, the cell house consists of four tiers of cell blocks with approximately 70 cells of fifty square feet on each level. The blocks are fabricated of steel and have steel bar doors and gang walks.

South Cell House 1915-1922

The two story Romanesque Revival Style cell house (#3) is a mirror image of the North Cell house and perfectly balances the composition of the main facade.

General Garage 1906

This garage is outside the walls of the reformatory (#6). It is a rectangular, wooden, one story structure with a gable roof built in 1906. It is said to have originally been a horse barn for the prison farm. It is a contributing building in the district due to its similarity to the other buildings built during the period of significance.

Root Cellar 1932

The root cellar (#12) was built in an effort to preserve more of the produce from the institution farms in a convenient spot. Its facade is sheathed in dark gray Amberg granite. The rectangular building is mostly underground and it has an earthen roof. It is a contributing building in the district due to its similarity to the other buildings built during the period of significance.

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Service 1904-1906

This irregularly shaped, painted brick building was once the boiler room, coal bin, laundry and engine room (#201). Now it is the service building. The easternmost part is one story with a flat roof and was historically the coal storage bin (Sanborn Perris 1907). In 1906 the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company ran a spur to this building and to the general purpose building (then a warehouse) for delivery of coal and other materials (SBCR 1906 p. 429). The middle portion has a steep pitched monitor roof, with a skylight running the entire length. The westernmost part of the building is flat roofed and has a corbelled brick cornice which is reminiscent of the Italianate style. The window and door openings (some of which have Romanesque arched openings) are irregular and some have been altered. The structure once had a large smoke stack attached, which was removed around 1960 when the new power plant became operational.

Well House 1954

The Well House (#202) is a small, one story, brick cube. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Chapel 1924-1926

The Chapel (#203) is an irregularly shaped, painted brick building. The one story structure has an asphalt shingled gable roof which is topped by a small steeple. A small brick entry vestibule extends from the east end. A one story flat roofed addition is on the south side of the chapel. Paired flat-topped windows run the length of the building. This building was originally built to house the reformatory laundry when the facility in the service building was outdated and outgrown. It was used as a laundry until the early 1950s.

Dormitory and Shop 1901

This long rectangular painted brick building (#205) is one of the oldest at the reformatory. It was built to house the dining room and two of the convict labor industries: overall making and broom making (Sanborn/Perris 1907). Today it is used as a dormitory only. The two story building has a flat roof and has a corbelled brick cornice along the top of the walls. The segmentally arched windows are covered with steel bars and are grouped in pairs on both floors. Individual window units have been altered with new infill units. Entry is provided by several regularly placed ground floor doorways. The dormitory was originally 200 feet in length, but the west 100 feet was destroyed by fire in the 1971 prison riot and was demolished. A large wall mural adorns the southeast wall. It was painted by Robert Cassidy in 1959.

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Despite the obvious loss of materials, the remainder of the building retains its historic appearance and although shorter in length, retains the same massing, rhythm of fenestration and general feeling and conveys a strong impression of the original structure. For this reason it is considered a contributing building.

General Purpose Building 1906

This building was originally used as a warehouse (#206). It is a two story painted brick building with a low gable roof. The windows have been altered over the years but the building retains its essential historic features.

Outside Storage Building c. 1984

This rectangular one story metal sided building (#207) is outside the walls of the reformatory and does not contribute to the significance of the district.

Vocational School 1958

The Vocational School (#210) is an irregularly-shaped one-story flat roofed brick building constructed in 1958 and added on to in 1970. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Auto School 1953

The Auto School is a T-shaped two-story flat roofed brick building (#211). It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Paint Storage ca. 1955

This small rectangular one story building was constructed in the late 1950s (#213). It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Sally Port ca. 1960

This rectangular brick structure is part of the gate system of the reformatory and therefore considered part of that contributing element (#401A). The Sally Port is the main entry way for vehicles into the reformatory. Vehicles enter the "port" are searched in a "Bull Pen" area and then are let through the main gate.

