

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 14 1985**
date entered **SEP 12 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Flambéau Paper Company Office Building

and or common -

2. Location

street & number 200 N. First Avenue not for publication

city, town Park Falls vicinity of

state WI code 55 county Price code 099

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

4. Owner of Property

name Pentair, Inc., Douglas Pihl, Manager of Corporate Taxation

street & number 1700 W. Hwy. 36

city, town St. Paul vicinity of state MN. 55113

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Price County Courthouse

street & number Lake Street

city, town Phillips state WI. 54555

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Wisconsin

city, town Madison state WI. 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 office building of the Flambeau Paper Company is the principal and most intact element of the large paper milling complex located on the Flambeau River in the community of Park Falls. Composed of two sections--the combination machine shop/store room constructed in 1925 and the original office structure built in 1928--the handsome brick building is roughly rectangular in plan and generally characterized by tall openings, many of which are highlighted by a distinctive brick and plaster checkerboard pattern, and by stone accents, including sills, stringcourse, and coping. A three story clock tower capped by a hip roof is the focal point of the composition.

Initially containing the machine shop/store room, the northern half of the office building is a one story (plus raised basement) structure measuring 42x103 feet. A flat roof outlined by stone coping covers this long extension that features on its main (or west) facade fourteen openings (Some of these are partially filled with glass blocks), all distinguished by a brick and plaster checkerboard pattern contained in a semi-circular arch. (Similar openings are found on the section's north side.) The main entrances in this part of the building are identified by their size and by a simple stepped parapet. Additional details include a stone stringcourse and stone sills. Located at the rear (northeast corner) of the machine shop/store room is a one story addition (30x56 feet) that continues to serve as the locomotive house.

Attached to the south end of the 1925 section is the office building, a two story (plus raised basement) structure covered by a combination gable and flat roof, on which the original slate tiles have been replaced by composition shingles. Forming the center-piece of this nearly symmetrical composition is the three story clock tower, a feature characterized by a hip roof, brickwork detailing, and a pair of openings with the familiar checkerboard pattern. In addition to these details, the first floor level of the tower, a projecting segment that is identified by the same stepped parapet appearing on the one story portion of the structure, contains the building's main entrance. The impressive double-door entry is included in an elliptical arch and flanked by buttress-like elements. An elliptical transom light also distinguishes the entrance area. To either side of the tower are groupings of narrow 2/2 windows set in oak frames and accented by stone sills. A stone stringcourse, which visually connects the two sections of the building, underlines all the openings on the second floor. Connected to the main block of the office building (on the south) is a small one story addition that originally served as a five car garage, now remodeled into offices and a meeting room. The rear (or east) side of the structure is distinguished only by numerous window openings.

The interior of the Flambeau Paper Company Office Building is much like the exterior, remarkably unaltered, with conversion of the store room and the garage to office space the primary changes. Noteworthy interior features include oak woodwork, transom lights above the office doors, and the arched openings in the entrance area.

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 type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

1925, 1928¹

Specific dates 1928-1935 (period **Builder/Architect** Richard Philipp²

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) of significance)

In the Price County community of Park Falls the Flambeau Paper Company Office Building (The structure also encompasses the machine shop and store room) is both an architecturally and historically significant property. The landmark-quality brick structure, the work of renowned Milwaukee architect Richard Philipp is a fine utilitarian design, distinguished further by its architectural embellishments and its state of preservation. In addition, the building represents the industrial mainstay of the community--the Flambeau Paper Company--in operation from 1895 to the present.