Food Service 1982

This building was built in 1982 for use as the kitchen and dining rooms for the facility (#4). It is a rectangular one story brick building with a flat roof. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

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Guard Towers/Wall 1916-1920

The walls and guard towers were built with convict labor (#401B). The wall was constructed to replace the rotting 12 foot high wooden stockade that had been in place since the reformatory was built (SBCR 1912 p. 315). The wall is constructed of concrete and covered with stucco. It is two feet thick at the base and a foot thick at the top. The wall is capped with stone coping. The wall is 22 feet high and surrounds the buildings and the recreation yard (SBCR 1918 p. 255). Where the wall abuts the main cell block on the west elevation the wall is faced with rusticated stone. There are six square guard towers integrated into the walls which were replaced in the 1960s. Although there has been considerable work done to the walls and guard towers, they are elements of a single contributing structure in the district due to the retention of the overall historic design and date of construction.

Heating Plant 1957

The Heating Plant was built to replace the aging power plant which was built at the turn of the century (#402). It is a large concrete and brick structure, three stories in height and flat roofed, but with a tall section looming above the rest of the building. A tall smoke stack is adjacent to the plant. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Emergency Generator ca. 1960

This small building adjacent to the Heating Plant contains the emergency generator for the reformatory and is noncontributing due to its recent age (#403).

Recreation ca. 1960

The rectangular two story gable roofed building was constructed in the early 1960s (#404). It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Treatment Center ca. 1960

This large T-shaped three story building was built in the early 1960s (#405). It has a projecting center pavillion. The paired windows are placed in stuccoed bands in the brick walls. The building has a flat roof. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

Laundry/Industrial Building ca. 1960

This is a rectangular building with paired windows placed in stuccoed bands in the brick walls (#9112). The building has a flat roof. It does not contribute to the district because it was built after the period of significance.

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The site has lost some integrity through the demolition of a number of early reformatory buildings. No longer extant within the reformatory walls are the cold storage facility, the hospital and the old smoke stack from the former power house. The farm buildings were demolished ca. 1976 and were located near the current recreation facility. The other buildings were located near the Industrial Building (present service building). The smoke stack was demolished ca. 1957 when the new power plant was built; the hospital fell in 1963. It is likely that the superintendent's house was demolished ca. 1980 when the assistant superintendent's and business manager's residences were razed. The latter residences were located outside the prison walls on Highway 57. The removal of these buildings does not detract from the sites eligibility because they are subsidiary to the extant, historic buildings which form the core of this district.

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Inventory of Wisconsin State Reformatory

	<u>Map #</u>	<u>Historic Use</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>
*	1	Administration	1906-1912	C
	2	North Cell house	1898-1903	C
	3	South Cell house	1915-1922	C
	4	Food Service	1982	NC
*	6	General Garage	1906	C
*	12	Root Cellar	1932	C
*	201	Service	1904-1906	C
*	202	Well House	1954	NC
*	203	Chapel	1924-1926	C
*	205	Dormitory and Shop	1901	C
*	206	General Purpose Building	1906	C
*	207	Outside Storage Building	ca. 1984	NC
	210	Vocational School	1958	NC
*	211	Auto School	1953	NC
*	213	Paint Storage	ca. 1955	NC
	401A	Sally Port	ca. 1960	NC
	401B	Guard Towers/Wall (towers replaced ca.1960)	1916-1920	C
*	402	Heating Plant	1957	NC
*	403	Emergency Generator	ca. 1960	NC
*	404	Recreation	ca. 1960	NC
*	405	Treatment Center	ca. 1960	NC
*	9112	Laundry/Industrial Building	ca.. 1960	NC

* Many of the buildings and structures which comprise the Wisconsin State Reformatory are interconnected. Functionally and physically, they are additions to the main buildings in the complex. In accordance with the guidelines for counting properties in Bulletin 16, only the buildings marked with an asterisk (*) are included in the National Register resource count.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: nationally x statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria x A B x C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

 Politics/Government

 Architecture

Period of Significance

 1898-1939

 Cultural Affiliation

 N/A

 Architect/Builder

 Ferry and Clas*

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin State Reformatory is being nominated under Criterion A at the state level for its historic significance as the first state-sponsored prison reformatory in Wisconsin. The historic uses of the various buildings reflect progressive ideologies in the treatment and subsequent rehabilitation of first time offenders at the reformatory. The Wisconsin Cultural Resource Management Plan expresses the need to identify and evaluate state institutional facilities. The nine contributing buildings and one contributing structure represent the reformatory's historic period 1898-1939, which was chosen to include the date of the earliest extant construction on the site (North Cell House) and continuing to 50 years prior to the present date. The 1939 end-date reflects the continued historical use of the reformatory as a criminal rehabilitation center.

The Administration Building and the North and South cell houses are architecturally significant under criterion C because they are remarkably intact local examples of the Romanesque Revival style. The buildings are typical of the style in Wisconsin in terms of materials, massing and scale. In addition, the rotunda of the Administration Building is a dramatic and significant interior feature which is also very much intact.

The extant buildings are a significant representation of the historic Wisconsin State Reformatory. Although some buildings have been altered, they still possess the attributes of massing, scale, materials and the design of the period in which they were built and are easily distinguishable from the later reformatory structures.

 X See continuation sheet

*Plans on file at Bureau of Facilities Management, Department of Administration, State of Wisconsin.

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Historical Background

Reformatories developed as unique and separate institutions during the 1870s to educate, train and reform first-time offenders. This contrasts with prison philosophy: to remove the most dangerous criminals from society and to punish them for their crimes. While education and training became part of the prison system after penal reforms became institutionalized nationwide, prisons always maintained a dominant philosophy of punishment and isolation as opposed to the philosophy of reform pioneered in the reformatories. Prison reform was a part of a nationwide movement of social reform championed between the late 19th and early 20th century.

Treatment of prisoners had greatly evolved during the 19th century in the United States based on various correctional systems introduced in institutions around the country. In 1829, Pennsylvania inmates were held in solitary confinement and compelled to do hard labor. In New York, the Auburn System allowed inmates to mingle by day, but they were separated at night. In the 1850s the Irish System was begun, where an indeterminate sentence was given and inmates were classified and eventually released based on their progress or good behavior (Odegard/Keith 1939, p. 197).

After the Civil War, the task of reconstruction heightened the country's sense of social responsibility and resulted in the development of social policies intended to better serve the weakest and most downcast members of society: state health care, treatment of mental patients and prison reform were some of the more noted programs. This period of rapid social reform, often called the progressive era, peaked during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Harbingers of social reform were noted for their strong faith in democracy, concern for morality and social justice and exuberant belief in progress, and a susceptibility to the . . . efficacy of education (Kennedy 1971 p. 110).

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Penal reform exemplified this ideal throughout the country during the era of progressive reform. The overall message was to appeal to the positive side of the person and to reclaim the criminal for useful membership in society. That is, the person would get a job and remain crime free when released. The first National Prison Congress at Cincinnati in 1870 provided the impetus for reform and led to the publication of the Declaration of Principles. The Declaration stated the importance of state run prisons and cited suppression and degradation as contrary to the lessons of practical experience as well as to Christian principles. Gaining the will of the prisoner would be best achieved though "hope rather than fear" (Grunhut 1948 p.91). The major achievement of the Cincinnati Congress, however, was the idea for reformatories. This led to the first State Reformatory at Elmira, New York. The reformatory emphasized the progressive system to stimulate the prisoner to gain liberty by work and good behavior. The "best" prisoners could expect exposure to everyday work situations such as working without supervision, going to work unattended, and being responsible for a work schedule. They also had a school, library, prison paper and after-discharge care. The New York Reformatory served as model for reformatories across the country even though the ideal of reform at New York fell short due to overcrowding and the removal of contract labor. None-the-less, reformatories were considered a major innovation during the progressive era (Grunhut 1948 p.92).