Architecture

Its clock tower rising three stories, the Flambeau Paper Company Office Building is the dominant feature of the City of Park Falls, a small community in northern Price County. In addition to the tower, the large brick structure is characterized by distinctive architectural detailing that enlivens the straightforward, utilitarian composition designed by Milwaukee architect Richard Philipp (1874-1959), a partner in the firm of Brust & Philipp which was perhaps best known for the design of Riverbend (NRHP 1980), the fifty room residence of former Governor Walter J. Kohler, Sr. Philipp himself was also responsible for most of the construction in Kohler Village, the model industrial community developed by the Kohler family near Sheboygan.³ In Park Falls Philipp was retained by Edward P. Sherry, president of the Flambeau Paper company, to design a number of structures which were constructed in the 1920s as the paper firm upgraded and expanded its operation. The northern half of the office building--it originally housed the store room and machine shop--was completed in 1925 and repeated details (the brick and plaster checkerboard pattern, and stone coping, sills, and stringcourse) found on other buildings in the paper company complex. (Note: The entire complex is potentially eligible, but it is not being nominated at this time.) The addition containing the company offices was built in 1928 and, while also complementing the earlier construction, this section of the structure appropriately expressed, largely through the clock tower feature, the prestige of the community's foremost industry.

Today, the Flambeau Paper Company Office Building is a remarkably well preserved structure which continues to reflect the corporate presence of the Park Falls paper firm.

Industry

In the 1880s Henry Sherry (1835-1919), already known for his flourishing lumber mills in Neenah, acquired vast tracts of timber land in Iron and Price Counties. By the end of the decade the lumberman had built a dam, sawmill, and a pulp mill on the Flambeau River and obtained rail service to his land holdings. The large complex, which subsequently formed the nucleus of the community of Park Falls, was incorporated as the Park Falls Lumber & Pulp Company in 1890, with Sherry serving as president. Five years later the

9. Major Bibliographical References

1848-1948, A History of the Wisconsin Paper Industry. Chicago: Howard Publishing Co., 1948.
 Gregory, John G. History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 4 vols. Milwaukee: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1931.
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Area Research Center, UW-Milwaukee. Edward P. Sherry Papers. Silver Anniversary (1941-1966) Park Falls Local 119 and Park Falls Local 445.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre
 Quadrangle name Park Falls, WI. Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	1 5	6 9 7 9 0 0	5 0 8 9 9 5 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification A parcel of land located in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 24, Town 40 North, Range 1 West, described as follows: Beginning at a point 13 feet east of the center point of First Street and First Avenue North proceed north 188 feet, east 113 feet, south 263 feet, west 113 feet and north 75 feet to the point of beginning.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary E. Taylor/consultant

organization _____ date March 1985

street & number 8269 Doolittle Rd. telephone (715)356-2555

city or town Minocqua state WI. 54548

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 National Park Service.

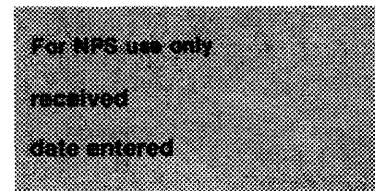
State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Jeff Dean*
 title DIRECTOR OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION date JULY 19, 1985

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
for Allouez Byers Entered in the National Register date 9/12/85
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Flambeau Paper Company Office Building,

Continuation sheet Price County, Wisconsin

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firm was renamed the Park Falls Lumber Company and a new enterprise, the Park Falls Paper & Pulp Company, was formed, again with Sherry in control.⁴

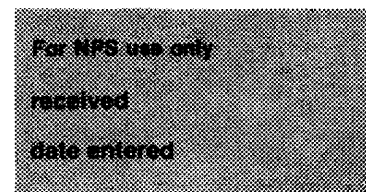
The panic of 1897 severely affected Henry Sherry's financial position, with both he and his son Edward P. Sherry (1871-1941), who held the office of company vice president, forced into bankruptcy. Despite this major setback, the Sherrys began rebuilding and in 1898 the Park Falls Paper & Pulp Company was reincorporated as the Flambeau Paper Company. The revitalized firm initially operated a single paper machine (production average of twenty five tons of paper per day) and employed both the groundwood and the sulphite methods of processing pulp, the primary ingredient of paper products. (The groundwood process involved forcing pulp logs against rough grinding stones cooled by water. Using nearly the entire log, this method yielded a coarse grade of pulp fiber generally utilized in newsprint, containers, and wrapping papers. In contrast, the chemical process, in which the cellulose fibers were removed from the lignin binder by cooking the wood in chemical baths, produced a finer and stronger grade of paper.) The groundwood used by the Flambeau Paper Company was produced at its own mill, while the sulphite for the chemical processing was procured from a number of outside sources.