The Wisconsin State Prison at Waupun, founded in 1852, was the first prison in the state. It was built to alleviate overcrowding in county jails. The facility design of the inmate treatment program were based on the Auburn Penitentiary in New York. The site was chosen because of its abundance of stone, lumber and water and its central location in the state (Odegard/Keith 1939 p. 53)

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Other new state institutions reflected Wisconsin's changing attitudes on the treatment of the insane, the disabled and delinquent. The progressive movement instigated state intervention to guarantee the well being of these populations. During a 70 year period, beginning in 1850 or so, the state actively participated in the construction of facilities and the establishment of programs for the insane, disabled and criminal. Facilities constructed include:

- 1849 Wisconsin Institute for the Education of the Blind in
Janesville
- 1851 Wisconsin State Prison in Waupun
- 1852 Wisconsin Institute for the Deaf and Dumb in Delavan
- 1857 Industrial Home for Boys in Waukesha
- 1860 State Hospital for the Insane in Madison
- 1873 Northern State Hospital for the Insane in Winnebago
- 1898 Wisconsin State Reformatory in Green Bay
- 1907 Wisconsin State Sanatorium
- 1921 Industrial Home for Women and the State Prison for Women in
Taycheedah (Wyatt 1986 p. 7-2)

The establishment of the Wisconsin State Reformatory in 1898 was the result of emerging thought in the corrections field. New methods sought to reform young first offenders in an effort to transform them into law abiding citizens after their terms.

Wisconsin State Reformatory

The Wisconsin State Board of Control, as the overseeing state agency, studied the merits of a reformatory to house first time offenders between the ages of 16 and 25 - except for those convicted of murder. It was felt that young inmates should not come in contact with hardened criminals where they would learn criminal habits and behavior from the experienced lawbreakers (SBCR 1896 p. 21). "To correct and remove those evil tendencies and influence which render the persons confined therein as a menace to society, and to help them to become good citizens."(SBCR 1934 p. 421)

The findings of the Board of Control were presented to the state legislature in 1897. The legislature approved the creation of the Wisconsin State Reformatory by authorizing site selection based on size and efficiency of operation and appropriating funds for the purchase of land and the construction of buildings. The plan was for an ultimate capacity of 600 inmates (SBCR 1898 p. 23).

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A site was chosen on nearly 200 acres south of Green Bay in what is now the Village of Allouez, on a lot lying between the Fox and East rivers. The Lower De Pere Road, now Riverside Drive or Highway 57 crosses the site. (SBCR 1898 p. 24). A temporary cell house was built to the east of the Lower De Pere Road adjacent to the North Cell House (#2) which was then under construction. An accompanying industrial building was built to the west on the existing foundation of an unfinished factory building. Other structures including coal storage, the supervisor's house and cold storage were built near the industrial building (Sanborn/Perris 1900). Some of these buildings (and several others including more residences, farm buildings, the hospital and the old smoke stack from the former power house) are no longer standing.

According to State Board of Control minutes, it appears that John Charles was the overseeing architect for many of their building projects. He was authorized to select an assistant to help in drawing up plans for the reformatory (SBCM 6/1/97). He selected A. C. Clas, who at the time was in partnership with George Ferry in Milwaukee. Ferry and Clas designed the reformatory in such a manner that it could be built in phases as new space was needed and funding appropriated (SBCM 9/10/97).

On September 10, 1898 twenty-four inmates were transferred from the State Prison at Waupun and housed in the temporary two story wooden cell house adjacent to the unfinished North Cell Hall. (SBCR 1898 p. 344). The first portion of the North Cell House was begun in 1898 by the Fond du Lac contracting firm of Hinckley and Powers (SBCR 1898 p. 340). They constructed the northernmost third of the building to house about 100 inmates (SBCR 1900 p. 331). The North Cell House was completed in 1904 using inmate labor.

It was decided that treatment of the inmates would include daily work responsibilities, training at a trade, classroom instruction and a drill session (SBCR 1898 p. 344). Reform, not punishment was the emphasis. The Reformatory's objective makes this clear. They encouraged inmates to shorten their stay through good behavior (the parole system was in place at this time) and gave them opportunities to get an education and vocational training while doing worthwhile work for the state or private contractors (SBCR 1900 p. 328). While the combination of work, education and training were key ingredients to reform individuals, the scope of this formula changed between 1898 and 1939 to reflect changing prison policy.

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From 1898-1924, inmate labor was an important part of the reformatory's work program: Construction of buildings was one of the major projects. Inmates constructed many of the other buildings during this period and were involved in brick making, masonry, granite cutting, terrazzo making, plumbing, wiring, carpentry and roofing. Buildings were constructed based on the needs of the institution and availability of funding by the legislature. Often it took several years for building project requests to be authorized. The building construction was supervised by contractors and reformatory officials. These buildings reflect the mission of the reformatory to train and educate inmates for a crime free life after discharge.

The significant structures built with inmate labor are the Industrial Building, (now the dormitory and shop), the hospital (demolished), the brick Power House (now the service building), the brick Warehouse, the Administration Building and the North Cell House. Noteworthy are the terrazzo floor, wainscotting, columns and other details of the front portion of the Administration Building--all were made by the inmates using left over bits of granite from the stone cutting shop. This is the only place in any of the buildings where there is such attention to detail. The remainder of the interior spaces are austere and lack detail.

In addition to work on the buildings, a private contract was made with a Chicago firm which employed inmate labor in the manufacture of overalls and jackets between 1901 and 1924. Inmates also made brooms for state use (1901-1922) and engaged in growing produce for institutional use (SBC 1902 p. 380).

The use of contract labor at the reformatory was a growing issue through the last quarter of 19th and the first quarter of the 20th century. Prison officials thought that contract labor would give prisoners a way to earn their keep and would also keep costs down. Manufacturers felt that inmates were forced to make products that were sold at under-market rates and that the state was engaging in unfair practices. Contract labor was discontinued at the reformatory in 1924. The 1934 Hawes-Cooper Law forbid the use of contract labor, but kept open the possibility of producing goods at prisons for use in state facilities (SBCR 1934 p. 48).

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In 1924, prison officials were faced with occupying the time of 204 prisoners once busy with contract labor. The solution was to increase the amount of education to half days. The remainder of inmate time would be spent working to produce granite and clothing for state use.(Odegard and Keith p. 70) Technical training included plumbing, cabinetmaking, machine shop work, painting and auto mechanics schools.

In 1928, longer school sessions were adopted for slower students and older inmates were offered extension courses in addition to trade schools. Prison officials also began clearing a 1100 acre site in Oneida county as an Honor Farm. Inmates who displayed exemplary behavior were allowed to work outside the prison walls in the less structured environment of the Honor Farm.

By 1932, the reformatory reached an all time high of 776 inmates (for the historic period), surpassing the original capacity of 600. Prison activity peaked as well. The reformatory was operating two Honor Camps at Oneida and Ferndale and a forestry camp at Wausaukee. The forestry camp emphasized tree planting and conservation activities but was discontinued in 1934. The State Board of Control Reports (1934) does not mention why the camp was discontinued. This was in addition to the auto school, granite cutting, machine shop, paint shop and blacksmith shop. In addition, a commitment to education was affirmed when the first full-time vocational education teacher was hired through the University of Wisconsin. New building additions were a green house, root cellar, and a gymnasium.

In 1936, the inmate population had dropped to 478 due to extensive use of probation, a decrease in age limit admitted to the reformatory (30 to 25) and the establishment of CCC camps (SBCR 1936 p. 476). The records for the years 1936-1939 are not available but according to Odegard and Keith, activities at the reformatory did not change much during those years. The basic mission of the reformatory remains today.

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Comparison to Waupun State Prison

The philosophy of reform at Green Bay differed from the philosophy at Waupun State Prison. This difference clarifies the unique nature of the reformatory and its role within the progressive movement.

The purpose of the Wisconsin State Reformatory was "To correct and remove those criminal or evil tendencies and influence which render the persons confined therein a menace to society and to help them to become good citizens" (SBCR 1939 p. 202). It emphasized reform as opposed to punishment.

Punishment at the reformatory for infraction of the rules meant a loss of privileges, ball games, moving pictures, basketball etc., for a period up to 4 weeks (Odegard/Keith 1939 p. 226). Even though the emphasis remains reform, the reformatory retains a solitary confinement facility to deal with extreme cases (SBCR 1934 p.405).