At the beginning of the twentieth century (March 1900) a fire destroyed the paper and pulp mill, but construction on a new and larger facility commenced immediately, with operations resuming in early 1903. In the next years a second paper machine was purchased (1910) and two supplementary groundwood mills were built on the Flambeau River south of the mill at Park Falls. The company's railroad system transported materials between the locations; however, this expensive and inefficient arrangement was discontinued by 1923 when the groundwood mills were converted to hydro-electric plants which supplied power to the new electric grinders installed at the paper mill. This conversion, in addition to the construction of a sulphite mill in 1919-1920, made the company self-sufficient in terms of power and pulp and paper production. The addition of the sulphite mill also indicated a change in the company's output, from primarily newsprint to higher grades of paper. Other improvements in the 1920s included the construction of a third hydro-electric plant in 1926 and in the same year the completion of a storage dam approximately twenty miles north of Park Falls, which created the Turtle-Flambeau Flowage and provided both protection from spring floods and an adequate supply of water during the summer months. A combination machine shop/store room and a beater room were built in 1925, followed by a bleaching plant in 1927 and by a "modern, spacious" office building in 1928.⁵ (The office building was connected to the south end of the machine shop/store room.) Designed by Milwaukee architect Richard Philipp, the office building culminated the building program and, more importantly, provided a fitting monument to thirty years of paper production by a firm which in 1928 recorded 250 full time employees and an annual payroll of \$500,000. (Note: Office buildings are listed as a type of resource in the Pulp and Paper Production Study Unit included in the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Plan.)

During the company's expansion Edward P. Sherry, who succeeded his father as president in 1907, was the guiding force. Traveling between Milwaukee, where he maintained his

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residence, and Park Falls, Sherry supervised the entire operation, often working without sufficient capital or demand for the company's products. In addition to his position at the paper company, Sherry was involved in several other area firms, including the Park Falls Water, Light and Power Company, the Flambeau Public Service Corporation, the Flambeau Farm, and the Flambeau Power Company. The Winnebago Realty Company and the Wisconsin Realty Company, both organized in 1899, were also under his direction. Sherry served as president of the Flambeau Paper Company until 1935 when it was reorganized. In 1947 the firm was purchased by the Kansas City Star in a move to secure an adequate supply of newsprint. Capital Cities Media, Inc. of New York City acquired the paper company in 1977 and a year later sold the business to Pentair, Inc., the current owner. Currently, the Flambeau Paper Company, the largest paper producer in northwestern Wisconsin, produces fine offset printing paper and specializes in color.

¹1929 Sanborn Perris map; Park Falls Herald, 7 June 1929.

²Park Falls Herald, 24 August 1928.

³John G. Gregory, History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 4 vols. (Milwaukee: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1931), 4:241-242.

⁴Papers of Edward P. Sherry, Box 1, Organizational Records-Flambeau Paper Company History. Available at Area Research Center-UW-Milwaukee.

⁵"The History of the Flambeau Paper Company" in pamphlet, Silver Anniversary (1941-1966) Park Falls Local 119 and Park Falls Local 445. Available at Park Falls Public Library; 1848-1948, A History of the Wisconsin Paper Industry (Chicago: Howard Publishing Co., 1948), p. 30.

1st AVE. N.

Office
Bldg.

FLAMBEAU
RIVER

Flambeau Paper Company
Complex

- - - Property Boundary

N