On the contrary, Waupun State Prison's objective as stated in 1934 was to provide a "general penitentiary and prison for the punishment and reformation of all male offenders . . ." (SBCR 1934 p. 421). When Waupun first opened in 1851, men, women and even some insane were sent there from overcrowded county prisons. It wasn't until the founding of other state institutions that the prison became entirely devoted to the retention of men. In 1851, labor was the only means of using idle time; idleness was considered a chief cause of crime and labor was the primary solution (Odegard/Keith p. 53). When the Reformatory in Green Bay was built, Waupun had some education classes for prisoners but they were not mandatory and poorly organized. Education classes increased thereafter, especially as a way of occupying idle time after the end of contract labor, but the prison never placed education above the philosophy of punishment and isolation (Odegard/Keith p. 211). This differed from Green Bay, where they made education a part of the curriculum from the start.

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Other reforms were made at Waupun -- some before, but most after the reformatory was built -- as part of the overall penal reform movement. As late as 1870 there were reports of cruel and severe punishments such as solitary confinement without food or water, beating, gagging and showering (Odegard/Keith p. 205). After this time, prison reform slowly was implemented. In 1874, the first entertainment was provided for prisoners. In 1875, tea and tobacco were offered to prisoners for good conduct. By 1934, prisoners no longer wore stripes and red uniforms, they could talk while working in shops and there was more exercise and free time. Also education and training became more of a permanent institution within the prison. Solitary confinement was still retained as punishment in very severe cases (Odegard/Keith p. 205,6).

In spite of prison reforms at Waupun, its philosophy remained one of punishment and isolation. This differs from the education, training and reform philosophy of the Green Bay Reformatory where young, first-time offenders are trained and educated in a safer, less hardened setting.

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Politics/ Government Significance

The Wisconsin State Reformatory at Green Bay is an important representation of the state's active role in the social service field. The reformatory is a statewide symbol of a broader movement to provide first time offenders with opportunities for reform away from hardened criminals. The reformatory emphasized education, labor, training and education in a less structured environment. Reformatories were a part of the prison reform movement during the progressive era and attempted to deal with the problem of inmate recidivism through the proactive use of reform principles: rewarding good behavior and increasing the likelihood of becoming productive members of society through the institutionalization of job training and educational programs. The creation of the reformatory represented an important progression in the theory of penal reform and marked the transition from earlier attempts to reform through punishment to a more comprehensive system of education and rewards.

Architectural Significance

The Administration Building and the North and South Cell Houses are architecturally significant as excellent examples of the use of the Romanesque Revival style in prison architecture. The Administration Building and North and South cell houses were designed by the Milwaukee firm of Ferry and Clas. George B. Ferry and Alfred C. Clas worked in partnership from 1890 until 1918, at the time of Ferry's death. They designed buildings throughout the eastern and southern part of Wisconsin in a variety of styles. Their commissions include the Frederick Pabst house in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Library, the State Historical Society building in Madison and the Oconomowoc City Hall.

Not all of the buildings in the reformatory complex from the period of significance (1898-1939) have individual architectural significance. Most of the buildings from that period are brick vernacular structures that are not outstanding architecturally, but are reminders of the former uses that were unique to the reformatory and its mission to educate, train and rehabilitate young offenders and contribute to the overall setting and character of the complex.

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Romanesque Revival architecture was popularized in the later half of the 19th century. It was often used in large scale buildings and is characterized by its monolithic massing. Its formidable appearance was considered appropriate for the serious and severe nature of penal institutions. Other correctional facilities such as the State Prison at Waupun were also built in this style. Most examples are constructed of brick or rusticated stone. Towers are common as are pyramidal roofs and parapeted gables. Symmetrical compositions are often found in building facades (Wyatt 1986 p. 2-9).

The Administration Building and Cell Houses are excellent examples of the Romanesque Revival style. The massive rusticated dark granite facade and arched window groupings are typical of the style. The low gabled parapeted roofs of each building are also representative of Romanesque Revival. The grouping of the individual buildings presents a singular symmetrical facade which is also typical. The steel window bars are important character defining elements which clearly express the buildings ominous function. Minor alterations such as the replacement of the red roof tiles with red asphalt shingles and the reconstruction of the main entrance for security purposes do not detract from the overall presence or significance of the buildings.

The rotunda of the Administration Building is an architecturally significant interior feature. This dramatic and monumental space is the architectural gem of the reformatory. It is wonderfully detailed with ceiling coffers, dentil moldings, giant-order terrazzo columns, scored block wainscoting and is highlighted by a finely proportioned double staircase of poured concrete with craftsman-like detailing. This space has been very well preserved and is the strongest character-giving feature of the interior.

The Wisconsin State Reformatory is an excellent example of an institutional building that reflects the somber mood of a penal colony while at the same time exudes architectural style and grace. The wedding of function and style in this district is superb and significant.

Archeological Potential

The area around the reformatory site has been identified as a prehistoric worksite and campsite, although the exact site boundaries location are unknown. The extent and condition of the site is also unknown and the significance of any potential archeological resources remains unassessed. Its ASI number is 000478.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:
 State Historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 54 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/7/3/6/0</u>	<u>4/9/2/4/7/2/0</u>	B	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/7/9/2/0</u>	<u>4/9/2/4/3/8/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/7/8/0/0</u>	<u>4/9/2/4/1/5/0</u>	D	<u>1/6</u>	<u>4/1/7/1/5/0</u>	<u>4/9/2/4/4/6/0</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jodi Rubin and Diane Schwartz

organization State Historical Society of WI

date November 7, 1989

street & number 816 State Street

telephone (608) 262-4769

city or town Madison

state WI

zip code 53706

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Boundary Description

Starting at a point at the southeastern intersection of Riverside Drive and a chain link fence marking the state highway 172 southern right of way, thence southeasterly along the south edge of the fence approximately 2120 feet following the fence until it intersects with the west curblineline of Webster Road, thence southwesterly along the west edge of the road for approximately 20 feet and then in the same direction along the exterior of the reformatory wall approximately 850 feet, thence northwest along the exterior of the wall approximately 1450 feet and continue in the same direction along the lot line for approximately another 950 feet to the point where the lot line meets the east curblineline on Riverside drive, thence northeast along the east edge of said road approximately 1150 to the point of beginning. See map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Wisconsin State Reformatory include only the intact portion of the property which dates from the period of significance and which is within the perimeter of the grounds, the walls and the roads which surround the property.

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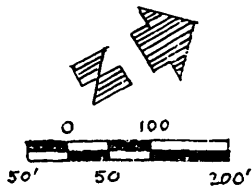
PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

Wisconsin State Reformatory
Village of Allouez, Brown County, WI
All photographs by Jim Draeger, July 1989
Negatives at State Historical Society of Wisconsin

1. Administration Building, North and South Cell Houses, Grounds (Map # 1),
View facing Southeast.
2. North Cell House (Map # 2), View looking East.
3. Administration Building Entrance (Map # 1), View looking Southeast.
4. Rotunda of Administration Building, View looking Southeast.
5. Administration Building, Dormitory, View looking Southeast.
6. North Cell House (Map # 2), View looking East.
7. South Cell House and Wall (Map #3), View looking South.
8. Service Building (Map #201), View looking North.
9. Dormitory and Shop (Map #205), View looking Northwest.
10. General Purpose Building (Map #206), View looking Northeast.

- ADMINISTRATION 1
- NORTH CELLHOUSE 2
- SOUTH CELLHOUSE 3
- FOOD SERVICE 4
- GENERAL GARAGE 5
- ROOT CELLAR 12
- SERVICE 201
- WELL HOUSE 202
- CHAPEL 203
- DORMITORY/SHOP 205
- GENERAL PURPOSE 206
- OUTSIDE STORAGE 207
- VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 210
- AUTO SCHOOL 211
- PAINT STORAGE 213
- SALLY PORT 401A
- GUARD TOWERS (6) 401B
- HEATING PLANT 402
- EMERGENCY GENERATOR 403
- RECREATION 404
- TREATMENT CENTER 405
- LAUNDRY 9112

-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NON CONTRIBUTING
-  BOUNDARY



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